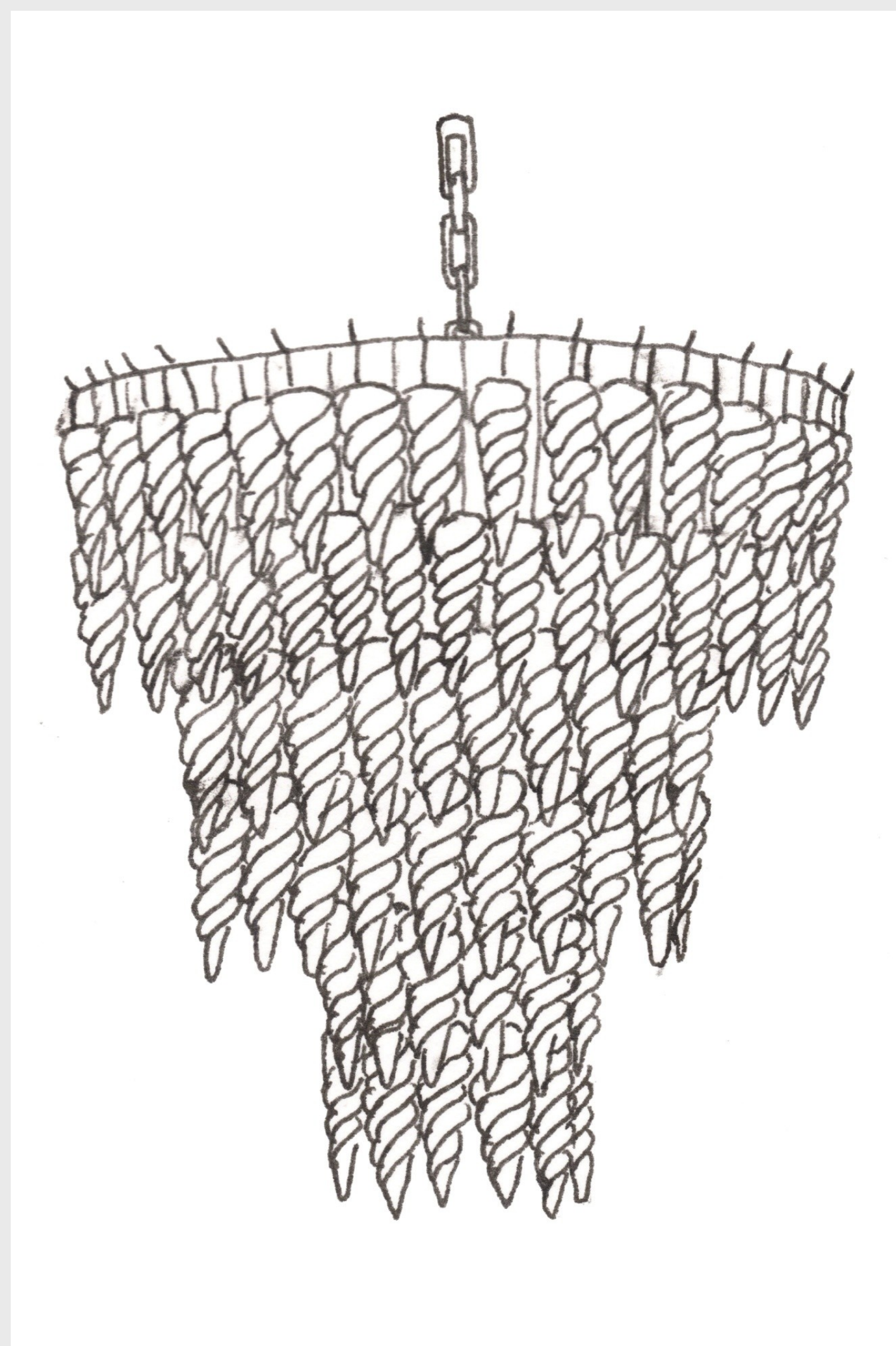


Candy Unicorn Horn Chandelier

The Project

I have created a three-tier chandelier of unicorn horn lollipops for display in the spring MFA Thesis Exhibition. This piece is part of a larger installation which includes floor pillows adorned with the silhouettes of male teen heart-throbs and altered catalogues available for perusal. My creative research has focused on the complex nature of desire and obsession, and the unicorn and domestic interiors have often been employed as subjects in this work. Unicorns are connected to childhood naivety and belief in that which does not exist. They also have a strong association with sexual desire, as all of the medieval legends of the unicorn center around the potency of the creature's horn. Interior spaces, especially as they are presented in home living catalogues and magazines, are representative of our aspirations to a certain standard of living as well as our notions of what creates a "home." The chandelier represents these aspects of human desire while referencing their unattainability.

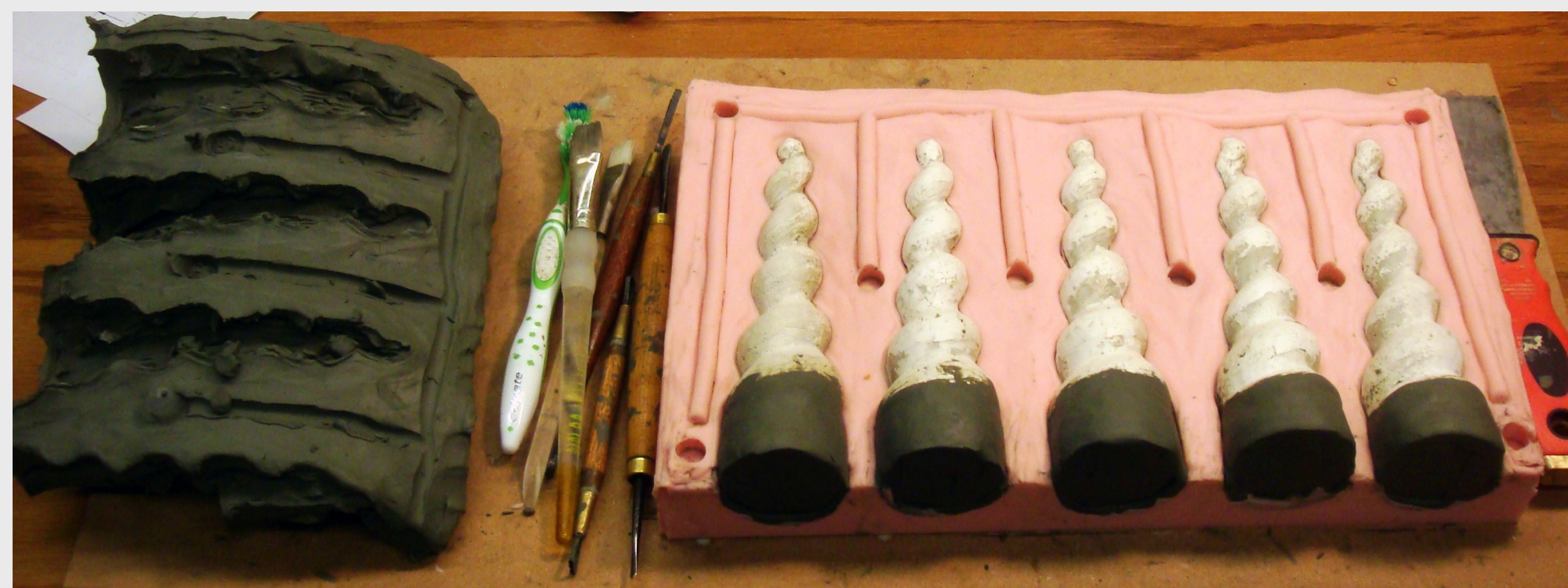


Original concept sketch

Process

Mold Making

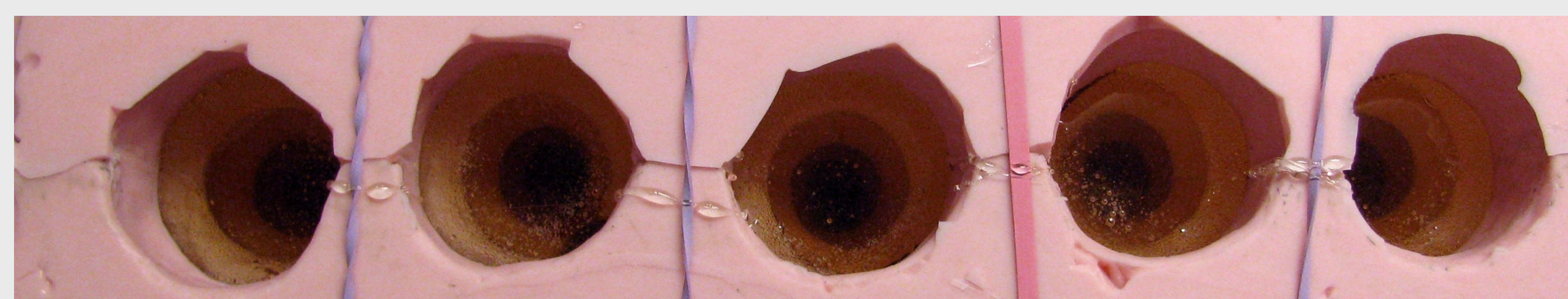
A mold needed to be created from which the candy unicorn horns could be cast. I first sculpted the form of the unicorn horn from clay overtop a metal armature. This clay sculpture was used to create an initial silicone mold. From this single mold five unicorn horn replicas were cast from plaster. The plaster horns were used to create a two-part candy mold. The five horns were bisected in a bed of clay. Clay cylinders were built up on the ends to function as pour spouts for the liquid candy. Walls were built up around the clay bed, and the mold was cast from food-grade silicone.



First cast of two-part mold

Candy Casting

The two parts of the mold were held together by keys in the mold and a grid of rubberbands. The candy was made from a sugar, corn syrup, and water mixture flavored with vanilla extract. The heated liquid candy was poured into the mold, lollipop sticks were inserted, and the candy was allowed to cool.



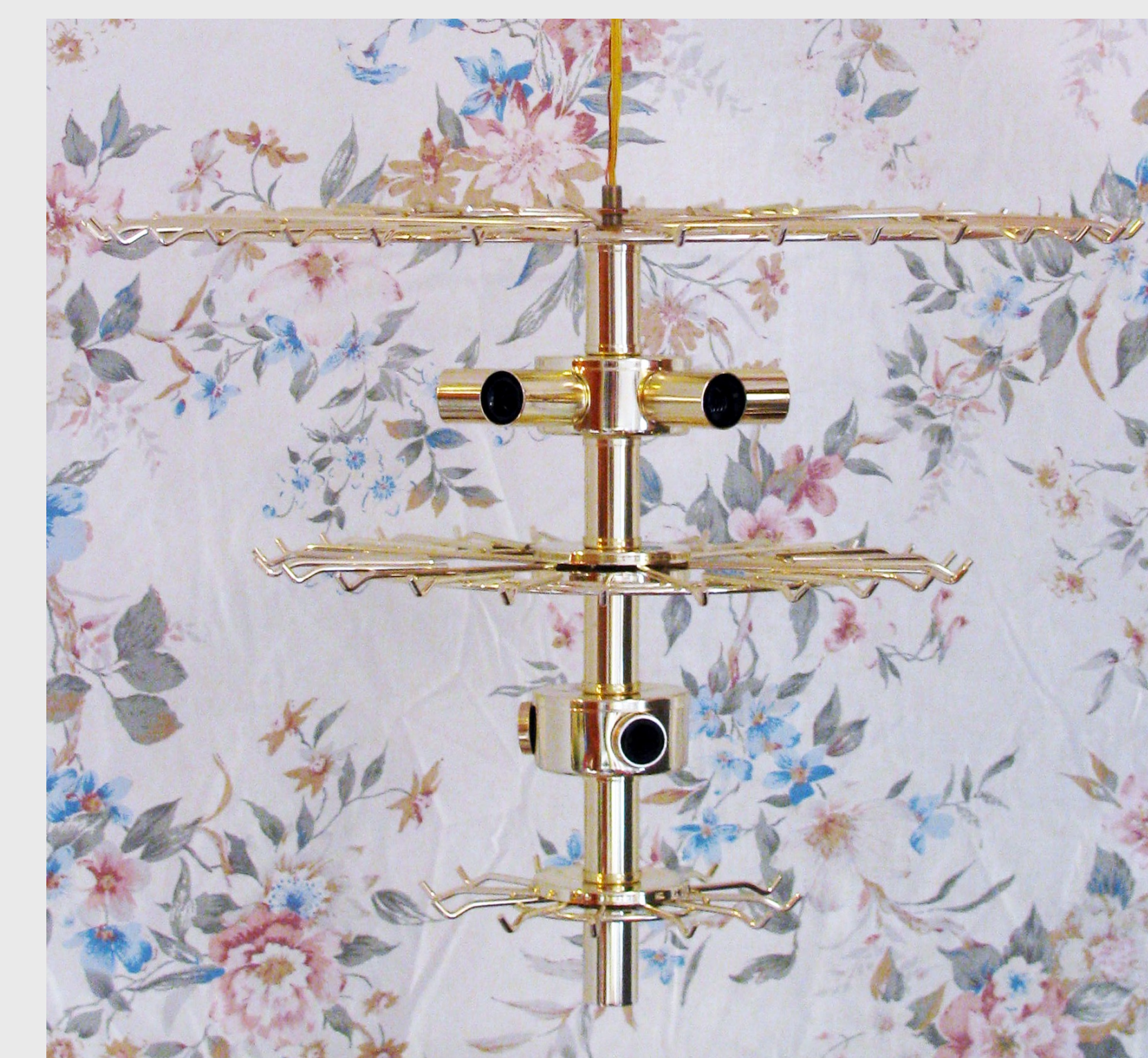
Top view of mold filled with candy



Finished lollipops in mold

Finishing

A prefabricated chandelier provided the framework for the sculpture so that the finished piece illuminates. The chandelier was refinished and used for its metal framework and electrical parts only. The unicorn horn candies attached to the metal frame by ribbons tied around the lollipop sticks.



Original chandelier

Result

The finished sculpture is on display in the University Art Gallery during the MFA Thesis Exhibition, April 2 through April 13, 2012.