

# Ruth Asawa



Born: January 24, 1926,  
Norwalk, CA;  
Died: August 5, 2013,  
San Francisco, CA

**Ruth Asawa** was a Japanese American sculptor in San Francisco. In 1942 at age 16 she and her family were sent to a Japanese Internment Camp. The family was separated from her father and for six months they weren't told if he was dead or alive. It was six years until they were reunited. Later as an art student, she traveled to Mexico and saw crafts people weaving metal baskets which inspired

her to include this technique in her sculptures. Her crocheted wire sculptures are abstract forms which as she said "define space without blocking it out." She was interested in the "economy of line making something in space." The floor to ceiling pieces, exhibited in numerous major art museums, interlock and inter-weave fluidly and cast mesmerizing shadows. She was strongly influenced by Josef Albers at Black Mountain College.