

THE ARTISTS TO KNOW RIGHT NOW

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Videos by Alex John Beck
Video Editing by Nate DeYoung
Interaction Design by Wax Studios

The landscape of contemporary art is ever-changing. It shifts according to countless factors, from artists' principles and the political climate to auction records and collectors' tastes. Nevertheless, each year, a new crop of ambitious artists stands out. They catapult from obscurity to ubiquity, earn representation from top galleries, garner interest from prominent collectors, and pack their schedules with exhibitions. Most importantly, they make work that expands our understanding of what art can be.

The Artsy Vanguard 2019 features 50 artists, hailing from 27 countries and working in 27 cities around the world. Ranging in age from 28 to 93, they pursue painting, sculpture, photography, filmmaking, and performance, as well as investigative research and virtual reality. They delve into topics from human rights violations to youth culture, and capture the attention of powerhouse collectors and celebrity royalty, like Beyoncé.

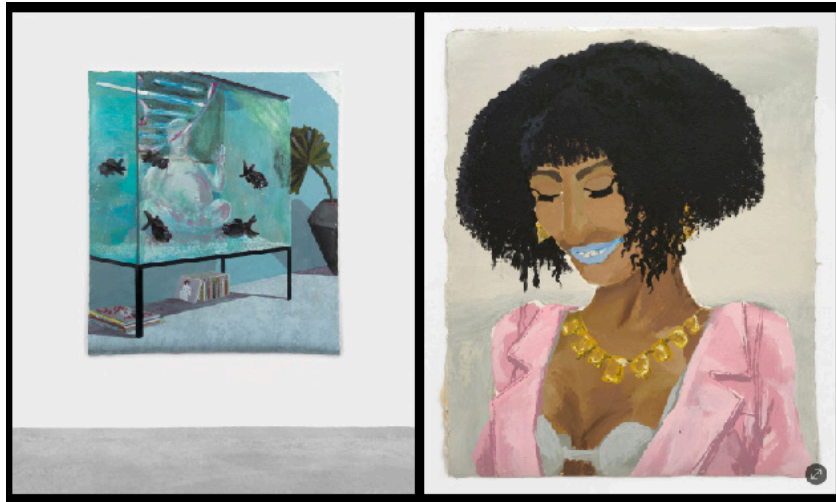
Artsy editors developed this list from a pool of 600 artists who were nominated by more than 100 curators, collectors, and art-world professionals. These artists represent three distinct career stages, which we've arranged into the following categories: Emerging, which introduces artists who recently started showing at leading institutions and galleries; Newly Established, which presents the artists making noise at major art events and gaining representation with influential galleries; and Getting Their Due, which recognizes artists who have worked persistently for decades, yet have only recently received the spotlight they deserve. The Artsy Vanguard highlights the artists paving the future of art right now.



Manuel Solano by Claudia Lozano.
Courtesy of the artist and Peres Projects,
Berlin.y Peres Projects, Berlin

Manuel Solano, The hottie from Starbucks,
2019. Photo by Matthias Kolb. Courtesy of
Peres Projects, Berlin.

Manuel Solano's paintings are pulsating figurative scenes that picture slices of pop culture, vivid portraits, and homey environments where the artist grew up. Looking at them, you wouldn't know that Solano went blind at age 26. Losing their sight didn't stop the artist from continuing to paint. Now, some five years later, their work has earned them institutional shows and gallery representation: in 2018 Solano was included in the New Museum Triennial and had a solo show at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; they are represented by tastemaking Berlin gallery Peres Projects. The artist is currently included in a show at the Palais de Tokyo, and will soon open a solo exhibition at the esteemed São Paulo nonprofit, Pivô.



Manuel Solano, Untitled, from the series “An Interior, A Sensation, An Instant,” 2019. Photo by Trevor Good. Courtesy of Peres Projects, Berlin.

Manuel Solano, Nicki, 2018. Photo by Matthias Kolb. Courtesy of Peres Projects, Berlin.

To create their paintings, Solano has honed a unique painting process, using their photographic memory to translate images from past experiences onto canvas. With the help of an assistant, the artist develops their compositions through verbal directions; then, with a system of pins and pipe cleaners, Solano paints with their fingers.

ICA Miami artistic director Alex Gartenfeld said of Solano: “Whether it’s through an ambitious approach to painting or a radical use of video, their work across mediums is as deeply personal as it is constantly evolving. For their powerful take on identity and memory, Manuel represents a new voice in art and creativity.”

