

**Ice Forest**  
**2005, Cynthia Reeves Gallery**

*Materials: Urethane resin, monofilament*

*Dimensions: variable*

Hundreds of translucent cast resin rose stems were suspended from the ceiling to create an icy forest through which viewers move. The crystalline stems, whose thorns are sharp like real roses, suggest a fairy tale world that is enticing yet dangerous. Shadows of stems and viewers cast onto a nearby wall extend the piece, making the forest seem endless and immersive.

The making of this installation, like many of my works, involved a chance occurrence. I gathered stems pruned from my husband's rose bush, then grafted several together to make a series of longer elements 4' to 5'6" long. I made a mold of one of these stems and cast it in plastic resin. This cast stem, now translucent, was suspended in my studio for almost a year until I finally envisioned how to use it.

When I had removed the stem from the mold, it was curved, and there was something about the form that didn't feel right. I kept looking at it, and many months later, I tried casting it again. It was winter and my studio was cold. I let the stem cure in the mold as before, then removed and suspended it. When I returned the next day, I was amazed to discover that the stem had stretched to become completely straight. Although it had seemed hard, the resin was internally soft, and gravity had worked on it overnight. This cast stem became the element I used to make the installation *Ice Forest*. As in many of my pieces, I had been searching for a module I could repeat and re-configure to create a larger environment.

This notion of transformation is the basis for everything I make. How can one thing become something else? It's a kind of alchemy. How can I make materials speak?