

EDITH NEWHALL

GALLERIES

"Art" by Thomas Hine and "Galleries" by Edith Newhall appear in alternating weeks.

Glistening metallic fabric

Alyson Shotz's "Plane Weave," commissioned by PAFA, billows and bends light in Morris Gallery.

Commissioned to create a work for PAFA's collection, sculptor Alyson Shotz spent some time studying the idiosyncrasies of the 1876 Victorian Gothic building designed by Frank Furness and George W. Hewitt. She paid particular attention to the architects' use of patterning — its handsome facade, incorporating red and black brick, and the ornate interior tile-work of its Grand Stairhall — and to the shifting natural light in the Morris Gallery, where her work would be making its debut.

The result, on view in that gallery for much of the summer, is Shotz's extraordinary sculpture *Plane Weave*, made of thousands of aluminum octagons held together with stainless-steel rings and suspended from the ceiling like a gigantic piece of fabric, its flexibility allowing it to dramatically slump and fold.

Seen from the skylighted north side of the gallery, *Plane Weave* glints like mail armor or like ripples in the Schuylkill on a windy day; from the south, it's dark and transparent, allowing light to pass through and lending a mystical churchlike presence to the gallery.

Through Aug. 7 at Morris Gallery, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Historic Landmark Building, 118-128 N. Broad St., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesdays; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets: \$15, students and seniors \$12. Information: 215-972-7600.



"Plane Weave" (2016), aluminum, by Alyson Shotz.