

Portfolio Dimitrina Sevova

sevo@kein.org

Instagram: [dimitrina_sevova](#)

Instagram: [dimitrina_studio](#)

[dimitrina-sevova.art](#)

[dimitrinasevova.academia.edu](#)

Artist Statement Dimitrina Sevova



Studio view. Me with objects that came fresh from the kiln

Dimitrina Sevova's artistic practice navigates the tension between painting and sculpture. Her works are often presented in site-specific and context-related installations that utilize various additional media such as found objects, drawings, photographs, or time-based media. Exploring different materials and experimenting with the materiality of artworks are the fundamental principles of her research-oriented and hand-grounded practice. The artist divides her working process between studio and outdoor, harvesting different materials and moods that she later uses in her work. As in alchemy, it requires a mutual affinity between the artist and the materials. For the artist, research is a method and a way of creating informed by scientific realism with its objective reality, which she translates through imagination and intuition into ambiguous, performative, subjective states of matter and things. In her work, the artist shifts the perspective between two systems: on the one hand, representative models and figurative fictions, and on the other, the abstract, concrete, and performative qualities of reality and materiality itself. Between micro and macro, between the (in)organic and the world ruled by images, a mysterious manifestation of natural and technological magic underscores the dark undertones of poetic ecologies and earthly mud.

The motto of her work is: "Deskill craft, re-skill art," in order to reconnect thinking with making and overcome the dualism of culture and nature.

August Diary: Lovers, 2025

31 drawings (30 + 1)

30 monochromatic drawings: Lovers, 2025. Unprocessed graphite, graphite, charcoal, 300 g Arche Aquarelle paper, approx. 56 cm × 76 cm

31st drawing: Forest at dusk (Investigation of Urpflanze), 2023. Pigment and charcoal on 350 g Dorée paper, approx. 145 cm × 124 cm

Participation in the Werkschau of the Canton of Zurich, Kunst Museum Winterthur, 2025

Awarded with a Werkbeitrag

When I visit Dimitrina Sevova in her studio, she has just returned from an artist residency at the Lilly Keller Foundation in Thusis. Her stay in Graubünden has left a lasting impression. She enthusiastically tells me about her studio close to nature, her encounters with insects and plants, and the natural graphite she found near the riverbed of the Nolla, which she used to draw with during her stay. "Graphite is a fascinating mineral," explains the artist. "It is a modification of coal and is created in a process of transformation between organic and inorganic materials – in this sense, it is connected to the cycle of life. In contrast, processed graphite, which is used in a wide variety of areas in carbon capitalism, such as computers and nuclear power plants, is produced from fossil fuels in industrial high-temperature processes that are energy-intensive and harmful to the environment. I am fascinated by drawing with a material that has so many connections." Dimitrina Sevova used natural graphite for the first time in this series. However, she has been interested in clay, earth, minerals, pigments, and stones for quite some time: most recently, the artist often worked with ceramics or painted pictures using various types of earth as a painting medium.

In the exhibition for the Werkschau, Dimitrina Sevova displays 30 drawings that she created using the natural graphite she



collected. The series "August Diary: Lovers," 2025, is based on observations and encounters with nature during her stay in Thusis. Insects and plants appear to us in ways that are sometimes eerie, sometimes psychedelic. The series is accompanied by a larger colored drawing that portrays the forest at night. The drawings reveal how they were made with the material. The hardness of the different graphite stones has an effect on the painted result: sometimes the lines are lighter, sometimes darker, sometimes Sevova grinds the crumbling powder or uses the sharp edges of the stone to create hard lines.

Text: Martina Venanzoni (translation: code flow)



Peperudcho, Bozha Kravichka – Gregor,
And My Other Significant Otherness,
2025

Sculptural installation of hand-built, sculptural ceramic objects, paintings on freestanding canvas with chains and ceramic elements. Dimensions variable

One of a series of insect ceramic sculptures metamorphosing into humans, or humans into insects, where I am engaged with the material form inspired by the material itself, made from the point of view of the specificity of the red Brasil clay. On the other hand, it is also about an imaginary insect or figure. It is a kind of night bug whose melody can be heard in summer nights. It is based on my observations walking in nature, but also shaped by a net of references. The vulnerability of these creatures associates them with ephemera, and most importantly their metamorphosis in both a biological and metaphorical sense.

Left: *The Bones of My Desires and the Noise of the Bugs*, 2025. Exhibition view and details in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich

Right: *Peperudcho (Mayfly) with Dreamy Monstera Painting*, 2025. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich



My firebug exhibits transgression with two sides, one cute, and one rather scary. I call it Gregor, after Gregor Samsa from Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis*. Kafka's protagonist wakes up one morning from uneasy dreams to find himself in his bed, transformed into a gigantic insect. The story describes the burnout of a loyal and devoted young man who gives his all to his company and family.



Lux, Sunflowers, and Sweet Dreams, 2024/2025. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space, Zürich. Photo: Sebastian Stadler

The assemblage consists of a hand-built vessel from black and Ming porcelain, multiply glazed with underglaze to reach a vibrant color intensity, which brings something exaggerated, almost grotesque into this piece that feels like it is almost falling apart but is actually quite strong. The boxes stacked on top of the other are made of stoneware with recognizable engobed patterns. For their form, I used the negative of real shipping cardboard boxes. The pillar of boxes with the vessel on top evoke the material archeological evidence of a refined civilization, with the connotation of ruins from art history from Renaissance to Walter Benjamin's fashion. I also play between sculptural object and expanded painting.

The Map of My Readings and Thoughts, 2024/2025. Stoneware, hand-built vessel, engobed, surface drawn with pin. Exhibition view in *Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature*, Beletage Art Space



Sugardaddy, 2025. Ceramic, stoneware, engobed, black and Ming porcelain, glazed, fired, hand-built unique piece. Detail view



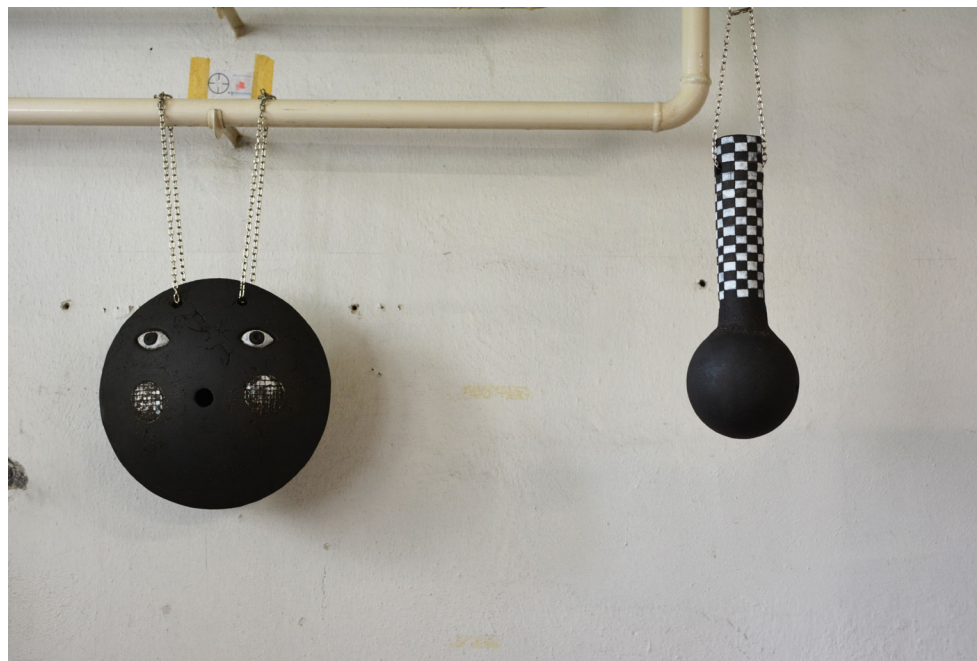
Dwellers of the Windy Vessels, 2024

Site-specific installation in the corridors and four cabins of the exhibition space of Waschraum, the former washing room of the Swiss Railways main repair facilities, consisting of hand-built, fired and unfired sculptural ceramic objects, found objects and raw materials, like silk, fabric, beans, rice, painted plinths with grids repeating the tile pattern from the wall and the colors of the space. Dimensions variable.

The ceramic sculptural objects in the installation are inspired by the oldest wind instruments, which are clay vessels. They express the artist's interest in their cultural, historical and psychological dimensions. They are carriers of aesthetics and spirituality, but also transportation containers. By using black ceramics, the artist refers to the concept of noise and parasites in Michel Serres' paradigm. The ceramic objects are a third black body, the mediating agency of a mysterious and tactile character that invites us to play or just exhibits playfulness.



Dwellers of the Windy Vessels. Exhibition views and details in *Resonant Bodies – Sound and Sculpture in the Space*, Waschraum, Zürich, 2024



Dwellers of the Windy Vessels. Exhibition views and details in *Resonant Bodies – Sound and Sculpture in the Space*, Waschraum, Zürich, 2024

Top left: Ceramic and found objects, unglazed, fired, chains

Top right: *Black Moon and Their Friend*, and *Not Yet A Flute*. Dysfunctional ceramic sculptural objects, stoneware, engobed with drawn elements, that mimic musical instruments like drum, rattle, or flute, and yet are able to produce sounds

Bottom left: Ceramic sculptural objects, stoneware, engobed, unfired, hand-built unique pieces, raw cereal crops

Bottom right: Raw clay. The sculptural body follows the instructions for making a ceramic flute. The holes, instead of featuring on the body, become multiple abstracted holes on the ends

This part of the site-specific installation *Dwellers of the Windy Vessels* is interactive, open to the audience to play with, and connected to my performance *Can't Unring the Bell*, 2024. The ceramic pieces are made of Bodmer Ton GRX10 stoneware, with small found objects attached to them, such as metal rings or coins in the small ceramic bags that produce noise when shaken.

Cabin II of my site-specific installation *Dwellers of the Windy Vessels* reflects on the history of the exhibition space, Waschraum, as a former bath for the workers in the factory complex of the railways in Zurich at the beginning of the last century. However, the space reminds of the hygienist ideology and how it promoted the connection between cleanliness and health. The soap in the installation is made of animal fat from that period. With its use, I refer to Beuys' use of fat, but also to the interdependency between the factory and the military system, and how fat in the mass production of soap was replaced by detergent during WWII, whose end marks the birth of the new mass consumption society. There is a link between the softness of the soap and its ingredients, and the alchemical aspects of the process of transformation from unfired to fired clay in the raw porcelain ball. This part of my installation is predominantly made of raw clay. The found shell is my phone to the ocean from one of the cabins in the bath. But we know the shell is a symbol in alchemy, and its organic form conveys the spiral and the sacred mathematical code of the golden ratio.



Dwellers of the Windy Vessels. Cabin I and Cabin II. Ceramic sculptural objects, stoneware, engobed, glazed, fired, unfired clay, straw, wasp nest, candy. Raw and fired clay and Ming porcelain, fabric, soap, found objects. Exhibition views and details in *Resonant Bodies – Sound and Sculpture in the Space*, Waschraum, Zürich, 2024



Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze, 2024

Site-specific installation, walls painted with geometric patterns using raw clay and pigments, painted plinths, and ceramic sculptures *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze*. Site-specific installation in two rooms in *Seeing Is Believing*, 2024 at de Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain

The series of process-based ceramic sculptures *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze* is inspired by Walter Benjamin's psychogeographic practice of the urban flâneur. I sought to apply his phrase "botanizing the asphalt" and develop a method and metaphor for the poetic surface of the inorganic and natural worlds that intertwine and unfold a pattern. During my walks directly on the streets and in the parks, I took the action to collect traces, give the material a direct meaning and context, and record my encounters with found objects and historicize the current time. Later I go to the studio to assemble the various slabs, textures and details. I wonder about the performative aspects of how a ball of clay can be thrown into everyday life.

In a moment of present crisis, I walk with wonder not only through the streets but through the maze of my mind in an ecology of practice. The found and abstracted fragments, like a vessel that has been broken and glued back together, form a new creation that playfully combines disjointed parts into new relations. The clay pieces pressed by me and influenced by gravity form a constellation of amorphous fragments, adopting techniques of montage – a method that is not only cinematographic but also sculptural.

An ephemeral painted wall with dried, pigmented raw clay interacts with the architecture, lending works that are otherwise created under different spatial and temporal



Site-specific installation *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze*, in *Seeing Is Believing*, 2024. Exhibition view at de Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spanien

conditions a particular site-specificity and forming a counterpoint to the inertia of the ceramic objects by juxtaposing two stages of the same material. The viewer

is not only caught in a spider's web, but immersed in the work.



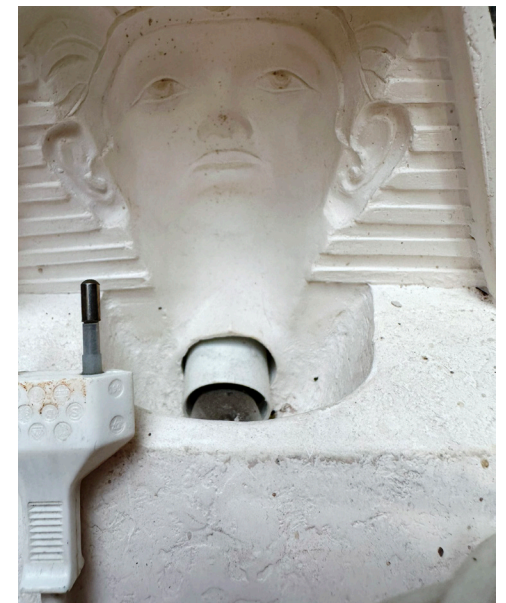
In a Cave of One's Own, 2023, in the site-specific installation *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze*. Ceramic sculpture, hand-built, process-based, stoneware, glazed, fired, found objects, unique piece. Exhibition view at de Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain, 2024



Inverted Tree I, 2023, in the site-specific installation *Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze*. Process-based, hand-built unique piece, ceramic, stoneware, glazed, fired. Studio view

Top right: Working process as action on the street, taking impressions of tree bark, as seen turned inside-out in the lower elements of the work

Bottom right: I worked directly on the street and in parks with raw clay. Someone asked me why the heads appear in this work. In the photo, the lamp I found on the street, with a negative Pharaoh head, from which I took the positive. Later I went to the studio to assemble the different plates, textures and details



Drought – Peperuda (Butterfly), 2024

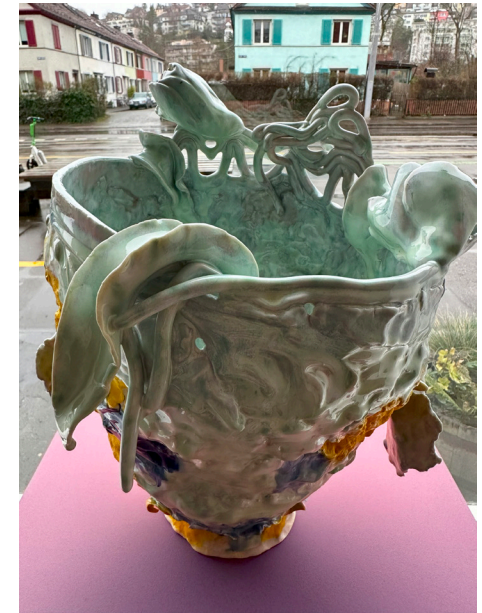
Site-specific installation developed for the Hartdurm exhibition space, consisting of a wall painting made of raw clay slip and pigments that reproduces the pattern of the ceiling in its original size, handmade, fired and unfired sculptural ceramic objects, oil and encaustic painting on canvas, found objects, and painted pedestals. Dimensions variable

Stoneware and Ming porcelain, unglazed, unfired



Drought – Peperuda (Butterfly). Exhibition view, Hartdurm, Zürich, 2024

My site-specific installation *Drought – Peperuda (Butterfly)*, with ceramic objects and a wall-painting of raw clay slip that repeats the pattern of the ceiling of the Hartdurm space in original size, reflects on the times of crisis. It is built around Peperuda (butterfly), which is a spell, a paganistic rite performed by girls and women across different regions of Bulgaria and on the Balkan peninsula to call for rain when drought sets in. It is part of a range of procedures aimed at averting cataclysms and disasters. According to magic belief, drought can set in upon a taboo being broken. The rite is named after the ritual figure of the butterfly Peperuda, performed by a little girl. In South-Eastern Bulgaria, the girl wears on its head live frogs that symbolize moisture and the underworld, as rain and fertility depend on the world of the dead. Adorned with greenery, the girl is followed by a group of girls spraying water, singing particular songs and spells and dancing in ways that will call forth rain. In other regions of Bulgaria, the girls form from clay a male figure with an exaggerated erection, called Germann, garnished with flowers, as a votive offering.



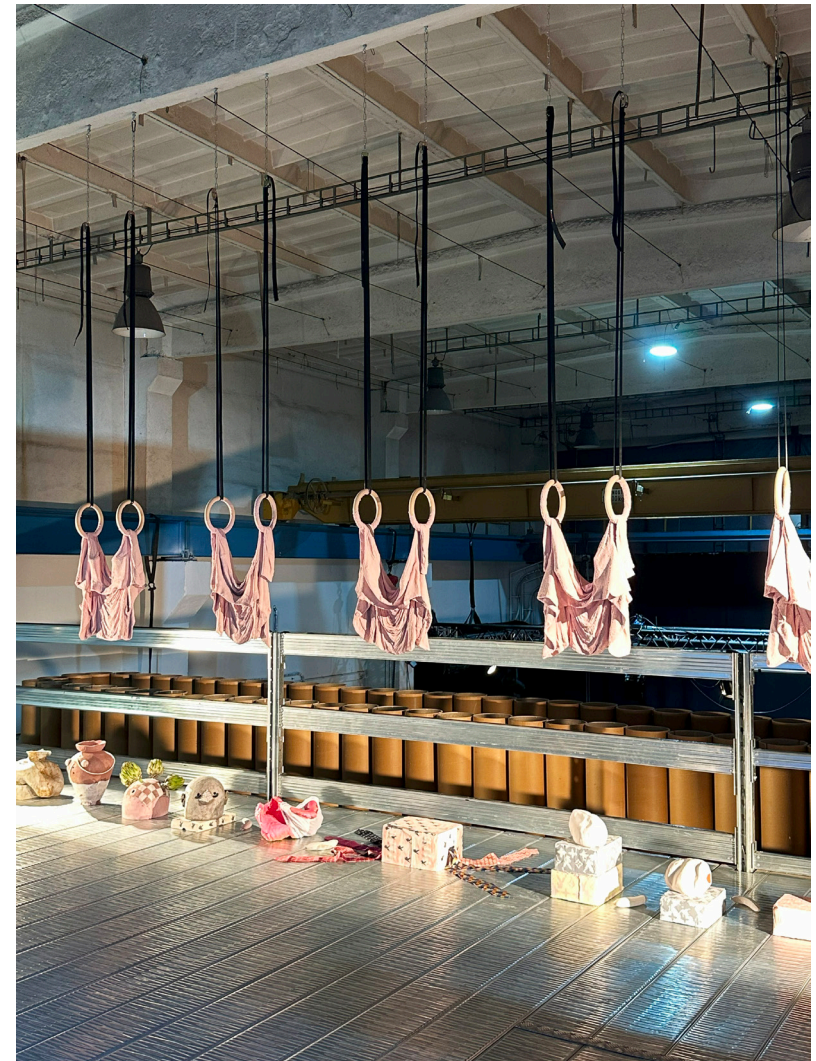
Top left: Stoneware and Ming porcelain, glazed, fired
 Top right: Hand-built vessel, Ming porcelain, multiply glazed, fired
 Bottom left: Stoneware and carrots, glazed, engobed, fired
 Bottom right: Stoneware and Ming porcelain, unglazed, fired, found objects
 Detail views

Play Chain Boys, 2023/2024

Gymnastic rings, glazed stoneware, appropriated formal suit jackets dipped in raw clay slip and swung over the ceramic circles, hand-built ceramic boxes with hand-printed patterns, each approx. 34 × 25 × 14 cm, ceramic objects that combine elements of artichokes and toys. The installation is variable in size and site-specific and adapts to the space, with more or fewer rings and suit jackets

A formal and repetitive structure of appropriated gymnastic still rings, rather abstract and minimal, forms an apparatus that hints at a network across the exhibition space of INDUSTRA. It refers to the mechanical assembly line, and at the same gymnastics or a playground. Formal suit jackets dipped in raw clay slip serially hang from the rings like boneless gymnasts, left to dry directly on the circular structure. The installation includes a series of hand-built ceramic boxes, in the size and proportions of those used for shipping and home delivery by online services like Amazon or Zalando. The surface of the boxes is clad in easily recognizable commercial patterns appropriated from the fashion industry and Playboy magazine.

The installation *Play Chain Boys* evolves around the protagonist of techno-digital production in the immaterial economy. It refers to Paul B. Preciado's



Site-specific installation *Play Chain Boys*, 2024. Exhibition view at *Soft Diagram Play and Work* at the INDUSTRA space in Brno, Czech Republic

pharmacological modification of labor, the expansion of the network into every facet of work and life, and the anonymization and flexibilization of working processes. As for biopolitics, the body remains central to cognitive politics, but the new social producer loses it not only in the flexibilization and precarization of the working process, but also in the recently intensified domestication of labor under the pandemic regime, affected by the fashion industry and lifestyle influencers, social media and other platforms, and new forms of pharmacopornographic production and consumption.



Detail views

Sphinx and Zero, 2024

Site specific installation made at the space of Complex 156 for the exhibition *Eternal Elements*, consisting of wall paintings of raw clay slip and pigments, ceramic sculptural objects, glazed, fired, fabrics painted with raw clay slip and pigments

She is mysterious. The Sphinx is inimical to human life, embodies wisdom and terror. The awful monster terrorized the people of Thebes by demanding an answer to a riddle taught to her by the Muses. The oracle of Delphi gave Oedipus a hint how to free them of the monster. Answering the riddle, he remained blind to the obvious truth. This is Oedipus' tragedy that plays out the irony of justice and truth. In this piece, the Sphinx refers to the Naxian Sphinx of Delphi, which is a winged female creature of Titanian descent. Following Nietzsche, I sum up: Truth is not good; Truth is not abstract; Truth is human; Truth = Woman; The philosopher desires the woman; The woman is the Sphinx. Stripping the frightening monstrosity off her, a short story, a Sphinx without secrets by Oscar Wilde. In *The Death of the Pythia* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, the oracle becomes bored with prophesying and begins to predict at random. An old lady replaces the young, virgin Pythia. Indeed, the Greeks corrupted Delphi over the centuries, putting women of privilege in the position of the oracle instead of priestesses designated by the divinity, until the Roman emperor Theodosius I razed Delphi to the ground.

Usually, the depictions and sculptures of the Sphinx are associated with architectural structures. The slice of wall painting in the exhibition hints at the matrix of the space from which the objects reveal themselves, which also shows the artist's preoccupation with the structure or architecture of the exhibition space. Using the cardboard shipping box as a form, but made of ceramic, reflects on the appropriation of myth by the fashion industry. Mythical figures have become signs of high-end brands. If the myth of the Sphinx, Oedipus and the oracle is about truth and justice, today it is rather about true and false. The Sphinx is an open-source engine, and the oracle is an analytical database application, which shifts the forecast from the psycho to financial and trading analysis. In the binary code system, 1 refers to true, and 0 to false. The binary digits are the basis of all computing operations.



Ausstellungs- und Detailsichten

*Fossilized Remains
of a Possible Future,*
2023

Site-specific installation, sculptural
ceramic objects, stoneware
and porcelain, glazed, fired.
Wallpaintings with raw clay slip
and pigments. Shipping cartons
are used in the installation as
a negative form for both the
sculptures and their bases, so
that the base and the sculpture
merge into one



Fossilized Remains of a Possible Future, 2023. Exhibition view in *Verwoven im Anthropozän (Interwoven in the Anthropocene)*, Kunstraum Uster, Uster, Switzerland

The artist's text can be found on the website of the artist, dimitrina-sevova.art

Exotic X: Double
charm with a color
charge from the
periphery, 2022

Pigmented porcelain objects,
flock of 25 parrots, each approx.
40 cm × 5 cm × 7 cm, hand-built,
Bodmer C40 slip cast in matrix made
by the artist, deformed by hand,
unglazed, fired at 1230 °C; the tree
is a found object, dried, painted with
raw stoneware slip of dehydrated clay,
smashed, with painting pigments; the
tree is held securely by a weighted
pedestal, safe for the public, without
having to be screwed to the ground;
surface of the pedestal modeled from
raw clay and treated with ceramic
pigments added by the artist; the tree
is a found object, dried, painted with
raw stoneware slip from dried clay,
smashed, with painting pigments,
height 210 cm, diameter approx.
120 cm, real palm leaves (can be
replaced with porcelain leaves), length
approx. 40-60 cm each. At the bottom
"dead", deformed parrots. Dimensions
variable



Exotic X: Double charm with a color charge from the periphery, 2022. Exhibition view in *Akku Panorama*, Zeughaus Uster, Uster, Switzerland

The artist's text can be found on the website of the artist, dimitrina-sevova.art

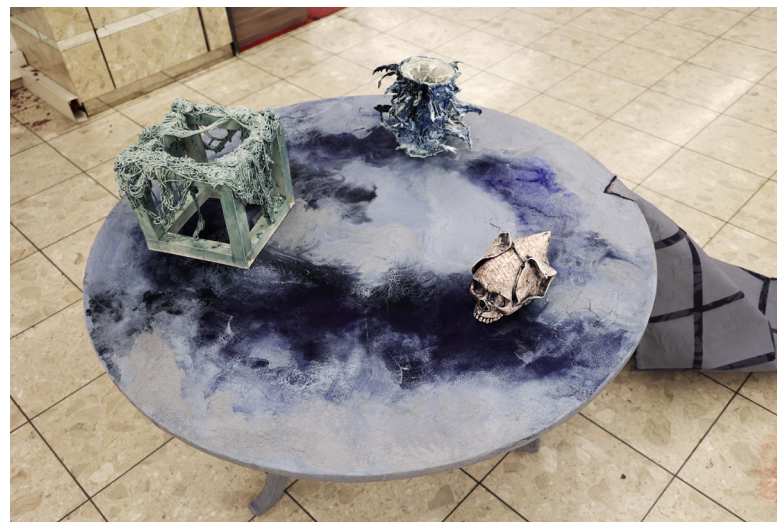
Twenty-second series –
Porcelain and Volcano. The
Cracks and the Game, 2022

Site-specific installation investigating different stages of clay and cracking surfaces. Various hand-built and cast ceramic objects, raw clay to fired and glazed porcelain by the artist, intermingled with found objects treated with clay slip and pigments, wall painted in geometric monochrome clay slip. Dimensions variable



Twenty-second series – Porcelain and Volcano. The Cracks and the Game, 2022. Exhibition view at @Theoff.space in the exhibition *Last Words from the Periphery III*

The artist's text can be found on the website of the artist, dimitrina-sevova.art



Twenty-second series – Porcelain and Volcano. The Cracks and the Game, 2022.
Exhibition view and details of hand-built ceramic and cast porcelain sculptural objects at @Theoff.space in the exhibition *Last Words from the Periphery III*



Short bio Dimitrina Sevova

Born in Varna, Bulgaria. Lives and works in Zurich. Holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK and completed a MAS Curating from the Institute for Cultural Studies at the ZHdK. Previously graduated from the painting class of Prof Andrei Daniel at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Sofia with an MFA. Works installatively with site specificity, mainly with ceramic sculpture, found objects, and painting.

Education / Degrees

2020: Master of Fine Arts at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Zürich

2018: Diploma, International Curatorial Program CuratorLab, Konstfack University, Stockholm, Sweden

2012: MAS Curating at the Institute for Cultural Studies in the Arts, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

1998: Completed six years of study in Fine Arts and graduated with a Master of Fine Arts, National Academy of Arts, Sofia

Awards and Scholarships (selection)

2025: Werkbeitrag 2025 of the Canton of Zurich

2025: Artist in Residence, Lilly Keller Stiftung, Thusis, Switzerland

2021-2022: Akku Uster one-year studio program (scholarship), Uster, Switzerland

2020-2021: One-year studio program and scholarship Atelier Herdern, Z-Kubator/ ZHdK, Zürich. (Today, the program is called What's next_Compass ZHdK.)

Public collections

2022: Art collection of the City of Zürich

Solo exhibitions (last three years)

2025: **Visarte FRISCH25**, duo exhibition with Christoph Schreiber, Visarte Kabinett, Zürich

2023: **Innerfaces – Der Gang durch den Irrgarten**, solo exhibition, Villa Grunholzer, Uster, Switzerland

2022: Akku Kunstkiste N° 47, Zellwegerpark, Uster, Switzerland, solo exhibition **when a whale is a lake, its surface reflects deep time**

Group exhibition (selection from the last three years; before that, participation in group exhibitions at Shedhalle Zürich, Moderna galerija Ljubljana, Videomedeja Novi Sad)

2025: Werkschau 2025 of the Canton of Zurich, Kunst Museum Winterthur (awarded)

2025: **Hartdurm 17**, Hartdurm, artist-run project space, Zürich

2025: **Earthly Things – Ghostly Matters**, Zeughausareal Uster, Switzerland

2025: **Interwoven Existences: The Poetry of Nature**, Beletage Art Space, Zürich

2024: **Innerfaces – Walking Through the Maze II**, as part of the exhibition **Seeing Is Believing**, de Filippo Contemporary / Galería Nueva, Madrid, Spain

2024: **Resonanzkörper**, Waschraum, on the premises of Swiss Railways main repair facilities, Zürich

2024: **Hartdurm 12**, Hartdurm, artist-run project space, Zürich (three-person exhibition)

2024: **Eternal Elements**, Complex 156, Zürich

2023: **The Blood of a Poet. Meta-morphosis**, @theoff.space, Zürich

2023: **Interwoven in the Anthropocene**, Kunstraum Uster, Uster, Switzerland

2023: **Soft Diagrams – Play and Work. (Re)Productive Turn(s) – running after its own tail**, INDUSTRA ART, Brno, Czech Republic

2023: **über natürliche kräfte**, curated by Damian Christinger, Cularta, Laax, Switzerland

2022: **Last words of the periphery III**, @theoff.space, Zürich

2022: **akku panorama**, Zeughaus K2, Uster, Switzerland