

## Visual Arts

### *Renoir's Lunch*

Fabric, Wire, Mural

This permanent installation combines sculptural forms and a painted background to create a wall relief which challenges the viewer's perception of space. The sculpture is located in a corporate dining center and is recessed into three wall niches. My interest in human daily activities like eating, moving, resting, and communicating with one another, inspired the creation of this installation. For the past year I have been working on a series of sculptures focusing on the dinner table as a vehicle for expression and the dining center was a perfect place to present these ideas. In *Renoir's Lunch* the sculptures, inspired by Renoir's impressionistic paintings, *The luncheon of the Boating Party*, *Rower's Lunch*, and *La Dejeuner*, translate these recognizable images three-dimensionally. The use of these historic paintings gives an artistic reference point to the viewer. The scenes are abstracted so that the chairs, tables, place-settings and food all allude to human actions without the presence of the human figures that existed in the original paintings. The scene presents a residual of the conversation and mood of the members of luncheon, the relationships that took place during the meals, the act of eating, the basic need for sustenance, and the things that were eaten. The wire structure and translucent white hand-stitched fabric in these pieces gives them a ghost-like presence and a purity that invites one to investigate the actions and interactions of the furniture. The colorfully painted background, impressionistic in feel, acts as a backdrop for the luncheons while the bright lighting overhead creates deep shadows that give the illusion of much greater depth.