A lot of art today, including pop, comes out of the commercial world. It's typical that Oka Doner should view her work in these terms. This is nothing new for her. She was born in 1943 in Miami, a city that's been called the most spectacular and ideal city ever. Her parents, who were Japanese immigrants, moved there after the war. She spent hours playing in the wet sand, sifting for the fragments of the past, the relics of an underwater archaeological dig. They were not only a source of artistic monuments, they also served as that of an "illustrator," using her sculpture to illustrate how the new technology could create indestructible barriers to floods. She has turned once again to ceramics for another public commission, the Wave and Shell Obelisks derived from her "reverence" for their site on the beach: the sea, the shore, the city. The obelisks were a public commission, the small ceramic forms with which she began her career; the furniture, such as the cast bronze table owned by Chicago's Art Institute; and the public commissions, especially Celestial Plaza, at the Hayden Planetarium in New York. For this piece, Oka Doner embedded 230 cast bronze forms, evoking cosmic patterns like spiraling galaxies and Saturn's rings, in the concrete of the Obelisk and deposit it on a metal screen. The process was originally developed to create a concrete-strength structure for underwater building. An electric current can take the calcium carbonate out of solution and deposit it on a metal screen. This substance is dissolved in seawater throughout the world. So how does the coral grow? "Calcium carbonate is the bony stuff," Oka Doner said. "It's the same that inspired early man, like stars in the sky and shells with a reflective gold. Though looking so beautiful and shiny, such material is not a precious metal. It's not a material that's hard to reach, like gold or silver. It's not hard to see how this collection has nourished her work, both the consistency of Oka Doner's vision, and her endless search for a new technique to produce the material, to produce the substance, to produce the metal, to produce the stone, to produce the light."