

ALEISA MIKSAD

RITUAL MADNESS



CURATORIAL+CO.

3-20 MAY 2023

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In Aleisa Miksad's *Ritual Madness* exhibition, the series of maximalist ceramic sculptures explores the rich symbolism of Dionysus (the ancient Greek god of wine, fertility, festivity, ritual madness, religious ecstasy and theatre) alongside themes of duality, abundance and excess.

Working with porcelain, Aleisa creates hand-moulded embellishments such as petals, leaves and fur, and adds them in deliberately excessive amounts to classical amphora forms, reflecting the untamed spirit of Dionysus. These decorative flourishes not only adorn the forms but also symbolise the bountiful harvest and revelry associated with the deity.

These pieces pay homage to classical forms while pushing the boundaries of what is possible with contemporary ceramic techniques and materials. These sculptures are produced through a meticulous approach to coiling and texturing the clay to produce 'ropes' which are wound to create kraters and amphora forms. Using washes of underglaze and firing techniques produces the distinctive, bleached bone-like surface that accentuates the details.

The cult of Dionysus, also known as Bacchus, was a dominant religious practice in ancient Greece.

Dionysus was often depicted as a liberator and an embodiment of the primal, untamed nature of humanity, celebrated through ecstatic rituals and festivals that challenged social norms and hierarchies. Furthermore, the ecstatic rituals and festivals of the cult of Dionysus provided a space for women to break free from the confines of their domestic roles and assert their agency and sexuality.

The cult of Dionysus, therefore, can be viewed as a proto-feminist movement, challenging the patriarchal norms of ancient Greek society and creating a space for marginalised voices to be heard.

Each vessel embodies these themes of excess, and the artist welcomes you to take part in their energy, and the dichotomy between the beauty and brutality of nature. For example, *Mask* (2023) references the Dionysian mask and the phenomenon of face pareidolia. Face pareidolia is a psychological phenomenon where people perceive a pattern, usually a face, in an object or scene where no such pattern exists. By utilising spikes to create a sense of facial features, the artist explores how humans are programmed to look for faces, exploring the interplay between form and the search for meaning.

We invite you to take part in *Ritual Madness*.

Vessel
Stoneware underglaze
53cm x 17cm x 17cm
\$2000



Mask
Stoneware underglaze
38cm x 40cm x 40cm
\$1700



Cup
Stoneware underglaze
26cm x 37cm x 37cm
\$1600



Bacchanalia
Stoneware underglaze
56cm x 46cm x 46cm
\$2000



Peisinoe
Stoneware underglaze
41cm x 30cm x 30cm
\$1600



Thyrus 3
Stoneware underglaze
30cm x 33cm x 33cm
\$1500



Thyrus 2
Stoneware underglaze
31cm x 32cm x 32cm
\$1500





Fur
Stoneware, mesh, thread, plywood
128cm x 85cm x 3cm
\$5800

Ritual Madness
Stoneware underglaze
38cm x 36cm x 36cm
\$1500



Moon
Stoneware underglaze
31cm x 30cm x 30cm
\$1100



Aglaope
Stoneware underglaze
42cm x 27cm x 27cm
\$1600



Thyrus 1
Stoneware underglaze
30cm x 33cm x 33cm
\$1500



Thyrus 4
Stoneware underglaze
35cm x 28cm x 28cm
\$1400





Portrait + artwork photography by Adrian Rankin



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ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

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Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.