

# ART COMMENTARY

## JAN YOORS: TAPESTRIES AT LIZAN TOPS

Jan Yoors' simply stunning tapestries currently on view at Lizan Tops Gallery invite all kinds of interpretations. As examples of pure design, elements like composition, negative space and line couldn't be more arresting. Considering the pieces as a whole incites other meanings which go beyond aesthetics. For example, one can't help but be reminded of the famous "Rorschach Tests" or ink blots that were once used to analyze personality traits. The viewer, therefore, finds himself objectifying abstract shapes, associating them with things found in real life.

At first, even Mr. Yoors' impressive female figure series seems merely like a collection of non-objective configurations. As a result, we see only beautiful curves, perhaps signifying some sort of landscape. Then we realize that the individual tapestries each shows a nude woman in various sitting/kneeling positions. But how do we know that?

The bottom line is this – our individual interpretations are based on how we perceive and organize reality. For example, do we categorize Mr. Yoors' shapes as figure

## With Marion Wolberg Weiss

or ground? (If we perceive a landscape, which is water and which is land?) Are we filling in missing pieces of his shapes, extending lines to complete or "close" the image? Are we applying proximity to make sense of the



Tapestry by Jan Yoors

work, where we group shapes that are physically near each other or do we use similarly, connecting stimuli which resemble one another in size, form and color, among other elements? If this sounds like a complicated process, most of us do it automatically in giving meaning to both reality (and abstract art).

Mr. Yoors' tapestries are not only stimulating exercises from a psychological viewpoint, however. Lest we become overly analytical, we can enjoy them on another level – one that is based on cosmology. Concerned with the structure of the universe, the artist's pieces can, therefore, be seen as a trip through the cosmos, a peek at the glorious universe. A virtual-reality trip – if we really let ourselves go.

Sound a bit farfetched? Not really, as this critic recalls the recent film, *Contact*, when astronomer Jodie Foster travels through space. Of course, the movie's effects were computer-generated. Mr. Yoors' designs are obviously not. Thank goodness.

*Jan Yoors' tapestries will be on view at Lizan Tops Gallery in East Hampton until Dec. 30.*