

MONICA BOCK

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a mixed media sculptor and installation artist, I make objects that perform poetic narratives in specific spaces. Meaningful things significantly arranged communicate metaphorically, often cumulatively, in relationship to each other across walls and floors. As both personal, and rhetorical investigations, I build this work from castings of organic bodies and found objects, exposing new content through material transformation of familiar forms. I use ephemeral substances such as salt and soap, as well as apparently durable materials such as porcelain and iron. I've cast kitchen chairs, lunch bags, children's teeth, and lately, dead birds. Informed by feminist perspectives on power and vulnerability, I engage these figures in particular places as a means of noticing the fragility of human community.

BIOGRAPHY

Monica Bock is a sculptor, installation artist, and professor of art at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, where she reintroduced metal casting, then established the ceramic art program she now heads. A twelve-year affiliate of Soho20 Gallery, she also exhibits widely in venues that have included Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, The Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, and Mobius in Boston. She has earned numerous studio project grants and awards, from an early Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship, to her upcoming Siena Art Institute Studio/Casa Residency. As visiting artist she offers gallery talks, panel presentations, workshops, and critiques at a variety of institutions, including the New York Studio School. After receiving her BA '82 in Art and Art History from Oberlin College, she studied ceramics as a two-year Oberlin Shansi Fellow based in Tokyo, and for a third year at Saga Art University in Kyoto. She completed her BFA '89 in Ceramics, and MFA '91 in Sculpture, and course work and research for the MA in Art History Theory and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she became an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the First Year Program, before accepting her position in Connecticut in 1996.