Sheila Hicks was commissioned to create two large-scale fiber artworks for the Ford Foundation headquarters in New York City at the time of the construction of the building. One was for the boardroom and the second was for the auditorium, both in the basement of the building. They were created and installed in 1966-1967. At some point in the following years, the works were treated with a caustic fire retardant that caused slow disintegration of the textile fibers. Slightly modified versions of the works with certified fire-retardant materials were created by the artist in 2013 and 2014 for the B-Level boardroom and auditorium, respectively. Surrounding the reinstallation, the Ford Foundation consulted with the artist, a conservator, and a number of installation companies to mitigate the spectrum of risks to the new artworks.

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**Conclusions**

We might infer from the fact that Sheila Hicks thought the visual effect and spirit of her work was better served through its re-creation rather than conservation treatment, that she prioritizes its visual and tactile qualities over the more abstract idea of “preserving the original” or the “patina of time” enhancing her work. These works provided an interesting opportunity to explore the artist’s contribution as a stakeholder to the conservation decision-making process. Future conservators will have to reconcile the value systems of Sheila Hicks and the Ford Foundation.

**Proposed Risk Management Plan**

**Location** – Artworks kept in current, intended space

**Light** – 50,000 lux hours yearly, appropriate light source installed

**Pollutants** – HVAC to control particulates, regular housekeeping, avoid overspray during cleaning

**Temperature** – 18˚C

**Relative Humidity (RH)** – 50-55%, monitor with data loggers

**Mount** – New walls with vapor barrier, space between wall and art

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** – Monitoring for biological attack, identifying pests, setting thresholds for action, implementing controls

**Handling** – Gloves, trained professionals

**Physical Contact** – Barrier, sign

**Disasters/Emergencies** – Plan made, updated

**Documentation** – Examination and documentation regularly