

Turning, 2001, diameter circular/spiral motorized organza curtain, 58 yards of fabric, 22 x 7 ft/pi, Expression, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

Excerpt from, *Turning*, an essay by Anna Carlevaris.

"The strategic placement and design of the central work 'Turning', amplifies the strange beauty of the heritage building within which the gallery is housed. A tower of sheer white organza cloth rises to a height of twenty two feet, drawing our eye upward to the antique skylight (darkened for this occasion) and to the oddly truncated stairway that seems to float overhead. Stewart has arranged the diaphanous material into a column that, through a mechanized action, is made to open and retract in continual rhythm, twisting into a silky wave at its base. The pristine cloth structure is enigmatic; its spiral movement recalls the organic geometry of a nautilus shell, its hermetic contour reminiscent of a cocoon. And yet, however delicate the materials, its monumental size declares itself as an independent force with which we as viewer must contend."