

# GAA GALLERY

**DOMINIKA BEDNARSKY**

***HE WANTS TO BE THE WORST, CAUSE HE CAN'T BE THE BEST***

September 1 - November 5

Gaa Projects Cologne

Gaa Projects is pleased to present *he wants to be the worst, cause he can't be the best* and exhibition of new ceramic sculptures by Dominika Bednarsky. This will be Bednarsky's first exhibition with the gallery.

A cup adorned with used Q-tips. A chalice spotted with pink and fleshy human orifices-pimpled and pocked. Referencing the body, these seemingly metallic ceramic vessels are not entirely of this time. Insistent on a dense materiality, they feel simultaneously refined and heavy, delicate and ancient.

A trophy is draped in spaghetti. Another vessel, a handled cup decorated with bulging dots and small tufts of hair. You can feel the sunburn. The exposed skin. The rawness of things we usually prefer to leave hidden. The aspects of bodies that, when exposed, feel bare and revealed. The fleshy and concealed processes happening in our bodies. Our stomachs are growling, sometimes quietly, sometimes loudly, sometimes at inopportune moments, but all the same- the daily, private, and uncelebrated bodily things.

In *he wants to be the worst, cause he can't be the best*, Dominika Bednarsky offers reminders of the triumph of failures. In her exhibition of awards, Bednarsky calls attention to the object of the trophy. In ancient times Greek and Roman trophies were made on battlefields and sites of military victories. Often made to resemble a warrior, trophies or trotopaeum were often figures formed from the branches of trees and the refuse of war—objects, amour from the defeated, lances, banners, and stakes fixed crosswise. To chronologically follow would be formalized and substantiated commemorative objects taking the form of pillars and monuments, becoming part of the architecture— civilizations formed around sites, greatness, and victory.

Goblets, chalices, even the Holy Grail— vessels of precious metals and sanctity, evolved into plastic figurines in athletic poses. Mass-produced and embellished with detritus of sporting events, paired with urn-like shapes, contemporary trophies still reference the ceremonial form of a cup—Bednarsky's trophies pair seemingly timeless forms with a kind of humor and irony distinctly of our time.

A trophy for *the most pimples, the most ear wax, the most beautiful butt hole, the best bald head*, in these vessels, Bednarsky gives us permission to relish with both repulsion and wonder. Subverting the power of trophies, Bednarsky undermines something central to ideas of value, worth, and beauty. With playfulness and humility, pieces like *Muttermalpokal*, offers an award to the longest hair growing out of moles. *Zwiebelpokal*, Onion Cup, a prize for the best onion smell, or maybe proposes we all be awarded onions for our successes or all the things we embody to extremes, our marvels. What happens when the stakes are different? When the award isn't recognition for being the most victorious, the first to conquer, but something more absurd, human, banal.

Expanding the perimeters of what is deemed, decent, admirable, and award-worthy, Bednarsky's chalices offer consolation and an off-kilter celebration of the messy, visceral, and ordinarily un-award-worthy things that make our bodies ours.

**Dominika Bednarsky** (b. 1994, Schweinfurt, Germany) is a visual artist who utilizes ceramic processes to build site-specific installations and objects. Bednarsky currently studying Fine Art at Hochschule für Gestaltung in Offenbach, Germany. Solo exhibitions include, *Pussy-Cat, Pussy-Cat, Where Have You Been?, CK Offspace* at G2Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany; *A Sitting and A Slurping and A Spitting and A Thinking*, 1822 Forum, Frankfurt, Germany; and *Snap Competition, Schleuse in den Opelvillen*, Rüsselsheim, Germany. Her work has been featured in recent group exhibitions at the *Galerie Anita Beckers*, Frankfurt, Germany; *Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis Bregenz*, Austria; *Nassauischer Kunstverein*, Wiesbaden, Germany; *Kunstverein Wiesen*, Germany; *Opelvillen, Rüsselsheim*, Germany, among others. Bednarsky lives and works in Frankfurt am Main.

*he wants to be the worst, cause he can't be the best* will be on view through November 5.

**DOMINIKA BEDNARSKY**

**"HE WANTS TO BE THE WORST, CAUSE HE CAN'T BE THE BEST "**



Dominika Bednarsky  
*Muttermalpokal, 2022*

Glazed ceramic

31 x 29 x 16 cm / 12 1/4 x 11 1/2 x 6 1/3 in



Dominika Bednarsky  
*Arschlochpokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic  
31.5 x 33 x 17 cm / 12 1/2 x 13 x 6 2/3 in



Dominika Bednarsky  
*Spaghettipokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic  
48 x 26 x 18 cm / 19 x 10 1/4 x 7 in





Dominika Bednarsky  
*Ohrenschmalzpokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic  
34.5 x 15 x 14 cm / 13 1/2 x 6 x 5 1/2 cm



Dominika Bednarsky  
*Hackfleischpokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic  
27.5 x 32 x 17.5 cm / 11 x 12 1/2 x 7 in



Dominika Bednarsky  
*Zwiebelpokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic  
29 x 13 x 13 cm / 11 1/2 x 5 1/2 x 5 1/2 in



Dominika Bednarsky  
*Pickelpokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic  
41 x 22 x 13 cm / 16 1/5 x 8 2/3 x 5 1/5 in





Dominika Bednarsky  
*Glatzenpokal*, 2022  
Glazed ceramic

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## DOMINIKA BEDNARSKY

### BORN

1994, Schweinfurt, Germany

### SOLO + TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *he wants to be the worst, cause he can't be the best*, Gaa Projects, Cologne, Germany
- 2021 *Nicht Fleisch, Nicht Fisch*, Kunstverein Wiesen, Wiesen, Germany  
*Pussy-Cat, Pussy-Cat, Where Have You Been?*, CK Offspace at G2Kunsthalle, Leipzig, Germany  
*hijacked2*, Carole Baskin Private Collection, Tampa, FL, USA  
*hijacked*, Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli, Italy (online)  
*A Sitting and A Slurping and A Spitting and A Thinking*, 1822 Forum, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2019 *Snap Competition*, Schleuse in den Opelvillen, Rüsselsheim, Germany

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Robert Grunenberg, Berlin, Germany (Forthcoming)  
*Ora Forma, Ora Ora*, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Im Namen der Hose*, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Liminal Creatures*, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria  
*Bitten by a love bug*, 68 Projects, Berlin, Germany
- 2021 *Feelings are real (it's true)*, Galerie Anton Janizewski, Berlin, Germany (Performance)  
*Wiederaufnahme: Kunst für Tiere*, Opelvillen, Rüsselsheim, Germany  
*Wiederaufnahme: Alles im Wunderland*, Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany  
+1, TOR Art Space, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Dosis II*, Institut für Zukunft, Leipzig, Germany  
*The Things Forever Speaking*, ArtHouse Jersey, Jersey, UK  
*Frankfurter Kunst Vertrieb*, Kunstverein Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Window Smooches*, Magma Maria, Offenbach, Germany
- 2020 *DOCH!*, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Kunst für Tiere*, Opelvillen, Rüsselsheim, Germany  
*Alles im Wunderland*, Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Germany  
*If you can dream it, you can build it*, Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany  
*I never meant to lie*, Multimadeira Gallery, Madeira, Portugal
- 2019 *endless summer*, Kunsthalle, Offenbach, Germany  
*a whole isle*, Basis Projektraum, Frankfurt, Germany  
*If you build it, they will come*, Zollamt Galerie, Offenbach, Germany
- 2018 *Neue Abstraktion*, Kunsthalle, Offenbach, Germany  
*7 pieces*, Basis Projektraum, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2017 *Mach dein Problem nicht zu meinem*, Zollamt Galerie, Offenbach, Germany  
*Illustration*, Zollamt Galerie, Offenbach, Germany

### EDUCATION

- 2023 Diplom, Hochschule fuer Gestaltung Offenbach

### AWARDS

- 2022 Artist in Residency Gmunden, Austria
- 2020 Deutschlandstipendium