

### Paint the moment: why millennials are turning to oil and canvas

Young artists are depicting the blurring of online and offline life



George Rouy's 'Waiting Patiently' (2018) © Hannah Barry Gallery

#### **Griselda Murray Brown APRIL 20 2018**

For Barry, Cash Davidson's work suggests "the rush, flux and rhythm of images as we search for them, view them and move through them online". For a solo show at Barry's gallery earlier this year, a younger painter, George Rouy (born 1994), reveals a different approach with a series of large-scale nudes set against a flat, block-coloured background emptied of anything that might locate them in 2018. Although inspired by Picasso and Matisse, Rouy's does not feel like a "male gaze", his subjects not women but "imaginative figures" that hover between genders. He draws on a computer, he tells me, as a way of "breaking the habit of drawing figures as you were trained".

These creations feel less like a knowing nod to millennial gender fluidity than an expression of Rouy's surrealist approach. Like Cash Davidson, he's inspired by Medieval painting — its flatness, coded gestures and preference for generic people rather than individualised portraits. But while Cash Davidson's compositions suggest a hyper-connected online world, Rouy's reveal it to be as much a place of dislocation and aloneness.