

**Johannes Nagel** Germany b. 1979

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‘A vessel has as its reference its own stylistic history and the function. To conserve, or serve out or to present certain content, is an orientation towards basic human needs. The manufacture of vessels is a self-evident cultural technique for all of mankind, and analogue to the role of the figure in sculpture, we can maintain that the ritual is the concrete opposite of the vessel. And so, the ‘vessel’ can today be a theme, in which function and ritual, our own history and the future may be reflected.’



*Cuts #9, 2022, Porcelain, 68H x 37W x 30D cm*

## Johannes Nagel Biography

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*'Any object that we design and produce is makeshift, is improvised, is inappropriate and provisional.'*  
 - David Pye

The subject of Johannes Nagel's work is, specifically, the improvised and provisional. The objects are finished in that the porcelain is painted (glazed) and fired. Most objects are somehow vessels, pots. What else are they? The attempt to confuse the connotations that technology and material provoke. At times constructive composing, at times wilful destruction, sometimes vases, sometimes fragments or alienated object.

Using work techniques such as burrowing into sand to form negative figurations for casting, Johannes Nagel successfully performs his work directly and manually, lending the process of searching a tangible presence. The joints and fissures, the blots of colour and unfinished painting appear provisional as they point from the finished object back to the process. It is not the perfection of the ultimate expression that is intended, but to verbalize a concept of the evolution of things.

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### Education

2012 - 2017	Assistant Professor, University of Art and Design, Burg Giebichenstein, Halle, Germany
2011	Stipend of the Art Foundation, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany
2009	Postgraduate stipend, University of Art and Design, Burg Giebichenstein, Halle, Germany
	Scottish Arts Council Residency, Cove Park, Scotland
2008	Diploma of fine art/ceramics, University of Art and Design, Burg Giebichenstein, Halle, Germany
2007	Student exchange, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, USA
2005 - 2006	Artist-in-Residence, Shigaraki Ceramics Cultural Park, Shigaraki, Japan
2002 - 2008	Fine Art Ceramics, University of Art and Design, Burg, Giebichenstein, Halle, Germany
2001	Apprentice potter, Kinya Ishikawa in Val-David, PQ, Canada

### Selected Public Collections

Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK  
 Museum Ariana, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum, Pinakothek der Moderne, München, Germany

Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr-Grenzhausen, Germany  
 Keramion, Frechen, Germany  
 Keramiekmuseum Princessehof, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands  
 Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kirkland, Kendal, UK  
 Kunstmuseum Kloster unser lieben Frauen, Magdeburg, Germany  
 Grassimuseum, Leipzig, Germany

### Selected Exhibitions | Solo + Two Person

- 2022 *Stegreif – Johannes Nagel & Carl Richard Söderström*, Peace Corner, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Farbfeld*, Gallery Fumi, London, UK  
*Feldlinien*, Kunstforum, Solothurnm Switzerland
- 2021 ***The Light of Lustre*, Taste Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland**  
*Recherchen – Johannes Nagel and Tino Geiss* the Grass is Greener, Leipzig, Germany  
*Asymptote – Rudolf Bott and Johannes Nagel*, Galerie Rosemarie Jäger, Hocheim, Germany
- 2020 *No Fake*, Brutto Gusto, Berlin, Germany  
*Stegreif*, Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Höhr Grenzhausen, Germany  
*True Blue*, Cordonhaus Cham, Germany
- 2019 *Blumenrot*, Jason Jaques Gallery, New York, USA  
*Johannes Nagel*, Puls Gallery, Brussel, Belgium
- 2018 *Johannes Nagel - Trial & Error*, Brutto Gusto, Berlin, Germany  
*Vessels, perhaps 2010 – 2017*, Gallery Fumi London, UK
- 2017 *Lacy Traces*, Kunstforum Solothurn, Switzerland
- 2016 *I hardly ever Thought of flowers*, Brutto Gusto, Berlin, Germany
- 2015 Johannes Nagel, Keramion, Frechen, Germany  
*Vessels, perhaps*, New Arts Centre, Roche Court, UK  
*I Hardly Ever Thought of Flowers...*, Gallery Fumi, London, UK
- 2014 *Kaleidoskop*, Brutto Gusto, Berlin, Germany  
*Fokus Junge Kunst*, Kunstmuseum Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen, Magdeburg, Germany  
*Kaleidoskop*, Kunstforum Solothurn, Solothurn, Switzerland
- 2013 *Space Between*, Galerie Idelmann, Gelsenkirchen, Germany
- 2012 *Trouble in Mind*, Galerie der Kunststiftung des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt, Halle, Germany
- 2011 *Improvisorium*, Kunstforum Solothurn, Switzerland

## Selected Exhibitions | Group

- 2023 **artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland**
- 2022 ***Cast Aside: Discarding the Domestic and the Everyday*, presented by Taste Contemporary, La Fonderie Kugler, Geneva, Switzerland**  
*Me and Dorothy*, Oechsner Galerie, Nürnberg, Germany  
*Smoke*, Jason Jacques Gallery, New York, USA
- 2021 ***Odd and Even – A Collection*, presented by Taste Contemporary, Maison Louise Carré, Paris, France**  
*This is the sound of C*, Cultuurcentrum, Zwaneberg, Belgium  
*Huid and Haar*, Keramiekmuseum, Princessehof, The Netherlands  
*Next Season*, Kunstmuseum, Kloster unser lieben Frauen, Magdeburg, Germany  
*Together – the Power of Collaboration*, Gallery Fumi, London, UK
- 2020 **Artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland**  
*Kleur eyck*, Design Museum Gent, Gent, Belgium  
*Alabaster*, Galerie Zink, Waldkirchen, Germany  
*Ode to Clay*, Jason Jacques Gallery, New York, USA
- 2019 *GefäßErweiterung*, Galerie Metzger, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Thinking with my hands*, Galerie Zink, Waldkirchen, Germany  
*Morfologia delle Meraviglie*, Officine Saffi, Puglia, Italy  
*Come on baby, light my fire*, Musée Ariana, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2018 *Further Thoughts on Earthy Materials*, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany  
*Ceramics now: the Faenza prize is 60 years old*, The International Museum of Ceramics Faenza, Italy  
*Reconsidering Canon*, Designmuseum London, UK
- 2017 Selected Works - Récent Acquisitions at the Musée Ariana, Contemporary Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Amsterdam Art Fair, Brutto Gusto Berlin, Germany
- 2017 **Artgenève [represented by Taste Contemporary], Geneva, Switzerland**
- 2016 *Modern Classics Fokus Gefäß/Focus Vessel*, Keramikmuseum Westerwald, Germany  
*Sphären*, Sammlung Jörg Johnen, Berlin, Germany
- Artemonte-carlo [represented by Taste Contemporary], Monte Carlo, Monaco**
- 2015 *Geformt und gebaut*, Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany
- 2014 *Design Show*, [with Daniel Naudé & Joseph Walsh] New Arts Centre, Roche Court, UK
- 2013 *Raw/tech*, Valcucine/Spotti, Milano, Italy  
*German Contemporary Arts & Crafts*, Cheongju International Craft Biennale 2013, Korea  
*Silver - 25 years, 25 artists, 25 artworks*, Brutto Gusto, Berlin
- 2012 *Kunstpreis »junger westen 2011«*, Plastik, Skulptur, Installation, Recklinghausen, Germany  
*In Form Gegossen*, Galerie Handwerk, München, Germany  
*Transformation*, Galerie für Angewandte Kunst des BKV, München, Germany

- 2011 Craft & Scenography, Depot Basel, Switzerland  
*Dauerbrenner II – Freispiel*, geh8, Dresden, Germany  
*Studio Ware*, Gallery Fumi London, UK  
*Materials Revisited 10*, Triennale für Form und Inhalte, Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2010 *Inhalte 2011*, Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany  
*die IDEE, das DING, das BILD, die REDE*, Forum Gestaltung, Magdeburg, Germany  
*Causing Chaos*, Fife Contemporary Art & Craft, St Andrews Museum, Scotland  
*Das Voynich-Manuskript – eine Künstlersicht*, Grauer Hof, Aschersleben
- 2009 Frechener Keramikpreis, Keramion, Frechen, Germany  
*The vessel – The Object*, Kunstforum Solthurn, Switzerland  
 Ausstellung zum Kunstpreis der Stiftung der Sparkasse Halle, Kunstforum, Halle, Germany

#### **Selected Awards**

- 2019 Westerwaldprize, Keramikmuseum Westerwald
- 2016 Naspa Ceramics Award „Focus: vessel“, Keramikmuseum Westerwald
- 2009 Frechen Ceramic Art Award

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