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VISUAL ARTS

Nicole Farhi, Folds, Beaux Arts

31 JAN 19 - 02 MAR 19, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Fashion designer turned sculptor Nicole Farhi presents her largest solo exhibition to date. *Folds*, at Beaux Arts London gallery, celebrates feminine flesh in sumptuous splendour



Ceres by Nicole Farhi, 2018

After a long, successful career as a fashion designer, Nicole Farhi bid farewell seven years ago in order to devote herself to sculpture. Her attention no longer focused on garments, it is drawn instead to the bodies they clothe. In the last decade, Farhi has exhibited two solo series—one of faces, the other of the human hand. Her latest show, and largest to date, is still more intimate.

Comprising over 20 sculptures, *Folds* explores what Farhi calls, 'the powerful beauty of flesh, curves and the sexual energy large women have.' Each piece depicts different parts of a woman's body, every piece features full, folding flesh. Farhi's works began as plaster casts of women's bodies, before being rendered in jesmonite and bronze. This technique allows her to create lifelike fragments.



Hebe by Nicole Farhi, 2018

Folds opens at Beaux Arts, London in January. The gallery's director, Patricia Singh, praised Farhi's 'exquisite portrayals of the female form - which are very different to those cast by the fashion industry'. Having spent so long dressing slender figures, Farhi has chosen to celebrate feminine flesh, which is so often overlooked by haute couture. 'We feel very strongly that she has something new to say,' Singh states.

Farhi's starry contacts feature in her art: her first show included portraits of friends Anna Wintour, Judi Dench and Helena Bonham-Carter. Several of the casts in *Folds* were moulded from the bodies of her sitters - Lucian Freud's former muse, Sue Tilley makes an appearance. The show is also noticeably influenced by Farhi's mentor Sir Eduardo Paolozzi—one of the most significant British sculptors of the 20th century, whose bronze statue of Sir Isaac Newton sits outside the British Library. Solo this show may be, but its collaborative spirit is evident and inviting.

by Freya Sanders

WHAT	Nicole Farhi, <i>Folds</i> , Beaux Arts
WHERE	Beaux Arts, 48 Maddox St, London, W1S 1AY MAP
NEAREST TUBE	Green Park (Underground)
WHEN	31 Jan 19 - 02 Mar 19, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
PRICE	ETBC
WEBSITE	Click here for more information

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