



Bharti KHER

Mother and child, 2014

Resin, wood, wax and fur
180 x 148 x 61.1 cm | 5.91 x 4.86 x 2 ft
Unique

Courtesy of the artist and Perrotin

An immediate feeling of unease marks a first viewing Bharti Kher's *Mother and Child*. The mother's elegant up-do, sky blue eye shadow and high-heeled shoes pale in comparison to her crumbling body, with one leg missing and her left breast sliced off. The severed breast is reattached to the center of her son's back as if in an attempt to plant the maternal seed of compassion and empathy. The boy, who, in contrast to his slick mannequin mother, is crudely assembled and disproportional, raises a stick as if to strike, yet the mother's response to his violence is a loving pat on the head. The sculpture was a response to the much-publicized 2012 Delhi gang rape case, and calls into question the relationship between mothers and their sons. "It's really about you and me", Kher says; "it's about the boys that we are making; these boys that we as women and families raise. Why and how have we created the monsters, who are they and what can we do as mothers to guide our sons? They say here that it takes a village to raise a child. We all need to play our part somehow"