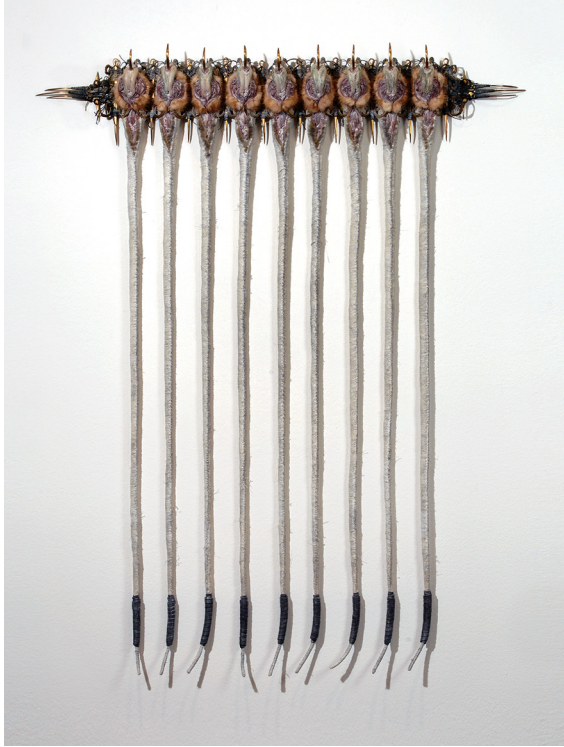


Don't Touch My Waist



Red



Don't Touch My Waist, 1998

Red, 1999

## 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 beckons 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, 46½ x 41¾ x 3¾ 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

