



Seeing Is Believing

The breathtaking work of Philadelphia stained-glass artist Judith Schaechter

In the Dark Ages, unread masses sought illumination in tales of saints, sinners and saviors set in churches' stained-glass windows. Nowadays, modern aesthetic enlightenment awaits in *Seeing Is Believing*, a monumental masterwork by Philadelphia's stained-glass superstar, Judith Schaechter. More than 10 feet high and wide, composed of 200 distinct pinwheel shapes—reflections on the Gothic rose window—the work is a permanent highlight of the Museum of Arts and Design's new (and ever-controversial) home at 2 Columbus Circle, New York. Known for her lightbox tableaux of doleful damsels amid teeming patterned backgrounds, Schaechter here offers a luminous lesson: Stained glass isn't simply seen by the eye and read by the mind. Sun-warmed and color-saturated, it is experienced by the entire body. —*Matthew Singer* Artist represented by Claire Oliver Gallery, 513 West 26th Street, New York, 215-929-5949, claireoliver.com. Turn to page 106 for more information.