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Autor: Mondini-Ruiz Franco

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Stepping into Franco Mondini-Ruiz's world, one would have to be very, very careful not to trip over his porcelain figurine collection. The Tejano artist creates intricate vignettes composed of a vast array of found objects and knickknacks such as costume jewelry, plastic cakes and treats, used ice-cream cups, miniature ceramic figurines, cigarette butts and much, much more. Some of his works toy with language to make witty one-liners about cultural biases. For example, in his piece entitled, Cheeses of Nazareth--among the most playful and pointed of his assemblages--a wedge of cheese propped up by a toothpick-sized stake provides shelter for a tiny plastic Nativity scene that sits upon a larger Parmesan round. One of many verbal-visual puns, Cheeses of Nazareth creates a hilarious confrontation of ritual and subversion through its gesture toward traditional altarpieces found in Mexican folk art.