

MONICA BOCK

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a mixed media sculptor and installation artist, I practice project-driven and site-responsive poetic figuration. Altered castings of organic bodies and found objects become meaningful things significantly arranged, performing narratively across walls and floors. Pursuing personal and rhetorical associations, I expose lines of thought through titles and 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 points of entry into difficult conversations about home.

BIOGRAPHY

Monica Bock is a sculptor, installation artist, and professor of art at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, where she renewed the metal casting curriculum, then established the ceramic art program she now heads. A twelve-year artist member of Soho20 Gallery in New York City, she has also exhibited widely in venues that include Mobius in Boston, Real Art Ways in Hartford, Pittsburgh's Mattress Factory, Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, and Phantom Galleries L.A in Long Beach. She has received numerous grants and awards, including an early Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship, and a recent Studio-Casa Residency Award from Siena Art Institute. As a visiting artist she regularly speaks about her work and participates in critiques at a variety of institutions such as the New York Studio School, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred, and University of Chicago.

Prof. Bock received her BA '82 in Art and Art History from Oberlin College. She spent two years in Tokyo on post-baccalaureate fellowship from the Oberlin Shansi Association, and a third year studying ceramics at Saga Art University in Kyoto. She completed her BFA '89 in Ceramics, her 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 Foundation Program, before accepting her position in Connecticut in 1996.