

Life Styles

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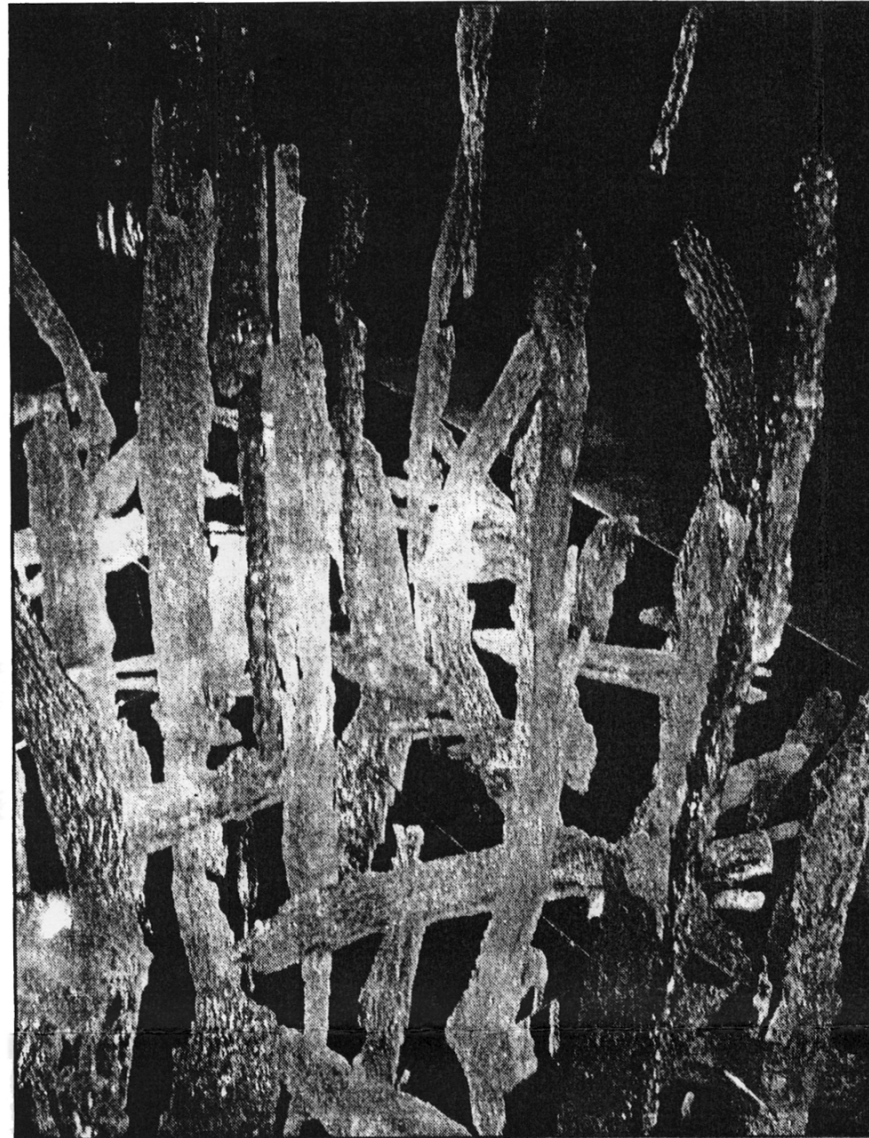
Out-of-the-box thinking at the Katonah Museum

by Neil Ira Needleman

You're about to walk away, when, suddenly, you hear a cat's meow. It's very low, very faint. Then it stops. Are you hearing things? And if you actually heard what you thought you heard, where did it come from? Just then, you hear it again. After a few meows, the plaintive sound grows slightly louder. Then you realize it is coming from inside the valise. I personally thought this was very funny. The person standing next to me—who, I suspect, was a cat lover—thought it was terribly cruel, despite the fact that it is obviously just a recording. Isn't it wonderfully amazing how one work of art can inspire such divergent reactions in people?

Before you leave the Katonah Museum, be sure to step behind the black curtains that block the entrance to the smallest gallery in the building. There, in the still darkness, you'll find Diane Tuft's softly glowing crystalline installation piece, *Internal Reflection*.

Imagine entering an arctic cave with luminescent stalagmites growing upward from a mirrored floor while suspended icy stalactites hover above them. The mood of quiet timelessness is further enhanced by an ambient soundtrack of "soft" sounds that emanate from hidden speakers. Searching for a meditative and soothing space on a hot summer's afternoon? You've found it. And it is so enchanting and welcoming, you may not want to leave.



Diane Tuft, *Internal Reflection*. Cool, soothing relief on a hot summer afternoon. Tuft's softly glowing room-sized installation seems to slow down time. Don't be surprised if you feel an urge to meditate.