

**Appearances/Disappearances**  
**1985, Mobius, Boston**  
**with dance performance by Laura Knott**

*Materials: Scrim, aluminum pipe, wire, lights*

*Dimensions: 14' H x 24' W x 42' L*

An open maze of suspended scrim walls in diffuse lighting creates an environment of translucency and opacity. Panels of fabric form physical barriers while allowing light and vision to penetrate. The installation involves the process of seeing, engaging the changing perceptions of viewers as they move through the sculpture, which takes on a theatrical quality. Other viewers become shadowy, almost dreamlike figures, as they disappear and reappear from the successive layers of scrim.

Normally we associate darkness with not being able to see. Here, walls of white fabric and light build up to obscure our vision. Then as we move through, the space slowly unfolds to reveal its structure and boundaries.

A series of informal workshops with dancers, poets, and video artists were organized around the installation. Several performances took place within the space: *Dissolve*, a dance performance choreographed by Laura Knott; and a poetry reading by Dallas Miller, who composed texts in response to the piece.

During each 20 minute performance, audience members sat around the periphery of the room. Spectators had a totally different view of the piece depending on where they were sitting, as dancers moved through the multi-layered space. Visitors were encouraged to choose a different viewing location and stay for the repeated performances.