

# **MONICA BOCK**

## **ARTIST STATEMENT**

Objects evolve to combine and recombine in my thematic exhibitions and site-specific installations. Pursuing personal and rhetorical associations often triggered or resolved by text, I expose lines of thought through material transformation of familiar forms. Altered castings and sculpted interpretations of organic bodies and found objects become meaningful things arranged across walls and floors. I have used 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, situating them in both fabricated and existing environments. Noticing dynamics of kinship, community, power, and vulnerability, I engage narrative objects in particular places as points of entry into difficult questions about home.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Monica Bock is a sculptor, installation artist, and professor of art in Art History Department at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, where she renewed the metal fabrication and casting curriculum, then established the ceramic art program she now heads. A member of Soho20 Gallery in New York City from 2004 to 2016, 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. Her work has appeared internationally in Japan, Italy, and the UK, and she has received numerous grants and awards, including an Arts Midwest/NEA Regional Visual Arts Fellowship and a Studio-Casa Residency Award from Siena Art Institute. As a visiting artist she has presented her work at institutions including the New York Studio School, New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred, and the University of Chicago, and at professional conferences including the College Art Association and the National Council of Education for the Ceramic Arts.

Prof. Bock received her BA in Art and Art History from Oberlin College, then spent two years in Tokyo teaching English and studying Japanese language and culture as an Oberlin Shansi Association post-baccalaureate fellow, and a third year studying ceramics at Saga Art University in Kyoto. After returning to the U.S., 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 taught as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in SAIC's Foundation Program for five years before accepting her full-time faculty position at the University of Connecticut in 1996.