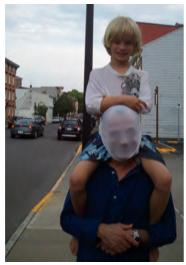*DIY* exhibition at Ornamentum, 2015

David Bielander with Kai, 2012

David Bielander

David Bielander, born in Basel, Switzerland, began his journey into jewelry with a goldsmith apprenticeship. Later, he moved to Germany to work for jeweler Georg Spreng before studying under Professor Otto Künzli at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. Bielander held the position of Creative Assistant to Professor Daniel Kruger at the Academy of Fine Arts Burg Giebichenstein, Halle, and as an external consultant to the jewelry department at Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam. His work is found in notable museums around the world and he has received several prestigious awards such as the Munich Förderpreis in 2009; Herbert Hofmann Prize in 2010; the Françoise van den Bosch Prize in 2012; the Swiss Grand Prix de Design Award in 2017, to name a few.

Bielander takes familiar objects and pushes them to the point of ironic abstraction. A play on hierarchy and value occurs in his *Cardboard* series as he manipulates gold to perfectly resemble corrugated cardboard. The *Cardboard Crown*, which debuted in his 2015 exhibition *DIY* at Ornamentum is part of a limited edition of hand-made works. Following the exhibition in 2015, Ornamentum presented David Bielander at Design Miami.

In reference to the cardboard collections premiere Bielander notes "That year we released the golden cardboards in Miami - a big thing for me then, and so super successful - and a guy overlooking your booth says: Yeah, I get everything here, but (pointing at the cardboard) what about this shit?"

David Bielander has maintained a close relationship with the gallery, professionally and on a more personal level "When Lukas (still really small) was guarding the gallery, together with Laura, and inspecting all the works on display, put on the pineapple bracelet and stated after careful consideration: I'm going to wear that at my wedding."