

Don't Touch My Waist



Red



Don't Touch My Waist, 1998

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Restraining Order

Sculptor **Cathy de Monchaux (b. 1960)** crafts uncanny objects that both entice and threaten. She intends their ornamental extravagance to invite myriad associations, real and imagined.

Take a closer look

De Monchaux's incongruous sculptures appear hard and soft; mechanical and organic; strange and familiar. The tempting tactility of lush velvet, supple leather, and gleaming metal beckon us closer. With proximity, what seemed inviting and luxurious may appear repellent and dangerous.

Something to talk about

The artist's works have drawn comparisons with medieval torture devices, human anatomy, Gothic architecture, and Victorian brothels. What do these pieces evoke for you?

In her own words

"Maybe it's more like when you are walking down the street and something catches your eye and you try to make sense of it. That's the way I want the objects to work in the context of the gallery situation."

Cathy de Monchaux, *Don't Touch My Waist*, 1998; Brass, leather, artificial fur, recycled real fur, scrim, lead, chalk, and thread; 46 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 41 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Cathy de Monchaux; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

Cathy de Monchaux, *Red*, 1999; Brass, copper, velvet, leather, canvas, steel, graphite, and thread; 14 x 46 x 34 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection; © Cathy de Monchaux; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth

