

MONICA BOCK

ARTIST STATEMENT

As a sculptor and installation artist I make objects to perform in specific spaces. Pursuing personal and rhetorical associations, I expose lines of thought through material transformation of familiar forms. Altered castings of organic bodies and found objects become meaningful things significantly arranged across walls and floors. 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. For nearly two decades, responding to tensions between the biological and the social, my work focused thematically on the ordinary extremes of maternal life. My recent return to figurative ceramics notices pervasive fragilities in kinship and community. Informed by feminist perspectives on power and vulnerability, I engage figures in particular places as points of entry into difficult questions 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 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 in Ceramics, her MFA 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 (SAIC). She became an Adjunct Assistant Professor in SAIC's Foundation Program before accepting her full-time faculty position in Connecticut in 1996.