

## The 10 Best Booths at Frieze New York Online

Alina Cohen, May 7, 2020 12:24 pm

### Marc Straus, With Works by Rona Pondick



Rona Pondick, *Chairman*, 1992

Rona Pondick's sculptures examine femininity with humor and a heavy dose of the grotesque. Her materials include baby-bottle nipples, ballet slippers, and tights, combined and contorted into strange sculptures and installations. Pondick's aesthetics and themes place her in a stylistic lineage that includes Louise Bourgeois, Eva Hesse, and Sarah Lucas—yet her name isn't nearly as well known in collecting circles. "We hope to begin to correct that," said New York-based dealer Marc Straus, who's exhibiting works priced between \$10,000 and \$20,000 (for a pair of baby bottles nestled in ballet slippers) to between \$100,000 and \$250,000 (for a major installation).



Rona Pondick, *No*, 1990



Rona Pondick, *Ballerina*, 1989



Rona Pondick, *Mary Jane*, 1992



Rona Pondick, *Milk, Milk*, 1992-93

While Pondick has had dozens of solo museum shows throughout her career, her market history is more checkered. Before Straus began showing her work, she showed with Sonnabend Gallery (which didn't participate in art fairs) and Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac. Pondick's work rarely goes to auction, and she can take years to resolve a new body of work. Yet Straus himself has supported Pondick for three decades—he said he purchased the first major work Pondick ever sold: an installation titled *Little Bathers* (1990), made up of 500 small pink balls embedded with fake teeth. “We’ve been good friends since,” said the gallerist.