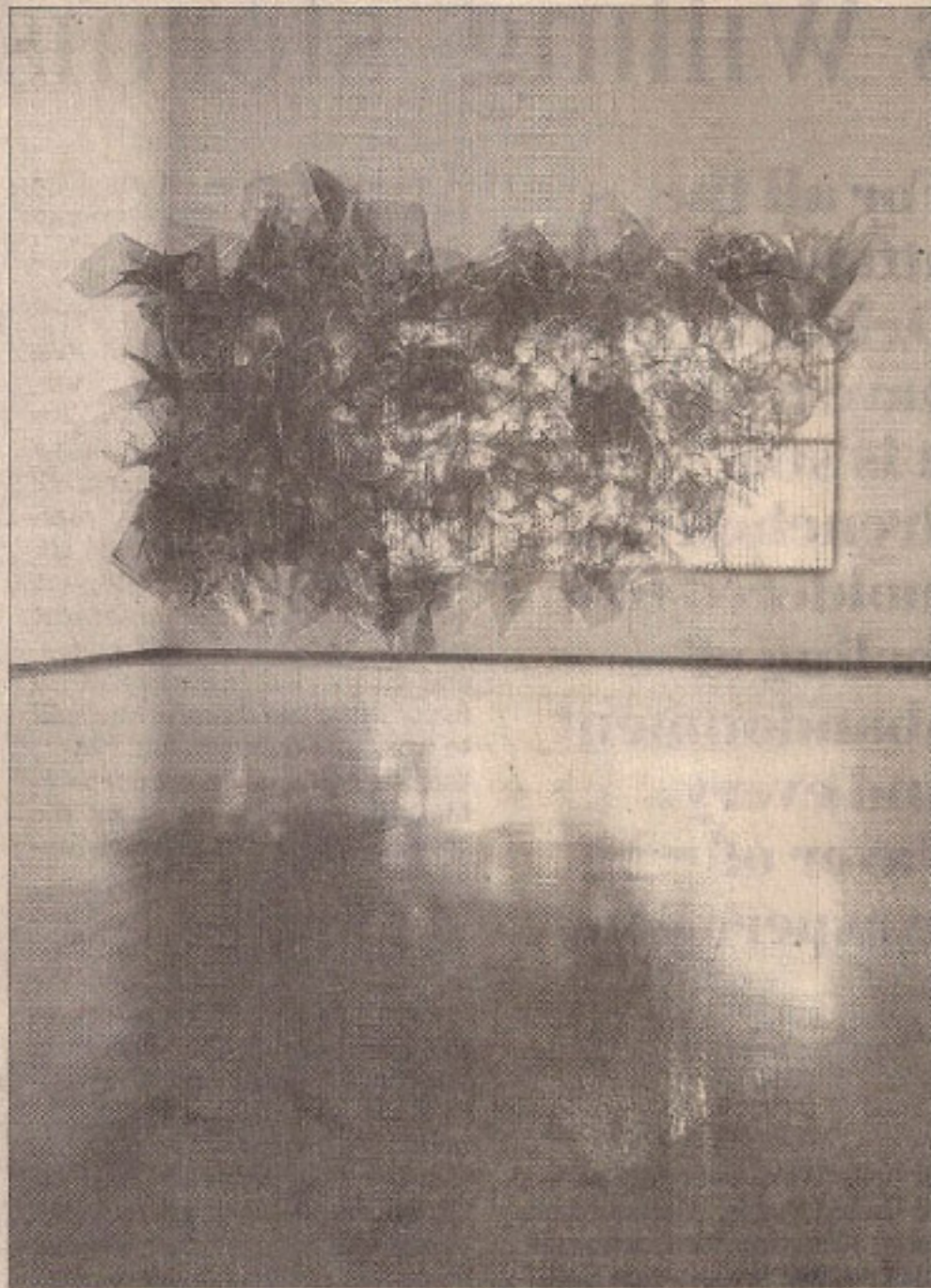


WASHINGTON ARTS BRIEFS



LUKE STETTNER/COURTESY OF GALERIE NORDENHAK

NEW AGE: Spencer Finch's "Sunlight in an Empty Room (Passing Cloud for Emily Dickinson, Amherst, MA, August, 28, 2004)."

try auditioned for the regional competitions and were narrowed down through voting at www.howsweetthesound.com. The regional competitions will begin Sept. 9 in Houston.

Fans can attend by buying tickets online (\$5 to \$7); the Washington leg takes place at Verizon Center.

— Erin Williams

Rocking the literary vote

Acting like every other Washington institution, the Library of Congress is stirring things up with a feisty online poll. About 500 authors have participated in the first nine years of the National Book Festival, and the library is asking members of the public to select their favorite from that list or this year's lineup.

The results, or the top ten, will be posted every day at www.loc.gov/bookfest. Now, let's see:

Jules Feiffer or Isabel Allende? Lidia Bastianich or Jerry Pinkney? This year's festival is Sept. 25 on the Mall.

— Jacqueline Trescott

A Touchstone milestone

Touchstone Gallery, homeless since October, is landing in its new location soon, with a grand opening Sept. 10.

Touchstone, a critical part of the Washington art scene since 1976, is taking over a ground-floor space at 901 New York Ave. NW. The 50 members of the art cooperative will continue to mount solo and group shows, and Touchstone is keeping a policy of contributing a percentage of sales to local organizations.

— Jacqueline Trescott

White House neighbors

The White House Historical Association has released the first of two journals discussing the history of the homes and historic buildings surrounding that most famous of homes on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Among the places featured in the White House History journal are St. John's Church, designed by prominent Washington architect Benjamin Latrobe; the equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson, the first bronze statue cast in America; and Blair House, saved from destruction by the intervention of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The journal also focuses on the social house of the mid-19th century, the Corcoran Mansion — home to W.W. Corcoran, a Washington banker and philanthropist and the founder of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The home was demolished in 1922 to build the U.S. Chamber of Commerce building.

Part two of the journals will appear this fall. The publication can be purchased for \$6.95 by calling 800-555-2451 or subscribing at www.whitehousehistory.org.

The nonprofit association publishes White House History twice a year on varying topics, from gardens and decor to inhabitants.

— Erin Williams

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"GRIPPING!"
 - Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES
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