



What material is featured prominently in Jim Drain's *Membrane* installation at di Rosa?



WHAT MATERIAL WAS USED IN
JIM DRAIN'S INSTALLATION?

(A) Jute

(B) Yarn

(C) Paracord

(D) Plastic Lacing



Answer: Paracord

Jim Drain,
Membrane (2020)
Installation view, photo by Johnna Arnold

Jim Drain (b. 1975, Cleveland, Ohio) is a multimedia artist based in Providence, Rhode Island. Drain received his BFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1998. Jim Drain was commissioned to create an installation at di Rosa which would also serve as an interactive program space.

Membrane was made in collaboration with Tara Watson Humphrey, Sophia Lehman, Muffy Brandt, and Dominick Prospero

Membrane prominently features Paracord as a webbing which adorns vintage aluminum recliners and vertical structures made out of Maker Pipe.

Jim Drain's previous work has heavily incorporated textiles and weaving, but *Membrane* was the first time he worked with the macramé technique.



Jim Drain,
Membrane (2020)
Photo by Johnna Arnold

For this project Jim Drain was inspired by Buckminster Fuller, Bill Hamm, Barbara Shawcrowft, Alexandra Jacopetti Hart as well as several di Rosa collection artists.

In 1974 Alexandra Jacopetti Hart created *Macramé Park* which was a large public art installation which was also a playground. Later that year, Jacopetti Hart also published the best selling book *Native Funk and Flash*. The book captured the essence of the Bay Area counterculture of the 1970s through photographs of artistic expression through clothing.



Alexandra Jacopetti Hart
Macramé Park (1974)

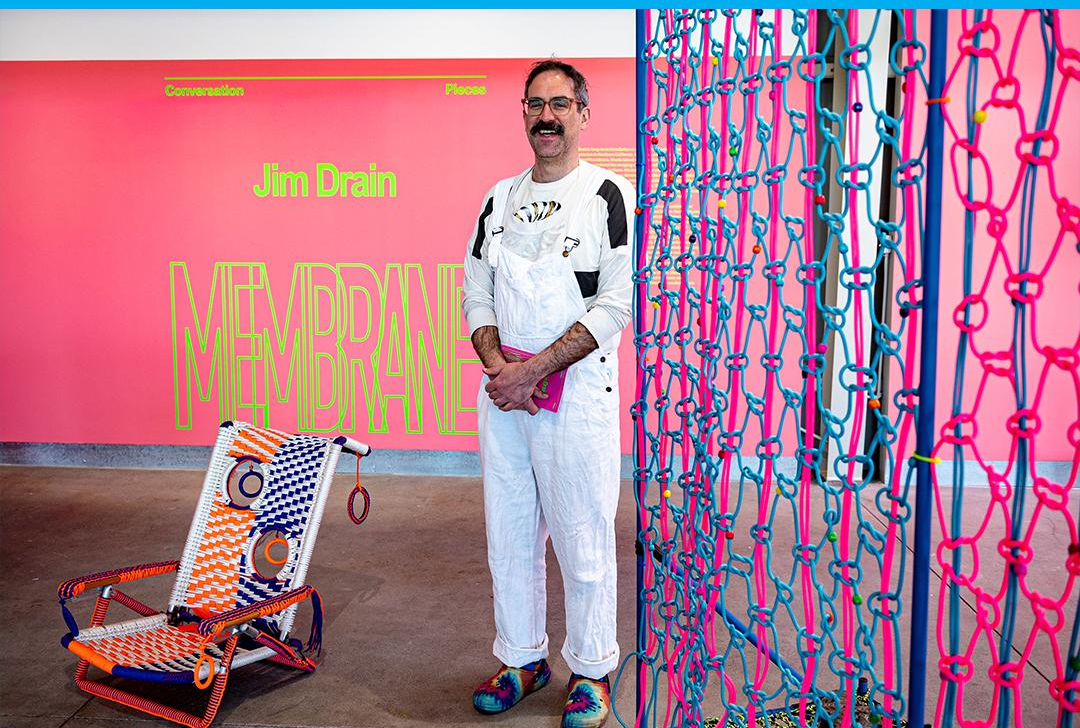
Image from the book *Native Funk and Flash*

Jim Drain initially experimented with jute to cover the vintage chairs but was unsatisfied with many aspects of the material. Eventually he settled on Paracord for its strength and for the wide range of colors it came in.

As a material, Paracord was also unique for the community of enthusiasts who use it in outdoor activities and for survivalism. This association with typically masculine activities also presented an opportunity to subvert expectations through its use for Macramé and in bright colors.

“The idea was to make them as funky as possible. I told my macramé fabricators to go for a cross between RuPaul and David Bowie. I also wanted them to lend themselves to membrane spaces, so to speak, so that if people want to be by themselves, they can set up that situation. They’re kind of triumphant, to me, as chairs, and I hope that sense of utopia comes through.”

-Jim Drain



Artist Jim Drain
Membrane (2020)
Photo by Israel Valencia/Infinity Visuals