

Perspectives

By Christine Temin
GLOBE STAFF

Tull's drawings at BPL



Nan Tull's "Tulip #2."

Drawing is Nan Tull's medium: She handles charcoal, pastel and graphite with bold authority, creating large-scale single images that sometimes threaten to burst the bounds of the paper. Tull's drawings from 1976 to 1993 are the subject of a show in the Wiggin and South Galleries of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square through July 11. Some earlier Tull shows - at the

Akin and Chapel galleries, for instance - displayed the work to better advantage. With their antiquated cases and dreary lighting, the BPL galleries, slated for refurbishment in the final phase of the library's massive renovation, are at present simply too shabby to do justice to the art. That's a shame, too, because the BPL has been a loyal champion and collector of prints, drawings and photographs by artists with ties to Boston. About 700 living artists are represented in the library's collections, an impressive achievement.

Some of Tull's exquisite, nervous line drawings are reminiscent of Ellsworth Kelly's drawings of plants. In Tull's equally flattened versions, line and shape are all, and the line

the paper with vigor, establishing itself in no uncertain terms. Tull's smudgy, more romantic drawings are in the seductive-organic tradition of O'Keeffe or Mapplethorpe. Some of her plants explode with a ruffly flurry, while others are still and serene. And a phallic amaryllis is enough to make you blush.

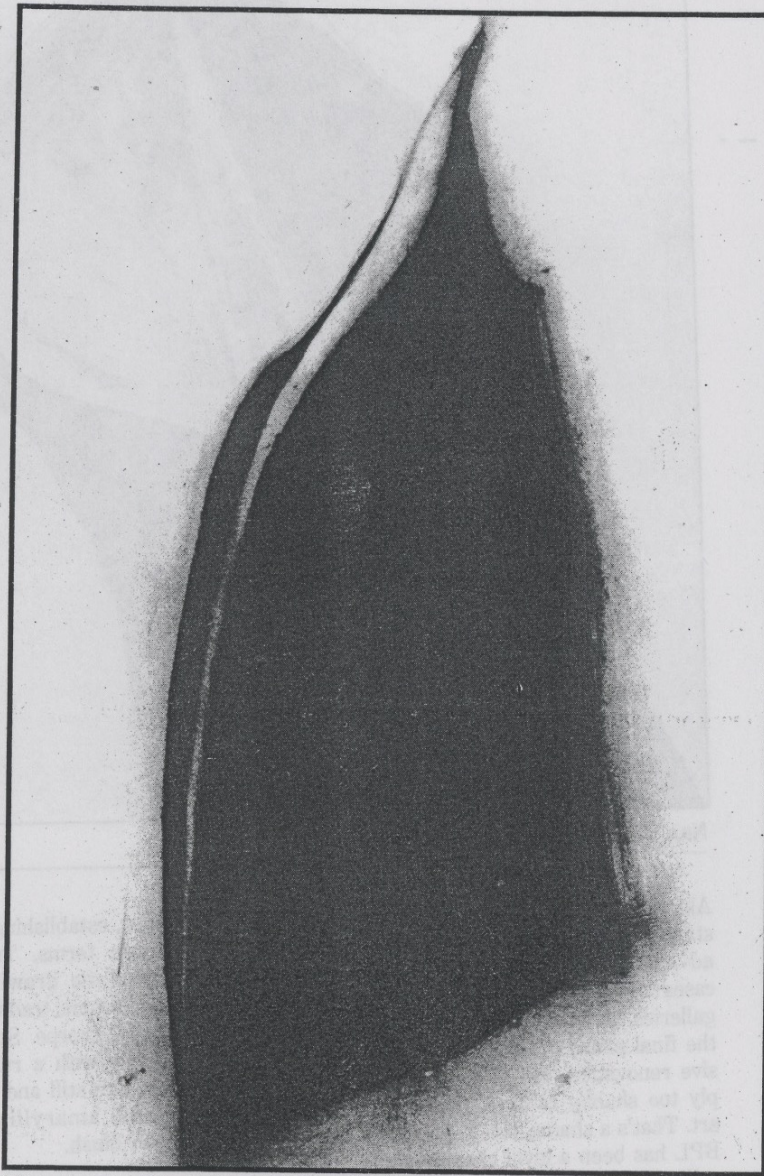
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Movements #6: Glide, by Nan Tull
Charcoal and graphite on paper
47 1/2" x 31 1/2", 1988

NAN TULL ('80) had work included in a six-person show at the Danforth Museum in Framingham, MA entitled *Metaphor as Reality* this past November – January, and *Fertile Ground* at Miller Block Gallery in Boston this past March. Tull also received a New England Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Drawing for 1994, and her second residency fellowship at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH for February 23 – March 31, 1994. She is also scheduled to have a retrospective of her drawings at the Wiggins Gallery of the Boston Public Library this April – July.