



Inflatable phosphorescent vinyl forms by Carl Bucher to be worn by museum-goer.

Carl and Heidi Bucher Need Your Body

One of a three-part series of participatory exhibition/
events for total involvement at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts

by Barbara Schwartz

Perched above the entrance on spindly legs with knobbed feet was a rotund fiber glass form, indicating the bizarre inhabitants which had arrived at the Museum of Contemporary Crafts (April 3-19). People, alerted that their bodies were needed for Carl and Heidi Bucher's participatory exhibit/event, came to see what they could see and do what they could do. Bucher's "Landings," like the plump red harbinger outside, widely exhibited in Europe, laid the foundation for his wife's apparel sculptures or "Landings to Wear," which need the human element for optimum impact. Their charm and wit received emphasis through contrast of the figurative shapes with inflated other-worldly looking guises.

Curved, single-colored foam forms, covered in nylon were a comic collection of characters with a unique body language, causing speculation about how such shapes would communicate. Situated near the entrance in a purple tomb, was a young

man revealed only by his face and lower leg which protruded to the knee through a slit and was constantly rotating; the whole piece swayed as though it were motorized. Capsizing several times, it took two men to put him upright again. He said he enjoyed the spills.

The next gentleman looked like he was taking a sauna, immersed in three tiers of black with a turban top, exposing his head and occasionally a hand which he was able to thrust between the bottom and middle tubular layers, rather like a penguin. One model complained of the heat, while another with a bare midriff said she was not warm except for the foam globules gloved on her hands.

At this time, when costumes are almost everyday apparel, clothing has long departed from its covering functions; current theatrical aspects are everywhere. These sculptured fashions, however, were unusual *(continued on page 70)*



*Above and opposite page: Apparel sculpture of nylon on foam forms by Heidi Bucher.
When not worn, forms are arranged to function as object sculpture.*

