

W Magazine: 'Teresita Fernandez: Seduction through the Senses', October, 2010





TERESITA
FERNANDEZ
SEDUCTION
THROUGH
THE SENSES

Miami-born Teresita Fernández grew up in a family of what she calls "makers," who instilled in her an appreciation for craftsmanship as well as a formal sense of style. "My mother dressed up to take us to school," says the artist, who in September 2011 was appointed by President Obama to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. "I like that feeling of being put together. I don't do casual well." Fernández, 44, lives in Brooklyn with her two young children and still recalls the way her Cuban grandmother and great-aunts would close their eyes to feel fabric during her childhood shopping trips with them. "That connection between the visual and tactile is so much of what my work is about," she says. Indeed, Fernández's sculptures have a way of seducing the viewer and arousing the senses. "Night Writing," her current show at New York's Lehmann Maupin gallery (through October 20), features a series of large-scale prints (*left, in background*) that evoke the brilliance of beholding the northern lights. The mirrored braille patterns covering the works make them appear to be in a constant kinetic state. "It's a dynamic thing," Fernández says. "By looking at it, you set it in motion."

FERNANDEZ WEARS ISABEL TOLEDO LACE DRESS. LORENZ BAUMER EARRINGS. TABITHA SIMMONS SANDALS. MAKEUP BY MAUD LACEPPE FOR NARS COSMETICS AT STREETERS. DIMATTIO AND FERNANDEZ HAIR BY MIKI AT TIM HOWARD MANAGEMENT. FEINSTEIN AND MECKSEPER HAIR BY WARD AT BRYAN BANTRY AGENCY. SET DESIGN BY LOU ASARO. FOR STORES, PRICES, AND MORE, SEE BACKSTORY, PAGE 164.