

Rona Pondick

New work by American artist Rona Pondick (Brooklyn, New York, 1952), which consists of an 11-piece series of sculptures made of stainless steel. The figures show similarities with animals as well as humans and especially herself. This solo exhibition in Groningen is the end of a European tour and has been seen in Bologna and Paris.

Rooted in the tradition of minimal art, Rona Pondick confronted her audience with shoes, bedding, baby bottles and wax-like items. From the nineties she also processes castings of her own body parts in her work. For example, for the installation *Dirtheads* she made castings of her own teeth. This installation was in 1998 at the Groninger Museum in the exhibition *What Remains*. For the work *Ears* she worked with a casting of her own ears, which she then increased fifty times. Rona Pondick's work is not easy to say. Her work is typified with the word liminal, which means that her work could trigger feelings of unrest, confusion and even shame. Pondick's new series consists of 11 sculptures, which she started working in 1998. The objects that at first glance seem to refer to the tradition of classical sculpture, differ in many respects from her previous oeuvre. For example, her sculptures are made of sculpture tradition very unusual materials like silicone rubber and stained stainless steel. In addition, the sculptures *Monkey's*, *Worry Beads* and *Pine Marten* were realized using the latest digital techniques. These techniques were used to gradually reduce a casting of Pondick's head.

The result is 11 hybrid figures that keep the middle between man and animal. Striking to these figures is that they show, among other things, the characteristics of a dog, a fox or a marmot, and an image of the artist himself. For example, animal figures appear to grow human limbs and some figures are the head of the artist.

With her new work, Pondick refers to the craftsmanship of the classic sculpture she associates with a Frankenstein-like theme. In doing so, Pondick touches on content themes like the 'I', the self-portrait and the boundaries of biogenetics. In addition to these serious elements, the work also maintains airy and comic features. For example, the Marmot sculpture earlier calls associations with a roof-stripped figure, and the work of art, Pine Martin, seems to be a blow to art history and the tradition of "resting naked or odalisk."

In her new work, Rona Pondick is able to perform imaginatively, myth, reality, future, humor and horror in stainless steel.

A catalog has appeared on the occasion of the tour.

Exhibition
period:
September
14 to January
12, 2003 open:
Tues until 10:00 to
17:00, Closed:
Monday, 25 Dec
and Jan 1,
Entrance fee € 13



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