

## LESLIE IWAI

Leslie Iwai's transformative conceptual works are grounded physically and emotionally in the commonality of shared experiences. Her work's emphasis on form and space draws upon her master's degree in architecture from Virginia Tech and her undergraduate degree in math and chemistry. While expressed in spatial terms, Iwai's work is clearly motivated by underlying and unresolved human and spiritual relationships. In January 2006, Iwai completed an artist residency in Seaside, Fla., where she began making a new body of work in response to a recent four-month stay in Sierra Leone, Africa, where she was a volunteer working with war-affected youth and children. In addition to her studio work, she has been an adjunct faculty member at the



University of Nebraska at Omaha and is the current Art Center director at the Hope Center for Kids in Omaha, Neb., an inner-city urban youth and children ministry. Most notable in building her local reputation she, in 2005, was the first recipient of the Bemis Community Arts Fellowship and, in 2004, dedicated her sculpture installation, *Sounding Stones*, awarded by the Omaha Public Art Commission.

