



**JEDD NOVATT**  
Solo Exhibition

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## Introduction

Paris-based American sculptor Jedd Novatt, recognized internationally for his “Chaos” series, rejects labels and resists providing an interpretation of his works. “What makes something ‘art’ is indescribable, often inexplicable,” Novatt says. “It’s more than one idea and I don’t like to say what any of the ideas are. It’s the work of the viewer to find the answer.”

To approach the question on his terms, Novatt takes a photograph of his new work in front of the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM). “What do you see?” he asks. “Tumbling cubes in a freeze frame,” this writer tells him, venturing to suggest a parallel with modern skyscrapers that may be in danger of collapsing unexpectedly. Art historian Tom Flynn describes the cubes generating a “latent sense of peril”: “It is perhaps the quality of controlled danger, for they are surely falling rather than rising, that lends the pieces their particular frisson.”

Novatt’s large-scale “Chaos” series, which includes pieces of steel and bronze, is installed in various locations across Europe and the United States. Some describe the works as rigorous, powerful, complex, and unpredictable; Frédéric de Senarclens calls Novatt’s sculptures “highly intelligent compositions” that require reflection and time. “The works are in a perpetual disequilibrium in equilibrium,” he explains. “You never know if they are rising to the sky or if they are in a state of collapse. They explode and implode in all directions and defy gravity.”

Novatt was born in New York City in 1958 and was educated at Sarah Lawrence College, and the Lacoste School of the Arts in France. In 1982, Novatt set up his first studio in Manhattan’s Tribeca and he held his first solo show in 1993. He moved to Paris in 2002, making it his primary residence. These days Novatt works mainly in his studio at a foundry in the mountains of Eibar, Spain, part of the Basque region near Bilbao. He also works in Paris and New York.

Novatt’s process is very low tech in today’s world. While drawing is an important element of his work, he never creates directly from a sketch or model. He may start simply with a sack of plaster and a pail of water or raw steel and a welding machine. The process may also involve carving in wax and casting in bronze. But it is difficult for Novatt to generalize further: “I can’t begin to describe the process. It changes all the time.”

The artist occasionally works in editions of three. Each one begins in plaster—no molds are created—so every work is ultimately unique. He cannot attach a time frame to the process. “One work leads to the next and that line goes all over the place,” he says.

To appreciate the complexity of Novatt’s works from different vantage points, one must take a walk around them, noting how the sculpture interacts with surrounding architecture, the environment and ultimately the viewer. If the works are installed outdoors, Novatt welcomes their changing patina: “They are not static.”

Sculptures on permanent public display can be found in Bilbao's Campa de Los Ingleses near the Guggenheim (Chaos Nervion); in Yountville, California, in the heart of Napa Valley (Chaos Pamplona); at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Georgia (Chaos Mundaka); and at La Piscine Musée d'Art et d'Industrie in Roubaix, France (Chaos Vascos).

Novatt's most recent permanent Miami installations, Chaos Bizkaia in bronze and Chaos SAS in stainless steel, are described by PAMM director, Thom Collins, as "twisting, slipping, seemingly unstable stacks of monumental open rectangles" that "activate" the landscape of the new sculpture garden. He notes that "Chaos" works stand as if "arrested in a process of being formed from the primordial state of disorder... in a perpetual state of becoming". In the history of Minimalism, Collins says these works inspire unparalleled emotion and awe.

So would Novatt define himself as a minimalist? "I am in no particular camp," he replies, stressing his myriad influences include not only Minimalism and Abstract Expressionism but other periods of art history, including renaissance painting and sculpture. "I'm interested in and influenced by many things."

*Jane A. Peterson*  
as published in *Art Plural: Voices of Contemporary Art* [Gatehouse Publishing 2013]

## Artwork Selection



*Chaos Frenético*, 2014  
Edition 3 + 2 AP  
Bronze, black patina  
200 x 152 x 107 cm

Facing page:  
*Escultura "Chaos Fisura" 1/3*, 2013  
Edition 1/3 + 2 AP  
Bronze  
85 x 87 x 140 cm





*CIV*, 2000  
Unique  
Bronze, brown patina  
48 x 35 x 35 cm



CXIX, 2000  
Unique  
Bronze, dark patina  
45 x 40 x 30 cm



Facing page:  
CXXXVIII, 2001  
Unique  
Bronze, dark patina  
58 x 30 x 38 cm







Facing page:  
*LXXXI*, 2000  
Unique  
Bronze, dark patina  
100 x 40 x 40 cm





AUGUST 45, 2009  
Unique  
Bronze, dark patina  
39 x 27 x 29 cm





*Chaos Nervión*, 2011  
Bronze  
740 x 370 x 350 cm.  
City of Bilbao

## Biography

American artist Jedd Novatt is a sculptor of international renown. Novatt plays with gravity, weight and balance. Monumental sculptures pave international indoor and outdoor sites daringly entering in relation with space. Novatt seizes the raw qualities of materials, such as steel or bronze, to magnify their own notions of purity, power, permanence or stoicism. Instability and irregularity engagingly give rhythm to the cubic matrixes liberated from geometry as the latter is deconstructed, dislocated and emptied. The complexity of the structure defying physics and human apprehension sets new hypothesis in the history of abstract sculpture placing doubt in the centre of the artistic quest.

Born in New York in 1958, Jedd Novatt graduated from Lacoste School of the Arts in France and from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York. His exhibitions include Pérez Art Museum, Miami, USA; Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, USA; Brown Harts Garden, Westminster Council City of Sculpture Festival, London, UK; La Piscine, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie André Diligent, Roubaix, France; Sotheby's at Chatsworth, Chatsworth, UK; Museum of Art, Boca Raton, Florida, USA. His work is part of many private and public international collections such as City of Bilbao, Spain; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, USA; Holding Capital Group, New York, USA; Melville Industrial Associates, Melville, USA; MIT-List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA; Oklahoma Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, USA; Palmer Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, USA, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA. Novatt's work has been included in 5 annual Sotheby's exhibitions "Beyond Limits" at Chatsworth House in the UK, the prestigious exhibition of internationally recognised sculptors creating monumental works. The artist lives in Paris and divides his time among studios in Paris, Normandy, and the Basque region in Spain.

## Curriculum Vitae

Jedd NOVATT (born 1958)

### EDUCATION

B.A., Sarah Lawrence College, 1980

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2014 | "Jedd Novatt: Sculpture and works on Paper," Art Plural Gallery, Singapore November   |
| 2013 | "Jedd Novatt : Chaos SAS & Chaos Bizkaia," PAMM (Perez Art Museum Miami) - Miami, Florida<br>"Jedd Novatt: Sculpture and Objects," Galerie Diane de Polignac, Paris, France<br>"Jedd Novatt: Chaos Abaco, Chaos Caliente, & Chaos Agosto," Lever House, New York, NY<br>"Jedd Novatt, Sculpture - Chaos Torre and Chaos Ritmo," - Sponder Gallery, Miami, Florida |
| 2012 | "Jedd Novatt, Chaos", Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK<br>"Jedd Novatt, Chaos Caliente", Chaos Agosto, Lever House, New York, NY   |
| 2011 | "Jedd Novatt - Chaos" Galeria Alfa Arte, Eibar, Spain   |
| 2010 | "Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio<br>"Jedd Novatt - Chaos Pamplona," Alfa Arte, Eibar Spain<br>"Jedd Novatt - Chaos Mundaka," Hamiltons Gallery (Brown Harts Garden), London   |
| 2009 | "Jedd Novatt Sculpture," Espacio Alfa Arte, Eibar, Spain<br>"CHAOS MUNDAKA," Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta, GA  |
| 2008 | "Jedd Novatt – Chaos," La Piscine, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie André Diligent, Roubaix, France<br>"Jedd Novatt," Shkola Gallery, Moscow, Russia  |
| 2007 | "Jedd Novatt: Chaos Susse," Hamiltons Gallery, London, U.K.   |
| 2006 | "Jedd Novatt: Chaos Sculpture," Hamiltons Gallery, London, U.K.<br>"Jedd Novatt: Sculpture and Works on Paper: Chaos Series," Kohn Hutter Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA   |
| 2005 | "Jedd Novatt, Monumental Works: Chaos Series," Chowaiki/Mosionzhnik Gallery, Miami, FL  |

2004 Jedd Novatt: Susse Series," Studio Giangaleazzo Visconti, Milan, Italy

2003 "Jedd Novatt, Sculpture," Noortman, Maastricht, Netherlands  
"Jedd Novatt, Susse Series," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY

2001 "Jedd Novatt, Sculpture: New Works," Galerie Hopkins-Custot, Paris, France  
"Jedd Novatt, Sculpture: New Works," Blains Fine Art, London, U.K.  
"Jedd Novatt, Sculpture: New Works," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY

2000 "Jedd Novatt Sculpture," Galerie Vedovi, Brussels, Belgium

1999 "Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Blains Fine Art, London, U.K.  
"Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Meredith Long & Company, Houston, TX

1998 "Jedd Novatt, Sculpture," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York  
"Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Meyerson & Nowinski Art Associates, Seattle, WA

1997 "Sculpture and Works on Paper," Meredith Long & Company, Houston, TX  
"Jedd Novatt: Works on Paper," Marc de Montebello Fine Art, New York, NY  
"Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," CS Schulte Galleries, Millburn, NJ

1996 "Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY  
"Jedd Novatt: Works on Paper," Marc de Montebello Fine Art, New York, NY

1995 "Jedd Novatt: Works on Paper," Marc de Montebello Fine Art, New York, NY

1994 "Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY

1993 "Jedd Novatt: Sculpture," Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York, NY

1992 "Sculptures: Jedd Novatt," Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 Art Plural Gallery, Singapore  
Galerie Diane de Polignac, Paris, Masterpiece London  
Chowaiki Gallery, NY, Art Southampton  
Sponder Gallery, Miami, Art Southampton  
"Art Stage Singapore 2014", Marina Bay Sands, Singapore  
"FLUX", Art Plural Galery, Singapore

2013 "Beyond Limits 2013," Sotheby's at Chatsworth, Chatsworth, UK  
"Masterpiece London", Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK  
Hamiltons Gallery - London, Uk. PAD, Pavilion of Art and Design, London  
Galerie Hopkins, Paris, France - October  
Galerie Diane de Polignac - Paris, France. The Salon New York  
"Masterpiece London", Galerie Diane de Polignac, London, UK  
Design Days Dubai: Galerie Diane de Polignac, Dubai  
BRAFA: Galerie Diane de Polignac, Brussels, Belgium

2012 PAD London: Hamiltons Gallery & Galerie Diane de Polignac, London, UK  
The Salon: Galerie Diane de Polignac, New York City, USA  
Design Days Dubai: Galerie Diane de Polignac, Dubai

2011 "Two Person Show", Karl Hutter Fine Art, Beverly Hills, USA  
"PAD London", Hamiltons Gallery, London, UK  
"Monumental", Boca Raton, Florida, USA

"Parque Pinosolo", Leioa, Spain  
Permanent Collection, La Piscine, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie, Roubaix, France  
Group Show, Leioa (Vizcaya), Spain

2010 "Eskultura eta Paisaia," Deba Breakwater, Deba, Spain  
"Beyond Limits," Sotheby's—Chatsworth, Chatsworth, UK  
"PAD London," Hamiltons Gallery, London

2009 Art Basel Miami: Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art, Miami, FL  
"Beyond Limits," Sotheby's—Chatsworth, Chatsworth, UK  
Pavillon des Antiquaires et des Beaux Arts, Galerie Hopkins-Custot, Paris, France  
ARCOMadrid, Madrid, Spain – Edward Tyler Nahem Gallery, New York, NY

2008 Art Basel Miami: Galerie Hopkins-Custot, Miami, FL  
"Beyond Limits," Sotheby's—Chatsworth, Chatsworth, UK  
"Significant Form: The Persistence of Abstraction," Maly Manege Museum, Moscow, Russia  
Hamiltons Gallery, London, U.K.

2007 Shkola Gallery, Moscow, Russia  
Hamiltons Gallery, London, U.K.

2006 Chowaiki/Mosionzhnik Gallery, Moscow, Russia  
"Sculpture," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York  
"Monumental Sculpture: Chaos Series," Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL  
"Art in Public," Boca Raton, Fla.

2005 Art Basel: Galerie Thomas, Basel, Switzerland  
Art Basel Miami: Galerie Hopkins-Custot, Miami, FL  
Galleria Benucci, Rome, Italy  
"L'art contemporain dans le 8e arrondissement," Mairie du 8e, Paris, France

2001 "Black & White," Blains Fine Art, London, U.K.  
Blains Fine Art, London, U.K.  
"Welded Sculpture of the 20th Century," Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY  
Group Show," Meredith Long and Company, Houston, TX  
"Painting and Sculpture," CS Schulte Galleries, Millburn, NJ  
"Contemporary 2000," London, U.K.

1999 "The Power of Drawing," Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY  
"Inventory Showcase," Grant-Selwyn Galleries, New York, NY

1998 "Anniversary Exhibition," CS Schulte Galleries, Millburn, NJ  
"Works on Paper by 20th Century Artists," Blains Fine Art, London, U.K.  
"Eighth Annual Warehouse Show," Flanders Contemporary Art, Minneapolis, MN  
"Abstraction II," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY  
"Sculpture Selections from the Renaissance to the Present," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY  
"Sculptors Draw," Rosenberg & Kaufman, New York, NY

1997 "Marking Time," Marc de Montebello Fine Art, New York, NY

1996 "Selected Sculpture," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY

1995 "Group Show," Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY  
"Sculpture: Rand Hardy, Jedd Novatt, Lee Tribe, Isaac Witkin," Marc de Montebello Fine Art, New York, NY  
"Group Show," Marc de Montebello Fine Art, New York, NY  
"Milton Avery, Wolf Kahn, Jedd Novatt," Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY

"Abstracted Reality," Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York, NY  
"Works on Paper," Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY  
"Winter Invitational," Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY  
Nielsen Gallery, Boston, MA

1992 Forum Gallery, New York, NY

1991 "Winter Invitational," Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY

1990 "Sculptors' Drawings," East Hampton Center for Contemporary Art, East Hampton, NY  
"Collector's Choice of Emerging Artists," Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY  
"Invitational," Jersey City, NJ

#### PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

The Art Museum, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL  
Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH  
City of Bilbao, Spain  
City of Yountville, Napa Valley, CA  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, Providence, RI  
El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso, Texas  
Holding Capital Group, New York, NY  
Melville Industrial Associates, Melville, NY  
MIT-List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA  
Oklahoma Heritage Center, Oklahoma City, OK  
Palmer Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA  
PAMM (Perez Art Museum Miami), Miami, Florida  
Parco de' Medici, Rome, Italy  
The Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY  
La Piscine, Musée d'Art et d'Industrie André Diligent, Roubaix, France  
Renaissance Technologies, New York, NY  
Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY  
Savannah College of Art and Design, Atlanta GA  
The Tisch Gallery, Tufts University, Boston, MA  
The University Gallery, Clark University, Worcester, MA  
The University of Pacific, Stockton, CA



Detail of *Chaos Frenético*, 2014

# Acknowledgements

## Introduction

Jane A. Peterson

## Graphic Design

Gillian de Boer

## Images

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