



**Figure 20.21**

Byrd's work is autobiographical, but "rather than documenting my daily experience, I have chosen to use photography to create visual metaphors for what happens to me. Since my work stems from the relationship between reality and fantasy I use applied colors (toners, pastels, and paint) on black-and-white photographs." The repetition of hanging three hundred gold-leafed razor blades with red thread relates to the performance aspect of Byrd's work. "The blades would move with each gentle breeze as people walked by. They looked surprisingly like butterflies fluttering above the body. I only cut myself three times."

© Jeffery Byrd. *Untitled*, 1993. 75 × 36 × 24 inches. Gelatin-silver print with mixed media.