

ART REVIEW/Helen A. Harrison

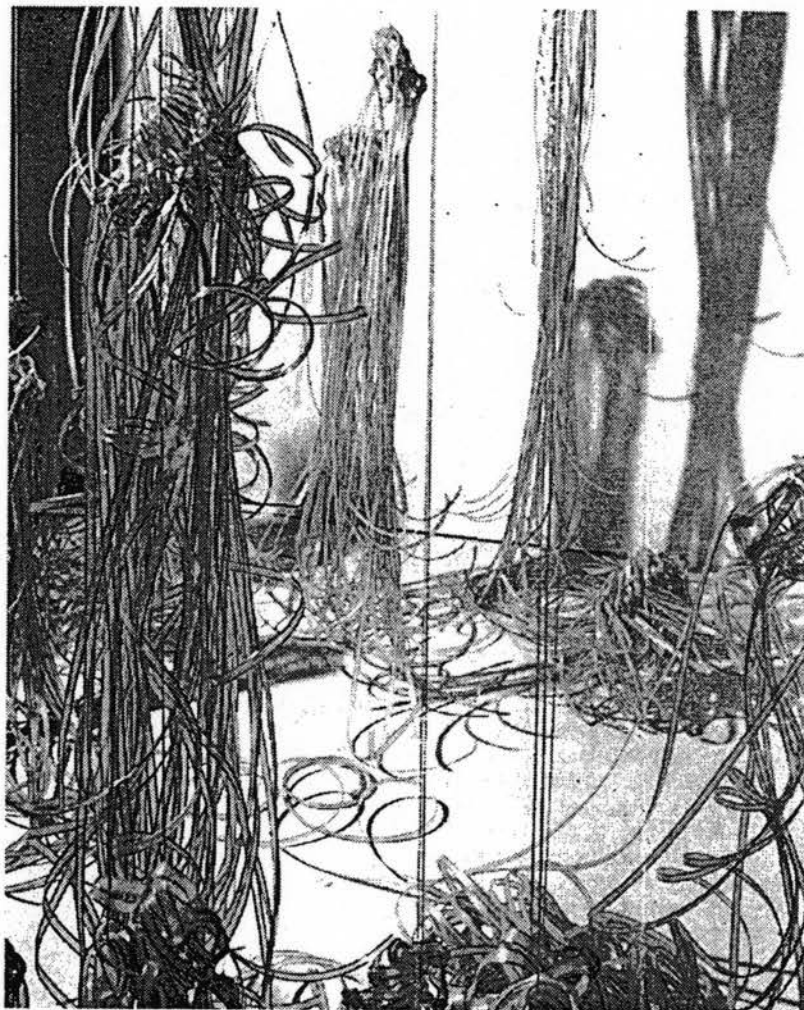
Bushes

Anthony Giordano Gallery, Dowling College, Idle Hour Boulevard, Oakdale. Through April 26. 244-3016.

The primary component of this site-specific installation by Sharon Loudon is television antenna wire, the familiar double-filament copper cable embedded in translucent plastic. Looped bunches of this wire, cut into various lengths, have been suspended by strings from the gallery ceiling, forming a series of floating clumps that hover at different levels throughout the space.

In the taller bunches, the strands are long and flowing, like hanks of ethereal hair or masses of gossamer seaweed coiling gracefully in still water. The shorter clumps resemble stubby jellyfish, ghostly tufts of grass, mutant spiders or extraterrestrial life forms. Bringing her imagination to bear on mundane, mass-produced raw material, Ms. Loudon has suggested a surprising array of possibilities.

The effect of this garden of wire and string is remarkably captivating, like walking through a three-dimensional line drawing. The combination of shapes and patterns changes constantly as the viewer moves around and within them, as if they themselves were in motion. One can imagine an animated version of the piece, in which the coiled strands respond to air currents or subtle vibrations. Even in their static state, they seem to pulse with inherent energy.



detail from "Bushes" by Sharon Loudon