

25 Most Collectible Conceptual Artists: Mary Kelly

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Mark Kelly, "Gloria Patri," 2016 (installation view)

(Courtesy the artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects)

Mary Kelly

The godmother of feminist art, Kelly is known for her provocative films and large-scale narrative installations that explore notions of sexuality, work, power, and politics by tapping into the more visceral aspects of daily life. In 1976, she outraged gallerygoers in London with a presentation of *Post-Partum Document, 1973–79*, then a work in progress that included some of her son's soiled diapers, which she found suitable for framing. This past spring, a 1975 version of that piece, which included her son's scribbles atop

her notes, went on view at Tate Britain in “Conceptual Art in Britain: 1964–1979.” “Kelly is one of the most important female Conceptual artists of our time,” says L.A. gallerist Susanne Vielmetter, who represents the artist along with New York–based Mitchell-Innes & Nash, and Pippy Houldsworth Gallery of London. “Despite the fact that her work has been placed in major institutions such as the Kunsthaus Zurich, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and Tate Britain and Tate Modern in London, private collectors have only recently begun to discover her.” For now, Vielmetter adds, “considering Kelly’s art historical importance, her work remains reasonably priced, although there is not a lot of available inventory.” While works rarely come up for auction, Vielmetter has several freestanding pieces and installations on offer in the \$150,000-to-\$300,000 range; framed images printed on compressed washing machine lint sell for \$25,000 to \$250,000. According to Pippy Houldsworth, the Centre Pompidou Foundation acquired a major installation, *Corpus, Preliminary Artwork*, 1984, for \$250,000 at Frieze New York in May; a few other works, she says, are available in the \$100,000-to-\$500,000 range



Mary Kelly, "Interim, Part I: Corpus," Detail, *Menace*, 1984-1985 [Courtesy the artist]