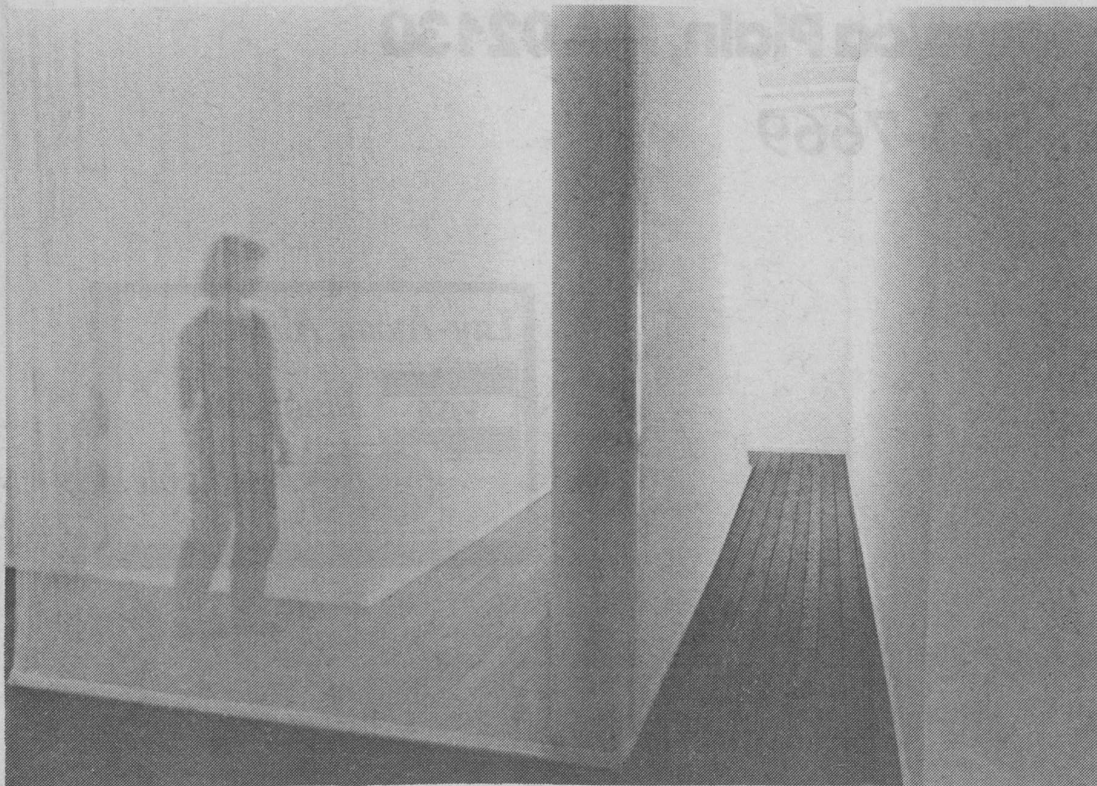


## Arts & Entertainment

# Explore Light And Space In 'Overlay'



People become a part of the interplay of light and shadow in Beth Galston's work *Overlay* at the Kingston Gallery. The environmental sculpture is an unintentional maze made out of scrim, a fabric often used in the theater.

*Overlay...an installation by Beth Galston at the Kingston Gallery, 129 Kingston St, Boston, MA 02111. Tel: 423-4113. Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Ends Jan. 20.*

by Lee Montgomery

Using large panels of a cheese cloth-like material called scrim, sculptor and environmental artist Beth Galston has taken over the Kingston Gallery and created an environment in which light serves as one exercise, and space as another.

The structure resembles a life-sized maze where the cloth panels soften, mold, surround and define connected spaces of varying size that just beg to be explored. Although the maze quality was unintended, it pulls the gallery-goer into Galston's dimly lit land where figure (yours and others) become an exciting and integral component of the installation. At the same time, it gives the viewer the chance to investigate the interaction of light with the material.

Galston's environment is a haven of safety, warmth and comfort as well as an experiment in science. The maze is playful: not because of dead ends, gimmicks or ploys — there are none — but because it is a showcase of light

and shadows.

Scrim is commonly used in the theater as a backdrop and because of this versatility, Galston chose it with the idea of exploring the material's interaction with light. Her work is an adventure in light states ranging from the translucent to the opaque.

Although Galston has been working with prototypes of this theme for a few years, *Overlay* marks a departure from her past endeavors. Her last exhibit, at the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, also dealt with the definition of space, audience participation and interaction with light, but she used totally different materials — long and thin plexiglass reflective strips — and was concerned in defining edges of space as well. Of her latest show, she explains, "I've wanted to work with different materials and larger surface areas...surfaces that you could see through and that light could penetrate."

Galston approaches each installation with a specific concept in mind, but often alters it to work within a particular space. Consequently, she surprises herself with new discoveries regarding her materials, and works from there. In this case, she plans to work within this motif until each element of interest is explored to the limit.

Galston received her Master of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Advanced Visual Studies and has been working in the Boston area for over ten years. She has always been interested in building objects that interact with the environment and has various outside installations placed in and around Boston.

Since her days at MIT, however, her primary concern has been light and its various properties. In fact, she notes, "What happens with the light is often more important than the sculpture itself."