

# secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

## Press release

### Ron Nagle

#### *Nocturn Around*

November 23, 2019 – February 9, 2020

Galerie

**Press conference:** Friday, November 22, 2019, 11 a.m.

**Opening:** Friday, November 22, 7 p.m.

in cooperation with Vienna Art Week

In the Secession, the San Francisco-based artist presents a selection of 25 sculptures and drawings from recent years.

For the past six decades or so, Ron Nagle has been pursuing parallel careers as a sculptor and musician. His small-format ceramic sculptures are simultaneously miniature landscapes, abstract compositions, thoughts turned into form, and visual jokes – Nagle’s humor and his penchant for puns and wordplay find expression not only in his song texts, but also in the titles of his sculptures. Thus the artist turns phrases such as “finishing touch” into titles such as “Finishing Touchéz” – although Nagle always emphasizes that his titles bear no relationship, in terms of content, to his objects, and should not be regarded as keys to the understanding of his works.

In addition to their miniature format, the artist’s works are characterized by structure, form, color and the equally significant and recurring aspect of surface modeling. Since the 1950s Nagle has been consistently working to redefine clay as an artistic material. His own development is closely interrelated with a movement dating from this period, now known as the California Clay Movement, which has a particular focus on the revaluation and establishment of ceramic materials as fully valid artistic media. His works display many influences from European and American painting, Japanese Momoyama Period ceramics, and even hot rod culture.

Nagle’s sculptures – which are rarely greater than 15 cm in height, and are visually striking in their bright coloration – are objects with a high degree of perfection that raise questions not only about their presentation but also about their method of production. The surface finishing and the achievement of certain effects are central to the artist’s efforts. A characteristic motif is a thick, shining, dripping mass that seems to be frozen in the process of melting. Color contrasts, or rather, layers of paint with contrasting colors that look as if one color has been deposited like a layer of dust over the one beneath it, are evidence of Nagle’s mischievous sense of humor, which manifests itself not least in the humorous and punning titles mentioned above.

## **secession**

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

Over the years the artist has increasingly expanded his technical range to include other materials, with the primary aim of achieving the effects he desires. Once he has decided on a specific surface design or choice of color, he chooses the material that is most suited to the achievement of that effect. Hence his sculptures consist not just of clay, but also other materials such as artificial resins or plastics. His refined and sophisticated color palette and the brightness of his colors are characteristic elements of his work. These are achieved by working with an airbrush and an elaborate painting and polishing procedure involving multiple layers of paint, as well as the use of high-quality automobile paint (which also explains the link to hot rods, those remodeled and souped-up old-timers with their flawless paint jobs and often eye-catching color effects).

Sketches – often absentmindedly and casually drawn during other activities – always form the starting point for the creation of Nagle's objects. The connection with the drawing remains strong in the finished work and in many cases the objects oscillate between their status as sculpture and that of a picture. This becomes especially evident when Nagle enforces a viewing position for his objects by presenting them in wall-mounted showcases, thus determining a clearly defined front face and preferential viewpoint – something that is more characteristic of a two-dimensional picture. This form of presentation is also reminiscent of a stage that the audience can usually only see from one perspective, i.e. from the front.

The consistency with which Nagle has been working and improving on his small-format ceramic objects for over 60 years is itself fascinating, as is the way in which his experimentation and innovative spirit has led him to discover many other materials for his own artistic praxis. His earliest beginnings were influenced by artists such as Peter Voukos, whose objectless large-format sculptures, which were oriented towards American abstract expressionism, revolutionized the perception of clay as an artistic medium. This development was also significantly influenced by the expansion of art colleges, the creation of independent ceramics departments and the appointment of visionary professors, some of whom introduced influences and technical developments from other cultural spheres, such as Maija Grotell, an artist who had emigrated from Finland to the USA, or Toshiko Takaezu, an artist with Japanese roots.

Ron Nagle, born 1939 in San Francisco, lives and works in San Francisco.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.

Curator: Bettina Spörr

In cooperation with Fridericianum, Kassel

## **secession**

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

## **Artist's book**

### **Ron Nagle. *Sub Rosa***

Format: 225 x 290 mm

Details: Hardcover, 120 pages, loose sticker page

Concept: Ron Nagle

Texts: Ron Nagle; Massimiliano Gioni in Conversation with Ron Nagle

Fridericianum, Secession 2019

Distribution: Revolver Publishing

EUR 33,-

Years later I rediscovered the photo booth at a novelty shop on 24th Street in San Francisco. I spent a lot of time there, taking dozens of pictures. Simultaneously, I began collecting random postcards from my favorite shop in North Beach. My photo shoots got more involved when I decided to merge the two elements. I would adjust my posture, pose, and attire to best accommodate the postcard. Sometimes it would take a hundred shots to get it right. By carefully selecting the proper combination of sticker and postcard, I was able to make a somewhat convincing tableau. These collages allowed me to insinuate myself into a scene from someone else's experience. (Ron Nagle)

## **Curators' guided tour**

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

Curators Jeanette Pacher, Bettina Spörr and Annette Südbeck give a tour through the exhibitions by Tala Madani, Ron Nagle and Lisa Holzer.

## **Press contact**

Karin Jaschke

T. +43 1 587 53 07-10

E-Mail: presse@secession.at

## **Press images**

Installation views are available for download at [www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell](http://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell)

# secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

## Biografie / Biography Ron Nagle

Ron Nagle, 1939 geboren / born in San Francisco, lebt und arbeitet / lives and works in San Francisco.

## Einzelausstellungen (Auswahl) / Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 *Nocturn Around*, Secession, Wien / Vienna  
*Euphoric Recall*, Fridericianum, Kassel  
*Midnight Stroll*, Perimeter, London
- 2017 *Ice Breaker*, Matthew Marks Gallery, Los Angeles  
*Amended Testimony*, Stuart Shave Modern Art, London
- 2015 *Chewing Gum Monuments*, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam  
*Five O'Clock Shadow*, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York
- 2014 *Peripheral Cognition*, San Diego Museum of Art
- 2012 *Odd Ball*, Pierre Marie Giraud, Brüssel / Brussels
- 2011 *Sleep Study*, Lefebvre & Fils, Paris; Pierre Marie Giraud, Brüssel / Brussels  
*Hamiltoe*, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco
- 2010 *Sculpture*, James Harris Gallery, Seattle
- 2009 *Bookends, Weeromas, and Flareware*, George Adams Gallery, New York
- 1993 *A Survey Exhibition 1960–1993*, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

## Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) / Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2019 *Closer Look: Intimate-Scale, Sculpture from the Permanent Collection*, Orange County Museum of Art, Santa Ana, CA
- 2018 *Handheld*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT
- 2017 *That Continuous Thing: Artists and the Ceramics Studio, 1920–Today*, Tate St Ives, GB / UK
- 2016 *Lineage: Mentorship & Learning, American Museum of Ceramic Art*, Pomona, CA  
*Ceramix: From Rodin to Schütte*, La Maison Rouge, Paris  
*The Campaign for Art: Contemporary*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- 2015 *The Ceramic Presence in Modern Art: Selections from the Linda Leonard Schlenger Collection and the Yale University Art Gallery*, The Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven
- 2014 *Beyond Craft: Decorative Arts from the Eagle Collection*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC; Canton Museum of Art, OH  
*Color Shift*, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, University of California, Berkeley
- 2013 *The Encyclopedia Palace*, Biennale von Venedig / Venice Biennale
- 2011 *Exhibition of Work by Newly Elected Members and Recipients of Honors and Awards*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
- 2009 *Dirt on Delight*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia
- 2008 *The Scholar's Eye: Contemporary Ceramics from the Garth Clark and Mark Del Vecchio Collection*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- 2007 *California Collections: Start Here*, Oakland Museum of California
- 2006 *One of a Kind – The Studio Craft Movement*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

# secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

## List of works Ron Nagle. *Nocturn Around*

*Pavlova's Dawg*, 2014

Ceramic, bronze, catalyzed polyurethane, and epoxy resin  
5 1/2 x 4 3/4 x 4 3/4 inches

*Elderweirdos*, 2016

Ceramic, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, ink, and acrylic  
1 1/2 x 5 1/4 x 4 1/4 inches

*Lourdes Have Mercy*, 2016

Ceramic, glaze, catalyzed polyurethane, and epoxy resin  
3 5/8 x 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches

*Swingin' Vegan*, 2011

Ceramic, catalyzed polyurethane, and epoxy resin  
5 1/2 x 7 x 4 inches

*Grille Talk*, 2011

Ceramic, catalyzed polyurethane, and epoxy resin  
5 3/4 x 2 1/2 x 3 3/4 inches

*Black Magic*, 2018

Ceramic, glaze, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, and acrylic  
4 1/2 x 3 3/4 x 5 1/4 inches

*Gentleman's Collar*, 2018

Ceramic, catalyzed polyurethane, and epoxy resin  
4 x 5 1/4 x 5 inches

*Jehovah Witness Protection*, 2018

Ceramic, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, and acrylic  
5 x 6 1/8 x 2 7/8 inches

*Nap Trap*, 2018

Ceramic, epoxy resin, and catalyzed polyurethane  
4 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches

*Noshinslochen*, 2018

Ceramic, porcelain, catalyzed polyurethane, and epoxy resin  
4 1/2 x 3 3/4 x 6 3/8 inches

*Tatt-toupee*, 2018

Ceramic, glaze, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, and acrylic  
4 5/8 x 4 1/4 x 5 1/8 inches

*Latin Delirium*, 2019

Ceramic, epoxy resin, catalyzed polyurethane  
5 1/4 x 4 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches

**secession**

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

*Still Live*, 2019

Ceramic, glaze, epoxy resin, catalyzed polyurethane, and acrylic  
4 1/2 x 2 3/4 x 2 1/2 inches

*Waffle House Hero*, 2019

Wood, epoxy resin, and catalyzed polyurethane  
6 x 5 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

*Finishing Touchéz*, 2017

Ceramic, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, and acrylic  
5 1/8 x 4 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches

*Memphis Zen*, 2017

Catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, and acrylic  
4 3/4 x 5 3/8 x 3 1/8 inches

*Nocturn Around*, 2018

Wood, porcelain, catalyzed polyurethane, epoxy resin, and acrylic  
5 1/8 x 3 3/4 x 5 5/8 inches

## Untitled, 2016

Ink, 18kt gold leafing pen, acrylic, colored pencil, and graphite on craft paper  
11 x 8 1/2 inches

## Untitled, 2017

Graphite on craft paper  
12 x 9 inches

## Untitled, 2017

Graphite on craft paper  
8 1/2 x 6 1/4 inches

## Untitled, 2018

Graphite and pastel on craft paper  
11 1/2 x 9 inches

## Untitled, 2018

Graphite on craft paper  
12 x 9 inches

## Untitled, 2018

Graphite on craft paper  
8 1/2 x 6 1/4 inches

## Untitled, 2018

Graphite on craft paper  
8 1/2 x 6 1/4 inches

## Untitled, 2018

18kt gold leafing pen, graphite, and pastel on craft paper  
12 x 9 inches

## secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

## secession

Association of Visual Artists Vienna Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Vienna  
T +43-1-587 53 07 | office@secession.at | www.secession.at

### Exhibitions

Hauptraum  
Galerie  
Grafisches Kabinett

**Tala Madani. *Shit Moms***  
**Ron Nagle. *Nocturn Around***  
**Lisa Holzer. *Was trägt Sie?***

### Exhibition dates

November 23, 2019 – February 9, 2020

### Artist's books

Tala Madani. *Shit Moms*, 120 pages, € 33,-  
Ron Nagle. *Sub Rosa*, 120 pages, € 33,-  
Lisa Holzer. *Was trägt Sie? / What carries you?*, 108 pages, € 26,40

### Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Permanent Presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

### Admission

Adults € 9,50 / Pupils, students and senior citizens € 6,-

### Curator's guided tour

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

**Special Event *What carries you?*** Thursday, February 6, 2020, 7 p.m.

### Dialogue tour Lisa Holzer

Friday, February 7, 2020, 5 p.m. in cooperation with Collectors Agenda

### Guided tours

Every Saturday at 11 a.m. in English and 2 p.m. in German  
€ 3,- per person plus admission (without registration)

### Art Information

Every Saturday, 1 – 2 p.m., free of charge

### Press contact

Karin Jaschke  
T. +43 1 587 53 07-10 | E-Mail: presse@secession.at

### Press images

download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell>

### Main sponsor



Sponsoring VALUE

Public funding and supporters:



 Bundeskanzleramt

freunde  
der  
**secession**

Cooperation-, media partners, sponsors:



legero united  
Initiator of con-tempus.eu

