

ARTFORUM

Artforum: Best of the 2021
Rosemary Mayer: Ways of
Attaching
By Johanna Fateman
December 2021



Rosemary Mayer, *Galla Placidia*, 1973, satin, rayon, nylon, cheesecloth, nylon netting, ribbon, dyes, wood, acrylic paint, 108 × 120 × 60". © The Estate of Rosemary Mayer.

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ROSEMARY MAYER (SWISS INSTITUTE, NEW YORK)

Mayer, who died in 2014, was the most romantic and the most rigorous of Conceptual artists, charting an idiosyncratic feminist path for herself from rule-based painting to ephemeral sculpture events made of snow or balloons (“temporary monuments,” she called them). In particular, it’s her abstract fabric sculptures—floating feats of drapery and weightless volume in melting fairy-tale hues—that take my breath away. Here, the large-scale sea creature form *Galla Placidia*, 1973, is the dreamy showstopper, its tail pooling on the floor.

On view through January 9, 2022.