



**D. D. D. D.**

Dylan Ahern  
for *NADA Foreland*

July 21 – 23, 2023

Artwork Preview

## Press Release

D. D. D. D. is pleased to present four sculptural works on behalf of Dylan Ahern at NADA Foreland.

These recent works are marked by Ahern's unconventional sculptural techniques. The root-like structure of *Trophy* (2023) and *Yellowed Wrist* (2023) are achieved by burning and casting the porous insides of old couch cushions with urethane resin. In *Calf* (2023), he takes the charred remains of boiled Coca-Cola to create a tar-like outgrowth on a circular saw. In *Angel* (2022), a rolled-up sleeping bag is battered and deep-fried in a vat of oil-effectively transubstantiating the red fabric into the pink flesh of cooked meat.

Transforming a material's physical state through techniques such as burning, melting, casting, frying, and boiling, Ahern roots his practice in the peculiar alchemy of destructive processes.

Using his experience with childhood cancer and chemo/radiation treatment as a lens, Ahern subjects his sculptures to these volatile processes as a means to reflect the indifference of metastatic cancer and its ecstatic and entropic nature. The cancerous body and the tumorous forms are poetic in their aggressive abjection. They gradually reveal a mirror to the world around them, allowing for a perceptual and spiritual shift in the face of rampant pollution and ubiquitous toxicity. The resulting sculptures reflect the tumult between Ahern's deference and defiance when confronting disease and what it means to live in a toxic world.

## About the artist

Dylan Ahern (b. 1993, Long Island, NY) is an artist whose sculptural practice employs a variety of processes that include burning, melting, frying and casting. Ahern explores an inherent intimacy between people and material that works to reimagine the way objects are used and perceived.

He completed his BFA from the University of Hartford in 2016 and MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media from the Virginia Commonwealth University in 2022. He was a co-founder of 891, a project space based in Providence, Rhode Island, dedicated to showcasing artists of varying career stages from 2018-2019. He currently lives and works as an artist and educator in Richmond, Virginia.

For more information please e-mail [dd@dddd.pictures](mailto:dd@dddd.pictures)



Dylan Ahern, *Calf*, 2023

Circular saw, Coca-cola syrup, 9 × 12.5 × 9.25 inches, Unique

(DA0003)



Dylan Ahern, *Angel*, 2022

Deep fried sleeping bag, folding table, 33 × 30 × 96 inches, Unique

(DA0004)



Dylan Ahern, *Yellowed Wrist*, 2023

Cast urethane resin, fan gate, 28 × 40 × 24 inches, Unique  
(DA0005)



Dylan Ahern, *Trophy*, 2023

Cast urethane resin, dirt, 14 × 13.5 × 20 inches, Unique

(DA0006)

## Artist CV

### Dylan Ahern

dylanpahern@gmail.com / dylanahern.com /891nmain.com

#### Education

MFA, Sculpture & extended Media, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2022

BFA, Sculpture, Hartford Art School, 2016

#### Fellowships

2022-23 Post-Master's Teaching Fellowship, Virginia Commonwealth University

#### Solo & Two-Person Exhibitions

2023 *Snowing*, D. D. D. D., New York City, NY

2022 *PuddleFist*, The Anderson, Richmond, VA

#### Group Exhibitions

2023 *It Gets More Blue*, Spring/Break Art Fair, Skylight Culver City, LA

2022 *Bloodmood*, DePillars Gallery Richmond, VA

2021 *Hard Water*, Tuesday, Richmond, VA

2021 *bench Press*, DePillars Gallery, Richmond, VA

2018 *As Fragile as a Glass Hammer*, The Dial, Hartford, CT

2017 *Untitled*, Hartford Art Space, Hartford, CT

2016 *Getting Fired*, Jr. Elkins Space, Hartford, CT

2016 *Sculpture Trail*, Hillstead Museum, Farmington, CT

2016 *NEW YORK*, Silpe Gallery, West Hartford, CT