



October 22, 2002

WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

Madison Ave. at 75th St. (570-3676)—In Helen Mirra's installation, "**Declining Interval Lands**," small rectangles of felt, in colors that shift from leaf to moss, lie stitched together on the gallery floor—it's Carl Andre by way of Mr. Green Jeans. A slender ribbon of cloth winds along the gallery wall at eye level, printed with lines of text borrowed from Beckett, an 1823 timber guide, and a Quaker philosopher (to name just three), but its empty segments better echo the show's mournful tone. A bench and an ambient-sound piece complete Mirra's installation, which alludes to Dutch-elm disease and, by extension, to all unanticipated loss, in a kind of melancholy minimalism. Through Dec. 8.