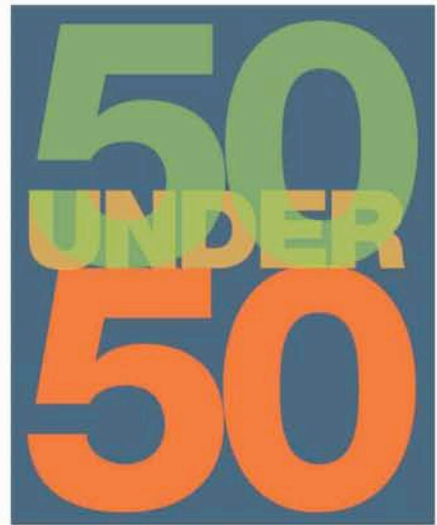


THE NEXT MOST COLLECTIBLE ARTISTS

WHO AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS WILL HAVE THE STAYING POWER TO RULE THE MARKET OVER THE LONG HAUL?



■ LAST YEAR WE SET OUT ON WHAT SOME MIGHT CALL A FOOL'S ERRAND by selecting the 50 most collectible living artists. Hoping to elevate this sort of list-making beyond a parlor game, we defined the parameters and embarked on research to find those artists who have a proven record in the market and also show promise of the continuing innovation and devotion to craft that will warrant attention for decades to come. The result was a list that peered beyond the headlines.

A year is no time at all in the long game that is serious collecting. For this second outing we decided to add to the challenge by focusing on artists under the age of 50. For such a group, auction stats can be erratic, and artists may just be adding a major museum solo to their exhibition history.

But what follows is not an "emerging" artist list in the style of many art magazines, naming favorites from the latest MFA graduating class. Most names will be familiar to readers from years of gallery shows and even awards. The vast majority among the final selections are in their 30s, because the reality is that artists are still coming into their practice through their 20s, and only after that begin to build a committed collector base. Readers will also note the preponderance of painters. In the discussions during which we hashed out the list, two reasons for this emerged. First, there is a genuine resurgence of nonrepresentational painting as artists under 50 reexamine that key modernist pursuit. Second, collectors perennially favor painting because it is understandable within an established tradition and is comparably easy to display and conserve.

Diversity is the other big trend seen in this list, in terms of geography as well as in the individual artists' practices. The language of contemporary art is global, and collectors are increasingly interested in seeing differences in dialogue. Today artists may be born in the Middle East, live in Europe, and sell to collectors in Asia and America, and our list reflects that ubiquitous internationalism. Just as pervasive, it seems, is the desire among artists to operate free of the constraints of medium. Even as recent years have seen a return to a focus on craft and the object and, sometimes, beauty, it seems that the ultimate triumph of Conceptualism has come in the form of younger generations who embrace the artist's role as that of universal creator. Photographers sculpt, sculptors bridge the divide between two and three dimensions, and painters make films. Innovation is everywhere. **—THE EDITORS**

Ⓐ **SADIE BENNING**

First known for her pioneering videos on queer issues, shot with a toy camera in the 1990s and shown in the Whitney Biennials of 1993 and 2000, Benning has recently become a collector darling with her dense and delicious painted color studies. Although the artist continues to make videos, she brought her painting practice to the fore after becoming frustrated by technology's mechanical demands and lightning-speed obsolescence. Her geometric works—priced at \$4,000 to \$7,000 for a drawing and \$10,000 to \$45,000 for paintings and groups of paintings—regularly sell out at art fairs from NADA Miami to Art Rio and at New York venues Johannes Vogt Gallery and Callicoon Fine Arts. Part of the paintings' appeal, according to Miami-based art adviser Jacqueline Fletcher, is that they're "intimate but also bold. The way the individual pieces of the painted geometric groups speak to each other is engaging and brilliant."

—DOUG MCCLEMONT | BLUE AND WHITE PAINTING, 2013. MEDITE, PLASTER, MILK PAINT, AND ACRYLIC, 58 X 46½ IN.

