

ART & ANTIQUES

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Rona Pondick's artwork also makes you laugh uncomfortably; the themes she addresses, however—including femininity, gender roles, and the fragmentation of the body—are a good deal more visceral. In a decade when these topics have moved into the center of artistic debate, Pondick has proved herself a distinct and provocative voice.

Incorporating such real-world icons of femaleness as high-heeled shoes, nipples, and baby bottles with pillows and chairs and goofy grotesqueries like chattering teeth, her sculptures are disorienting fetishes to being female and being human. That her installations are often composed from multiples of small, discrete units lends them a disarming, childlike modesty that belies their loaded content. A show of Pondick's recent work (including *Pink Treats*, lower left) opens at Howard Yezerski in Boston on February 10.

