

# Feature Exhibition: David Jang



als are as natural as nature itself can be. For Jang there is no distinction between artifice and nature as the artist's work plays out like a landscape of objects, as diverse and alive as an urban environment or natural setting.

Born in South Korea, and based in Los Angeles, David Jang has long wrestled with the notion of conformity and the defiance thereof. This struggle is evident in his work, in each of his obsessively replicated creative acts—walls of looped wire and skyline-like stacks of plastic cups—that suggest a social order while simultaneously subverting the individual's intended purpose. Such is the nature of Jang's relationship with his media: every object can be defined by both what it is and the potential for what it can become.

For artist David Jang, the creative act is rather an act of discovery. In his upcoming solo exhibition at Downtown Art Center Gallery on June 9, Jang's discoveries examine the complex relationships between force and balance, perception and consciousness.

Jang's work inevitably begins with the medium. Working from the conceit that within every material exists also its life's instructions, Jang constructs, modifies, manufactures, and manipulates material into a whole new set of objects with a whole new set of rules. Potato chip bags are inverted and constructed into globs to take on a feel more akin to cast pewter than snack food packaging; unrolled paper towels are stood on-end and made rigid with resin; circline fluorescent lamps and wires are strung up into exquisite vines; and Styrofoam cups are motorized into a symphony of screeching.

By taking an extremely experimental approach to mundane things—many of which can even be considered consumer waste—Jang transforms the everyday object into self-motivated, of-



ten articulated pieces that express their own unique qualities living and being. It is within his relationship with materials that one begins to understand Jang's concept of "urban formalism"—essentially the artist's idea that urban materi-

**David Jang**  
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