

## **Meet Mary Temple: Perception/Deception Artist**

*As part of Perception/Deception: Illusion in Contemporary Art, artist Mary Temple has created a site-specific installation for two spaces within the Delaware Art Museum—the Catherine A. Fusco Grand Hall and Gallery 10. In 2002, Mary began working on her Light Installation Series, a body of work that explores environment and memory. Mary answered a few questions we had about this unique installation.*

### **What inspired you to begin the *Light Installation Series*?**

I started the Series while working on some abstract pieces that were painted and collaged directly on to the wall surface. I began painting the light and shadow that the abstract shapes made, and that process led to this idea and series.

### **What do you look for when first visiting a space?**

Everything! I'm taking in as much as I can about the space because the idea for the piece will come through letting impressions form and then responding to them. Everything from the kind of natural light a room receives, the shape and height of the room, to noticing the off-beat small niches that may surround the room. All those things are important.

### **How is nature reflected in your installation?**

These pieces are about conflating exterior and interior spaces, so the impression of nature is really the placeholder for exterior space and light.

### **What aspects of the Delaware Art Museum's building and surroundings most informed this installation?**

I really responded to the arched doorways at the entrance and wanted to make a composition that would reference it, at least obliquely. So I looked in the landscape for trees that formed a similar archway. When I found a tree I liked, I planned the composition around it.

### **How long does it take to complete an installation, and do you work by yourself or with a team?**

It varies, of course. If there is a large floor component involved, it can be very labor intensive. I recently completed one at Rice University that took five weeks to install, and I had two assistants working long days with me. Some take less time, depending on their complexity.

### **How do visitors typically respond to the installations?**

If the viewer believes the piece and understands it as light, the most likely response is to turn around and look for the light source. There is often hand-waving, people trying to cast a shadow into the piece, so that they might understand the direction of the light.