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DAVID ADAMO (b.1979, USA)

David Adamo is an expert transformer of materials. His roughly carved cedar sculptures are formally elegant abstractions that reveal his fascination with the accidental and even surreal shapes he observes in nature. These include trees gnawed by beavers, stumps hollowed by woodpeckers, and earth mounded by termites. He also makes humorous and unexpected small-scale sculptures, such as orange peels and M&Ms made of bronze and packing peanuts meticulously modeled in ceramic.

A thread running through Adamo's practice is the narrative of the artist as a performer, as if the act of making is a staged and choreographed activity. Other works comprise baseball bats, axes, knives, and other typically masculine implements, which have earned him a reputation for violence that he refutes: "I don't necessarily think about aggressive things when I'm in the studio... although I do work myself into a sort of frenzy," he explains. According to *New York Times* critic David Colman, "What elevates Adamo's work above the mass of young conceptualists is not how cerebral it is, but how personal and emotional."

David Adamo was born in Rochester, New York, USA in 1979 and has lived and worked in Berlin since 2008. He has participated in group shows including *No Sense of Place*, Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, NO; *based in Berlin*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE; *Whitney Biennial* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, US; *Greater New York* at MoMA P.S.1, NY, US. Recent solo shows include Kunstverein Bielefeld, DE; Basilica Di Santa Maria Maggiore, Bergamo, IT and Kunsthalle Fribourg, CH.