



## ART TAKING SHAPE

In her latest works, sculptor Nicole Farhi honors the sumptuous female figure.



**T**he shelves of Nicole Farhi's London studio are lined with a collection of body cast fragments of large breasts, rounded stomachs, dimples, and curves. It's the human form in all its fleshly glory and it's the latest work of the fashion designer turned sculptor. Cast in bronze and lemnosite—a composite material that resembles plaster—the sculptures have raw, unfinished edges, calling to mind the shattered white marble remains of ancient Greek and Roman sculptures. "By just showing fragments, I wanted to oblige the viewer to look deeply at the rolls of flesh, to see the beauty of the legs, the hips," she explains from the house that she shares with her husband, playwright David Hare. The resulting works are alluring, powerful, and profoundly, unrelentingly human. It's tempting to reach out and touch the rippling folds of skin. Farhi worked with two models, Sue Tilley—a famous subject of Lucian Freud's—and a friend of Tilley's, Paola Barone. But Farhi's work is not an homage to the painter. "Unlike Freud, whose work gave you the whole body, I wanted the viewer to look at exactly what I wanted them to." —EPPA GOLPAR

CASTING A GLANCE  
ABOVE, POLO 3; BY NICOLE FARHI; 2017 HER LATEST WORKS EVOKE IRVING PENN'S NUDE PORTRAITS SERIES EARTHLY BODIES; LEFT, THE ARTIST AT WORK.