

## PCA'S ARTIST OF THE YEAR; EMERGING ARTIST OF THE YEAR: SEPT. 8-NOV. 5

Yes, as we all acknowledge, Pittsburgh is a light-challenged city; furthermore, as the old song says, "The days grow short when you reach September"—and the months following. Maybe that's why **Jane Haskell's** art is so compelling, and why maybe there's no month like September to kick off the exhibit that showcases her as **Artist of the Year at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts**.

"Light is a pervasive element in the world in which I live and work," she says. "Without light there is no life." This mysterious force, an essential element in Einstein's profound equation, has long fascinated scientists as well as artists—including Haskell, who harnesses actual light as an essential element in her work. She explores its myriad manifestations and permutations, both glorious and ominous. "My interest in light began with my paintings, and continues with installations of neon, florescent light and fiber-optics," says Haskell, a Long Island native, who has been a creative and educational force here for what seems like light years. Haskell's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions—locally, nationally and internationally—and Haskell is represented in a number of museum and academic collections, including Carnegie Museum of Art and University of Pittsburgh, where her neon sculpture "The Tree of Knowledge" enlightens the William Pitt Student Union. The radiance of her art also may be enjoyed in public spaces such as *downtown's Steel Plaza Subway Station*.