



ART & EXHIBITS

# Diamond Stingily's trophies for the biggest game at CCA Wattis Institute

A spotlight on winners and losers

Charles Desmarais | January 31, 2019 | Updated: February 1, 2019, 11:50 am



Diamond Stingily, "Doing the Best I Can" (2019), installation view, Wattis Institute. Photo: Johnna Arnold

The topic was softball, but it could have been life.

"Give it a season, and if you don't like it you don't have to do it anymore, but at least you tried it," coaxed Diamond Stingily's father. The artist shared her childhood memory in a [2017 interview](#) with the magazine Cultured.

There are aspects of Stingily's installation "Doing the Best I Can," at CCA Wattis Institute through March 30, that are puzzling but provocative. Like the outdoor work-light trailer dragged into the gallery: The lamps' harsh brilliance is the room's only illumination, windows and skylights having been papered over. It is the kind of awkward tower we see glowing at the side of a highway late at night, when emergency materializes out of darkness as the landscape's most salient feature.

There is, however, little ambiguity about the two long shelving units, laden with gaudy sports trophies made of pot metal and plastic. The shelves stand free from the walls, the trophies casting shadows somehow more real than the originals, their hollow forms on full view from the wall-side perspective.

"We didn't have this sport where I was at," says one award plaque. "It was for the glory," reads another. I found what could have been my own trophy among the mass.

"I did the best I could with what I had."

**Diamond Stingily: "Doing the Best I Can":** Noon-6 p.m., Tuesdays-Saturdays. Through March 30. Free. CCA Wattis Institute, 360 Kansas St., S.F. 415-355-9670. <https://wattis.org>



The trophies close up, with unexpected commentaries, in Diamond Stingily's "Doing the Best I Can." Photo: Johnna Arnold



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