

**Chapel Gallery/Newton**

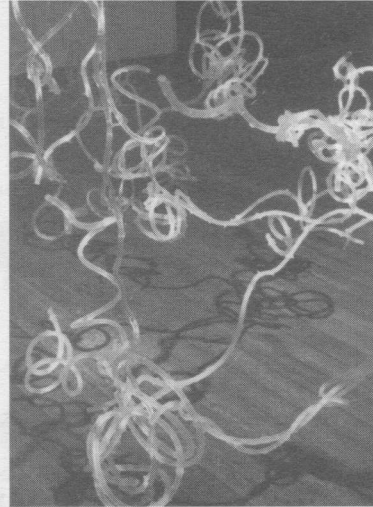
BETH GALSTON: RECASTING NATURE

Beth Galston is an artist who works with nature, often combining and casting its constituent parts. Her larger sculptures, such as *Tangle*, *Seed Log*, *Thicket*, and *Ice Garden*, are similar to Eva Hesse's late works in their undulating contours. Some are made of natural components while others, like *Thicket*, are created from materials that mimic natural forms such as urethane resin. *Thicket*, a hanging piece, creates a dance with curvilinear exuberance and shadows.

In her smaller works, Galston uses a combination of natural forms embedded in a urethane resin container. Her sculptures of clasped hands are conceptually interesting, suggesting a nineteenth-century *memento mori* piece with twentieth-century material.

Photographs, drawings, and models of Galston's architectural collaborations are shown in the upper gallery. Her project with the *Thunderbird Bridge* allowed her to work on a grand scale with man-made materials, while *Waterwheel* uses natural materials such as stone and water mist. Her theatrical project, *Bound*, shown this year at the Emerson Majestic Theater and the Boston Center for the Arts, proves she is an astute and dramatic stage designer. Both the large sculptures and the architectural projects demonstrate Galston's involvement with the definition of seen and unseen spaces.

—Alicia Faxon



At the Chapel Gallery/Newton:  
Beth Galston—*Thicket* (detail),  
resin and monofilament, 2000.