



# Ropewalking; Landscape, Plasticity and Making

Simon Piasecki



# Always Walking

**Why did we always walk?**

**Need – food, materials,  
prosperity.**

**See Careri - *Walkscapes***

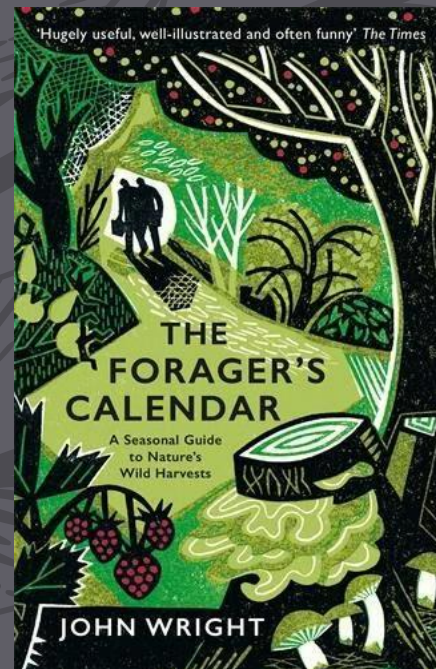


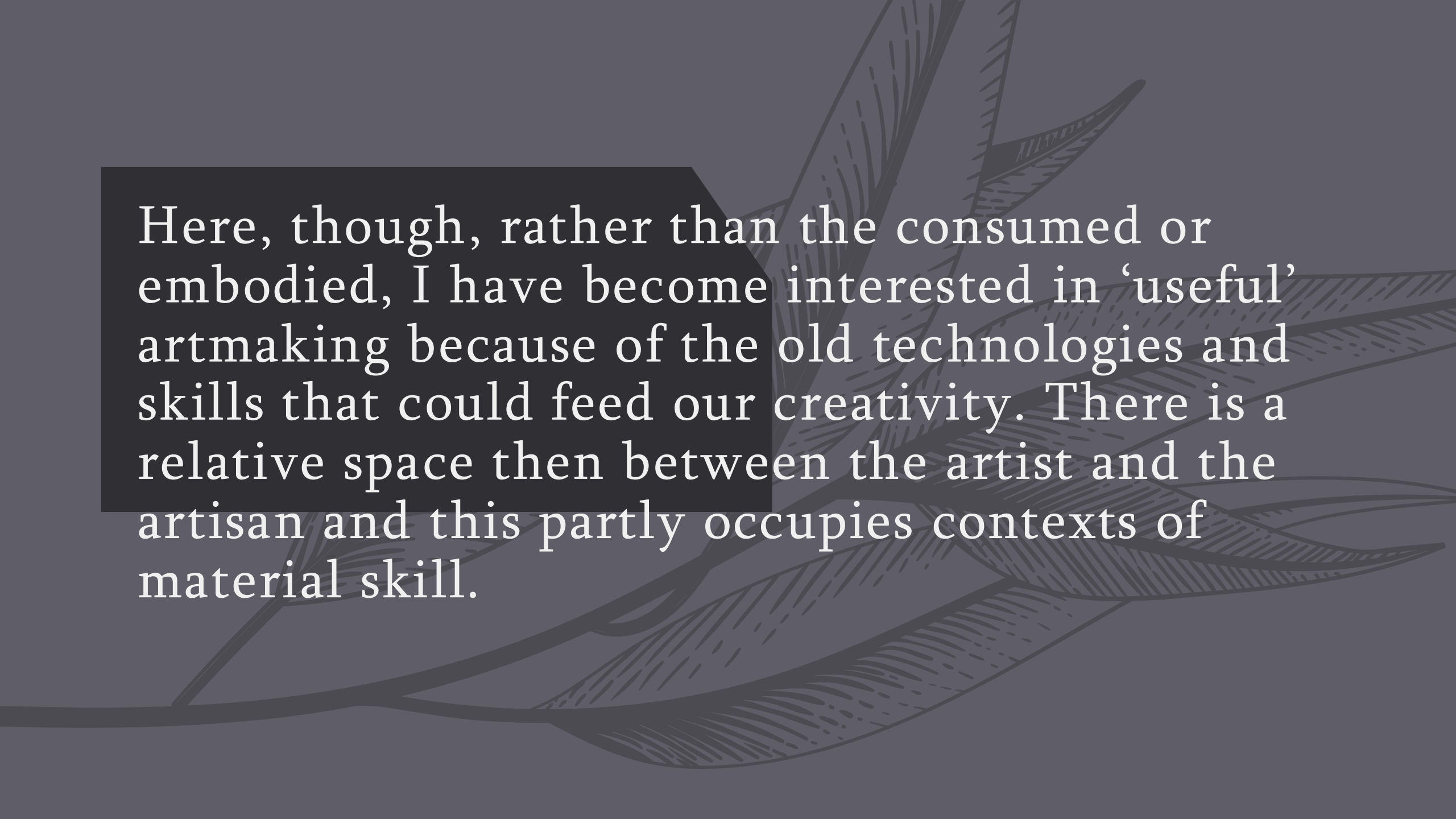
We are aware of course of land art (and may have produced some ourselves)!



**Richard Long** Connemara Sculpture  
Ireland 1971

We are also aware of foraging and this has taken on a renewed popularity because it resists commercial food processing and , perhaps sometimes controversially, presents some very old natural treatments. There is 'Lore' here.





Here, though, rather than the consumed or embodied, I have become interested in ‘useful’ artmaking because of the old technologies and skills that could feed our creativity. There is a relative space then between the artist and the artisan and this partly occupies contexts of material skill.



# Constructive Technologies based on need and requiring walking.

**Weaving, fencing, roofing, basketry, clothing, footwear, sewing, dyeing ....**

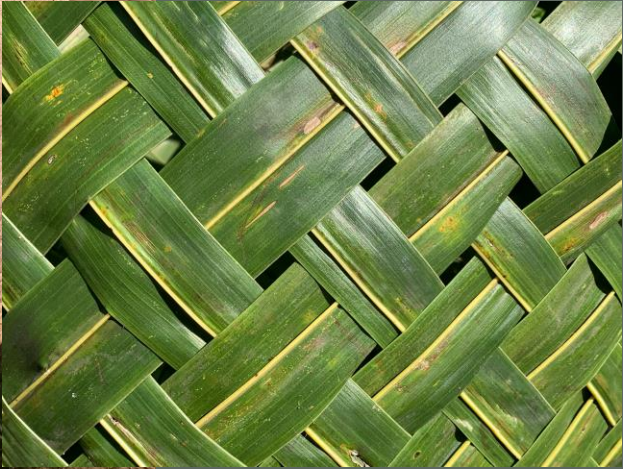


Photo by [KyneWynn Kind](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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# Plasticity of materials

- **Pliability of fibres**
- **Lore of constructive techniques and process**
- **Combination of elements**



# Walking as Interdisciplinarity and WALC

Traditional art  
academy

Subject follows Form

Skill and Quality

Interdisciplinarian  
approach

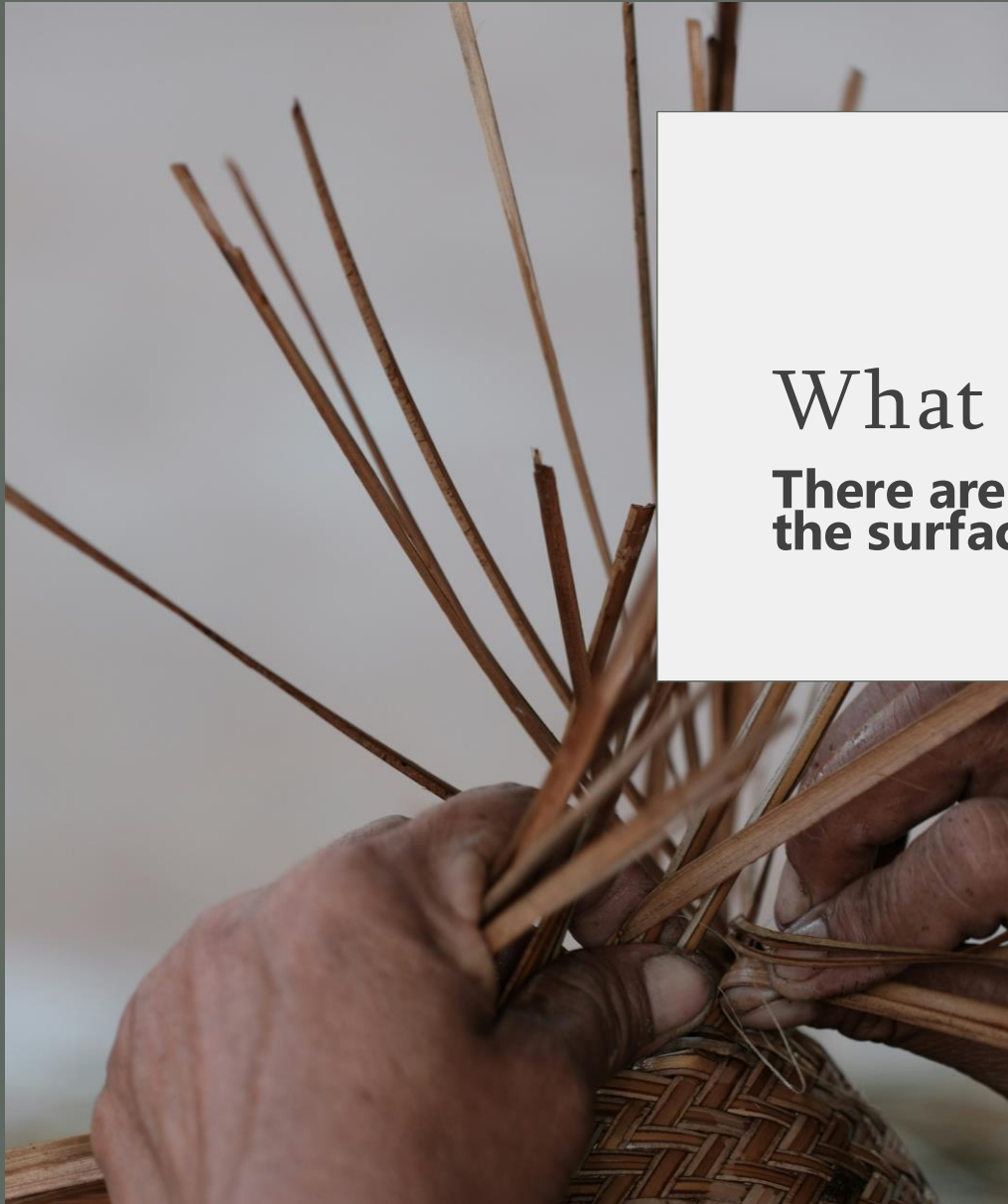
Form follows Subject





What are these beautiful skills?

**There are so many – and so many lost – I only scratch the surface.**



Some  
Examples  
perhaps...

# Cording

**Dandelion is good but  
the classic material is  
from the stinging  
nettle.**



<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/t9tBxlQL1RY>



# Ropemaking and the 'Ropewalk'.

Cording the cords...

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toyOKOi0DsM>



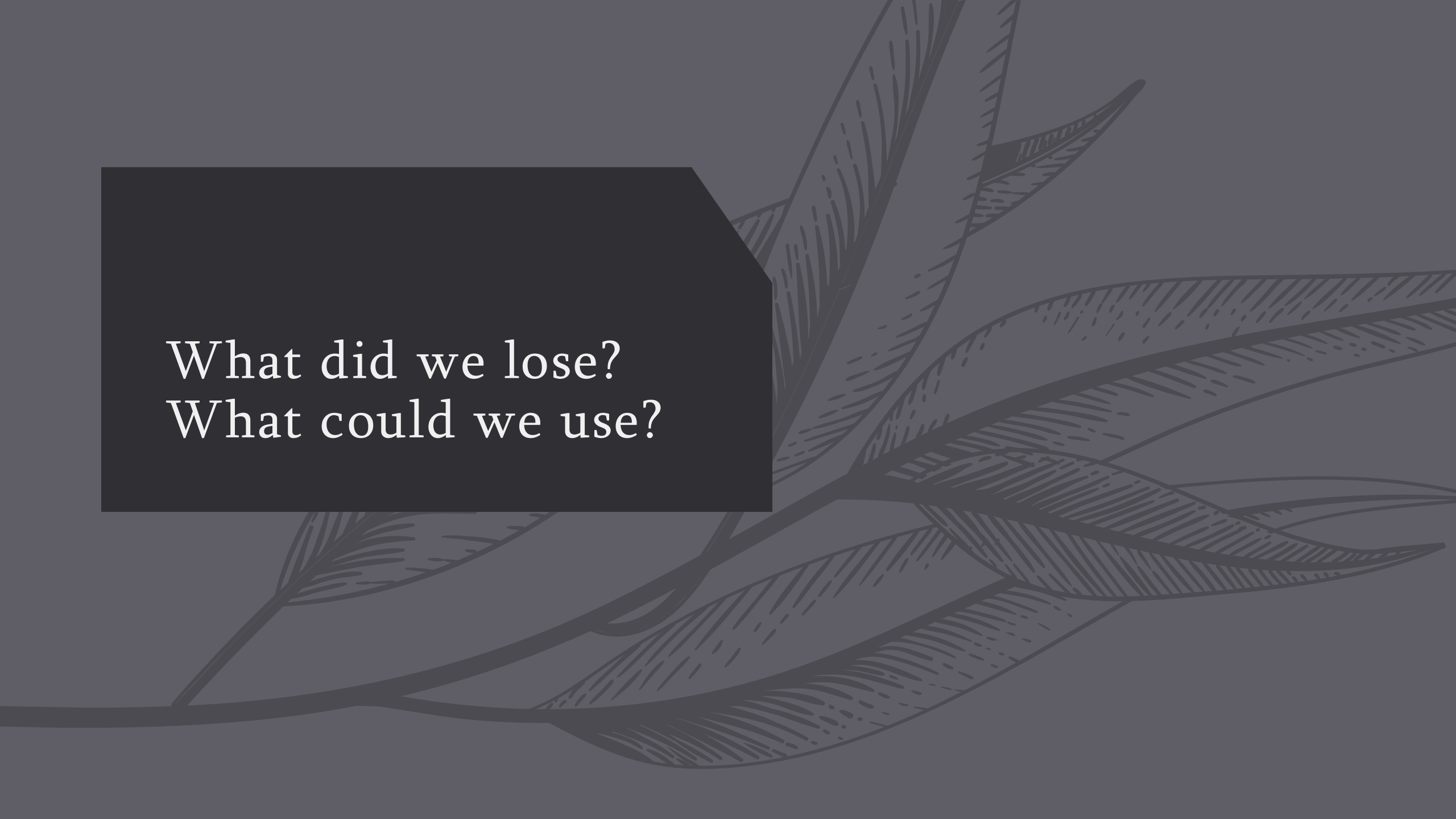
# Indigenous Grass Weaving workshop in Burraja with Sharon Edwards





# Willow and Basketry

20XX



What did we lose?  
What could we use?

I think that climate awareness can only really be known as something physically encountered. Perhaps forming a creative and productive relationship to natural materials can support this –

We get in closer and work intimately with our senses of touch, smell, sight.

We learn to understand the material, where it was sourced, when it grows abundantly, how it is socially regarded.

We then notice **change** more profoundly.



# Thank you

[www.simonpiasecki.com](http://www.simonpiasecki.com)

