

*press release*

We cordially invite you to the single show IWANTTOBEFAMOUSBUTUNKOWN by the German artist A. NikoPol who is based in Aachen.

## IWANTTOBEFAMOUSBUTUNKOWN

A.NIKOPOL

October 6th – November 25nd, 2023

**Opening:** **Friday, October 6, 2023, 5pm**  
in presence of the artist

**Closing + Artist Talk:** **Saturday, November 25, 2023, 5pm**  
Axel Friedrich, artist based in Aachen, in conversation with A.NikoPol

**Opening hours:** Thursday and Friday 4:30pm – 7:30pm | Saturday 1pm – 5pm  
and by appointment

Thanks to:



Stiftung Kunst  
der Sparkasse in Bonn

IWANTTOBEFAMOUSBUTUNKNOWN is to be understood as a link mediating between the previous and the upcoming exhibition. Topics of resilience and mental landscapes interconnect in new ways while slowly transitioning to the upcoming motif “Friends of Friends of Friends of...”, which lays the focus on concrete resilience strategies of artists. Manifesting itself in colorful collage gardens and baroque-looking vase sculptures, A. NikoPol's exhibition centers a combination of resilience and mental spaces as well. His artistic approach is at the heart of the project, for his objects are never completed, but rather subject to constant change:

*The principle of collage is the basis for the way I develop all my artworks; as a collector and inventor of beautifully shaped things. For me, an object, be it two- or three-dimensional, is never finished. I work on it continuously. I am interested in the cycle of destruction and construction. Every change is a threat to stability and wonder is the beginning of everything. Collage is a medium that suits our time perfectly, as we live in a chaotic world where we are bombarded with images in all kinds of different shapes, forms and colors.*

A. NikoPol

It is destruction and systematic failure that creates the mental capacity to break free of old shapes. Then, one can form something new with resilience functioning as productive resistance.

The solo exhibition IWANTTOBEFAMOUSBUTUNKNOWN by A. NikoPol reflects on constantly changing (mental) processes and enhances critical thinking. The exhibited objects never present the ending point, but rather should be seen as intermediate forms that open up space for us to work with socially and individually. The never-completed work of art resisting closedness and rigidity becomes the basis for a new, dynamic perspective that can only emerge through a confrontation with the unknown, the unpredictable.

The title – a quotation from Degas – puts the spotlight away from the artistic persona onto the work of art as such, which stands autonomously for itself having the ability to outlast time and to adapt again and again. Accordingly, this impulse is passed on to the viewers who are challenged to adapt and adopt new perspectives.

## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

### **Finissage and Artist Talk: 25. November 2023, 17h**

Axel Friedrich, artist based in Aachen, in conversation with A.NikoPol

AXEL FRIEDRICH | [www.instagram.com/axel.friedrich.520/](https://www.instagram.com/axel.friedrich.520/)

\*1967 born in Krefeld. After having trained as a stonemason and sculptor specialising in church restoration and sculpture, he studied free art with Prof. Joachim Bandau at the Münster Art Academy from 1991-1994 and after that with Prof. Tony Cragg at the Düsseldorf Art Academy until 1997 (graduation: academy diploma). He finished his studies as a master student of Tony Cragg. Until 2001 he worked as a freelance sculptor with commissions in the field of sculpture restoration and gravestones, and as a modeller for three-dimensional design models, dummies and prototypes in the field of object and figure. Since 1996 he has been working continuously as a freelance artist with exhibitions at home and abroad.

Since 2001, he has been employed as a research assistant at the Chair of Sculpture /RWTH Aachen, which has become the Chair of Artistic Design 2019.

A. NIKOPOL | <https://www.instagram.com/alexandernikopol/>

\*1966 born in Aachen as Frank Posthoff but is known by his artist name A. NikoPol.  
From 1988 till 1993, he studied sculpture, painting and art history at the Rijkshoogeschool, Maastricht (NL) and was a student of H. van Wetering, T. Lenfers and J.P. Zoetbrood.

*Solo shows (selection)*

2008 *Die Erde ist blau wie eine Orange*, Brühler Art Club, Brühl / D (EA, K)  
2020 *WORKHARD!&BENICETOPEOPLE*, Depot, Aachen / D (EA, K)

*Group shows (selection)*

1997 *Jenseits der Norm - Auseinandersetzung mit dem Grabmal*, Museum for sepulchral culture, Kassel / D, supporting programm of Documenta X (GA, K)  
2003 *éclosion(s)*, open-air sculpturing, Château de Jehay, Parc et Jardins, Amay / B (GA, K)  
2005 *Broken Glass*, Stadsgalerij Heerlen / Glaspaleis, Heerlen / NL (GA, K)  
2016 *Dada Centennial: Day of the Dead*, The Ontological Museum, Santa Fe / USA, (GA, K)  
2018 *The\_collage\_garden*, Kathmandu, Nepal (GA)  
2019 *Take it or leave it*, Vorzimmer, Aachen / D (GA)  
2021 *Critical Mail Art & Image Text Collage*, Westlicht, Wien/AT