

Land As Canvas

The outdoors is a vast canvas, just beginning to realize its potential as an artistic

medium — not merely an artistic subject. The Morris Museum of Arts & Sciences, working with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Interpace Corporation in

The Arts



Marion Filler

Parsippany, has for the last two years presented a series of environmental projects that have introduced area residents to this new art form.

Like many other federally funded agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts has suffered a budget crunch, and the current earth work at the museum may be the last one we will see there for quite some time. Pessimism notwithstanding, "Ceremonial Conjecture" by

Carolee Thea and Penny Kaplan is one of the more interesting of the outdoor concepts to come along since the inception of the project.

The entire work is best seen from the museum terrace in the rear of the building at Normandy Heights and Columbia Roads in Morris Township.

Thea and Kaplan have designed a shallow, serpentine trench that winds through the field behind the museum in a pattern evocative of Indian motifs found in pottery, weavings and jewelry.

The earth that was displaced from the trenches has been used to construct two groups of mounds that are an integral part of the design. At the end of the project, which will remain on the grounds through January, the land will be refilled with the same earth that has been displaced and the area will return to its previous condition.

The change of seasons should create interesting variations in the mood of the piece. At present, the trenches are dark brown accents against a field of green. When the snows come, they will be carved in relief against a background of white. "Ceremonial Conjecture" also works on ground level where it



"Ceremonial Conjecture," an earth work at the Morris Museum of Arts & Sciences.

is a participatory event.

Drew Chemical Corporation in Boonton has scheduled a number of art exhibits in its spacious lobby, and the current one features watercolorist Wilma Fisher of Mendham in a show called "Sun and Sea." There are approximately 40 pieces on display that deal with the artists favorite theme — landscape.

The show will run through Dec. 11 and the gallery is open to the public on weekdays from noon until 4 p.m. Drew Chemical is located at One Drew Chemical Plaza in Boonton, and best reached by the Wootton

Street exit on Route 287 North.

Works by 84 contemporary artist in New Jersey will be on view through Jan. 20 in "New Jersey Artists" at the Newark Museum. Artists, who were limited to one entry each, submitted works in the media of painting, graphics, sculpture and photography for the third biennial exhibition co-sponsored by the Newark Museum and the N.J. State Museum.

The Newark Museum is located at 49 Washington St. in Newark and is open daily from 12 to 5. ■