



## Michelle Lester

*Michelle Lester maintained a studio on West 17th Street in NYC where she and her international group of apprentices wove more than 100 tapestry commissions she received during the 1970's and 1980's. A commission from Pan Am involved the weaving of over 300 tapestries. These tapestries were woven to adorn the bulkheads of their planes. During the 80's IBM commissioned 32 tapestries for various locations.*

*Her clients included industrial giants, insurance companies, department stores and other businesses and office venues, as well as private collectors. Most of Michelle's work was not small but in the 20 to 300 square foot range.*

*She was a marvellous colorist. This, combined with her strong feelings for nature which she portrayed in an abstract impressionist manner, made her work immensely appealing. Her tapestry renderings were color pencils and watercolor sketches which were framed and shown in painting exhibitions.*

*Michelle was born on June, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio. She got her BFA from Cleveland Institute of Art and an MFA from Syracuse University. She became known in the Rochester/Syracuse area as a weaver and teacher and through group shows where her early work consisted of inventive rugs combining flatweave with pile. Michelle continued weaving and teaching after moving to New York City and began her prolific tapestry output. She branched out as a textile designer and illustrator doing work for Jack Lenor Larsen and the fashion designer Nicole Miller, among others.*

*Michelle has done a lot to promote weaving, to educate and inspire new weavers to take up this rich and very personal medium. She taught weaving at the Parson's school of Design, NYU, and Brooklyn Museum in New York City. She touched and changed many lives including the four weavers in this exhibition - Rita R. Gekht, Mary-Ann Sievert, Bojana Leznicki and Betty Vera. Michelle and her work will remain an inspiration to all who knew her*