

Former Vancouver resident experiments with artwork

When the Grand Rapids Art Museum invited Vancouver native **Janice Arnold** to create a piece for the international Art-Prize competition she decided to make something experiential.



Janice Arnold

Arnold, a 1971 Fort Vancouver High School graduate and Clark College alumna now living in Olympia, created a felt installation to line a passage of the Michigan museum. The piece, titled "Chroma Passage," measures 50 feet long, 34 feet high and 8 feet wide.

Arnold, 57, finished in the top 25 in the competition and was interviewed by "The Today Show," as well as local news stations in Grand Rapids.

The piece was inspired by water, a life-giving force central to Grand Rapids and to the felting process. Felt is a non-woven fabric created by layering sheep's wool, wetting it and



"Chroma Passage," felt installation by Janice Arnold.

then applying agitation and pressure until it mats and shrinks. It is a natural process that dates back more than 9,000 years.

The way "Chroma Passage" is designed, it looks different depending on the time of day and degree of natural light. People walk through the passage and experience the art, rather than just look at it.

"In my medium, it's a very powerful experience when you can be surrounded by handmade fabrics," Arnold said.

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