

Janet Shapero: RECONFIGURATIONS

A Site-Specific Installation

Public Opening/Reception April 8, 2011 from 11am – 2pm

Discovering What's Next, Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada St. Newtonville, MA

Transforming an ordinary classroom into an exuberant, aesthetic experience, artist Janet Shapero (b. 1952) has created an installation in celebration of *Discovering What's Next's* move to its new location in the Newton Cultural Center. Designed to reflect and enhance DWN's mission – to engage people 50+ in the creative exploration of the next life stage(s) – this site-specific installation was conceived as a series of steps or phases.

Phase 1, a metaphorical reference to inspiration and to early education, was a series of some thirty brightly colored, translucent Rete-Chromes (stained glass-like composites of acrylic and screen), designed to fit into small individual panes of the 4 large windows – creating a vibrant mosaic affect.

Phase 2, works with the idea of becoming more dimensional and more independent. The translucent panels of have taken on wave-like forms that span the upper reaches of this high-ceilinged classic space. Each form is like a note that can be heard/seen both individually and/or in unison with others – in a composition that moves across time and space.

Phase 3 relates to the purposeful reconfiguration that we may choose to undergo as adults, adapting to an ever-changing world. In this phase, the forms are more complex and more compact, often with multiple colors and multiple elements. These forms complete the journey across the room – and begin to move back towards the outside world.

Viewers are welcome to become participants by identifying their aspirations and allowing those aspirations – in written form – to be incorporated in the next step of this ongoing evolving installation.

Shapero lived in Italy, Wisconsin, and Utah, before returning to her roots in Newton, where she had attended Newton public schools. Shapero received a BFA from RISD and an MFA and Masters in Italian Literature from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Shapero apprenticed for many years with Italian master sculptor Antonio Berti, and with master craftsmen in the Italian Alps, Florence and Pietrasanta. Her animated film "Dead End" received numerous international awards. Shapero taught in Europe, Wisconsin, Massachusetts (Wellesley College and Mass Art), Maine, and in Utah, where she was the tenured head of sculpture department at Utah State University until her early retirement. Recently, Shapero has served as a visiting professor at Mass College of Art, Wellesley College, and Maine College of Art. Currently she is a visiting professor in the Doctorate Visual Arts Program at the University of Barcelona, Spain. Her studio is located in the Waltham Mills.