



Ya Ya Chou: Bear Bulbs

YA YA CHOU, a native of Taiwan who now lives in Los Angeles, has a lot to say about the relationship between society and nature. Her work addresses culture's tendency to cause alienation from nature; she often juxtaposes animals within domestic objects and scenes to illustrate these ideas. Chou's *Chandelier* is part of a series of gummy-bear sculptures that highlight the artificiality of the animal-shaped candy snacks. With their jewel tones and translucent qualities, she thinks they look more like decoration than something edible and notes that even when the bears were left out for cats, roaches, and ants, none showed interest in eating the candy.

It took Chou two months to thread thirty pounds of gummy bears onto monofilament to create the chandelier. The untreated bears show very few signs of deterioration since the chandelier's completion in June 2005. Even after more than a year, they are still fragrant and squeezable. At this rate, Chou believes the chandelier could last ten years and shine on as a symbol of our distant relationship to nature. ❧

ABOVE: Chandelier (with detail), 2005; gummy bears, monofilament, plastic and metal rings, earring hooks, beads, wire, fluorescent bulbs; strung, illuminated; 30" high, 20" in diameter. Photos by the artist.