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TOP Emerging Artists

PART 2

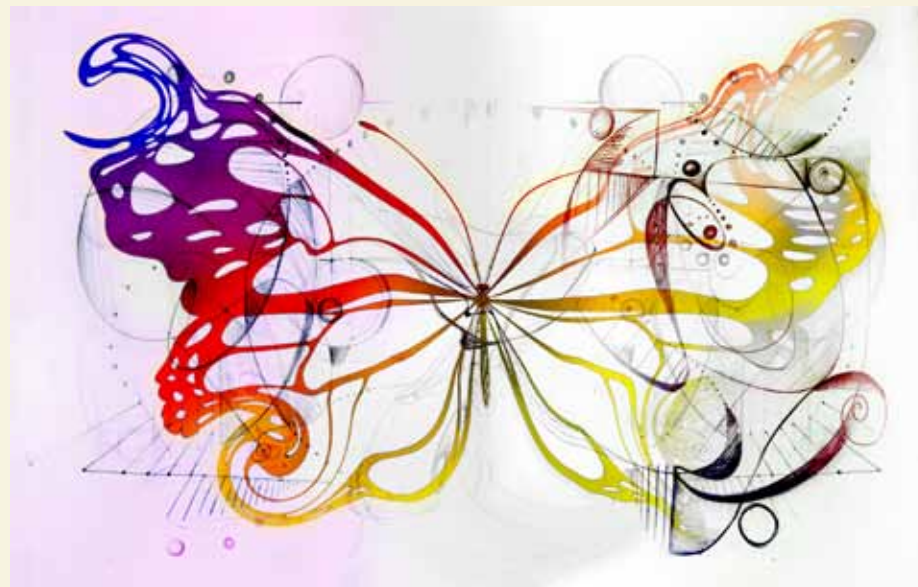
ABN reveals the
year's best new
artists in the second
of a two-part series



← **Darren Thompson**

darrenthompsonfineart.blogspot.com

"The trademark of my work is the loose brushwork. In this digital, machine-produced image age, I feel that painting has to separate itself and use its own characteristics to the fullest."



← **Michael Indorato**

indorato.com

"I have evolved a distinctive creative process, where I fly above large canvases, hovering and swerving like a bird, dripping paint, spinning, and forming art pieces that move. My style might be described as a surrealist explosion of energy."



← **Ben Riley**

benrileyart.com

"Combining the first medium of recorded sound (wax) alongside the later vinyl/Bakelite, I produce portraits of music icons from the 'music' that quite literally made them. I visualize the marriage of music heritage and song on canvas to invoke memories and emotions unique to us all."



Ann Smith

annsmithwatercolors.com

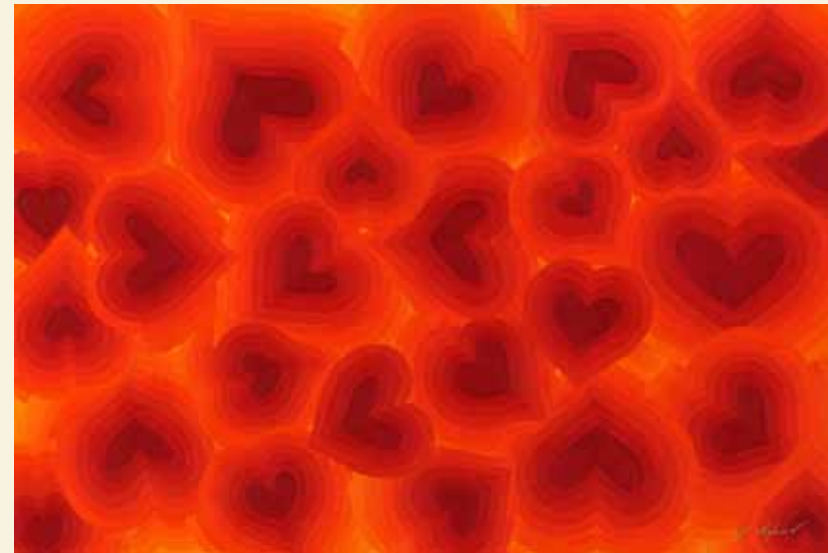
"Because my paintings are created by way of the searching, meditative process of discovered imagery, they often have an ethereal quality. I am comfortable with ambiguity, and I enjoy simple elegant statements, as well as complex dramatic explorations."

Anna Razumovskaya
 anna-art.com
 "I am currently in an interesting state of experimentation with material, subject and individual self."



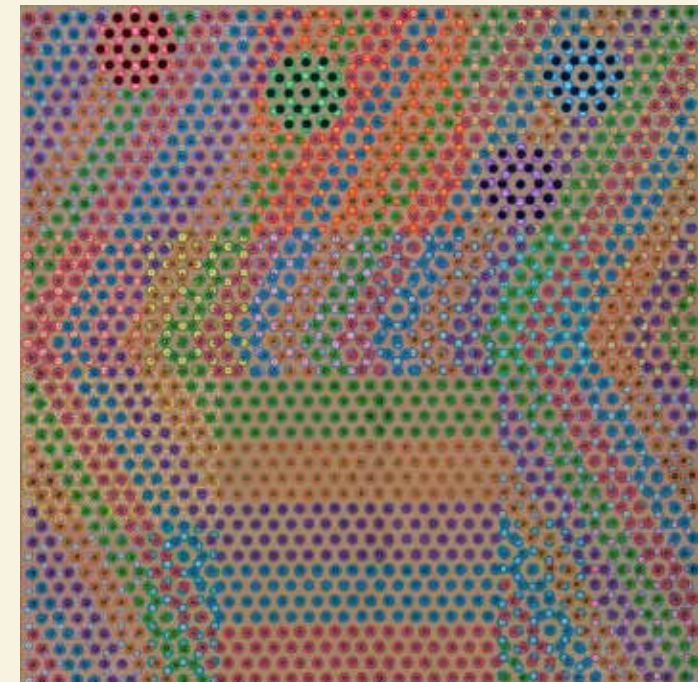
Michael Gard
 michaelgard.com
 "I use a unique technique. I sculpt a figure in clay, reproduce it in wax and weave stitch by stitch around the wax sculpture. After melting out the wax form, I have a rigid wire sculpture, often a mobile or free-standing form."

Lisa Cuman
 lisacumanphotography.com
 "I make every effort to get in close with my subject, which in this case, is exclusively horses. There is something about being at sea level, surrounded by water and seeing wild horses thriving in an environment that cherishes and protects them. It's enticing. It's liberating and incredibly seductive."



Vladimir Nazarov
 vladimirnazarov.com
 "Whether semi-narrative vignettes packed with clear cultural and religious symbolism or powerful abstractions, my works are essays in vivid color laid down on canvas in many layers."

Jonathan Brender
 jonathanbrender.com
 "I call my creation 'Point Flowers.' Each 'flower' is composed of 40 different color combination dots. From up close they look individually beautiful, and from a distance they make this amazing huge mosaic of flowers. You can sometimes feel dizzy [looking at them]."



Barbara Tyler Ahlfield
 fashionillustrationandmore.com
 "The trademark elements of my work are dramatic mood lighting and glamorous posing of figures with an emphasis on sound structural drawing. This was my trademark as a fashion illustrator, and I am translating these aspects and adapting them to my paintings."

Dage
 dagearts.com
 "What I like most about dripping is the fact that I have to let go, let go of perfection: painting without touching the canvas, having to compose with the vagaries of the paint flow. I create vibrant works of energy and emotions, perfect in their imperfections."





Shelley Lake
shelleylake.com
 "The glue that holds my brand together is in the process, artificial intelligence as a creative partner. Thinking of the computer as an intellectual and creative partner can lead to completely new aesthetic experiences, making the computer analogous to art."



Peter Colbert
petercolbert.com
 "Art to me is translating reality or what we see in our heads from a muddy, rough idea to something with great clarity and simplicity — just the bare essence, if you will. But 'simple' doesn't mean easy by any means."



Julia Carter
juliacarterartist.com
 "The trademark of my work is the 'Tree of Life,' which has evolved over time in various styles. The tree symbolized a new life, celebration and triumph over adversity. It is a shining symbol of positivity."



Blake Emory
blakeemory.com
 "'Zebra Love' is without a doubt the trademark of my work. It pulls from realistic proportions and implies them to neo-modernism. This simple yet satisfying art form represents the theory of passion, love and nature's grand design."



Joan Benefiel and Jeremy Leichman
figurationstudio.com
 "The inner glow from these sculptures creates an intoxicating visual effect and to me is, in essence, like sculpting with light. The way it holds and plays with light is reminiscent of the sunset that inspired it all."



David Fenton
davidfenton.net
 "I burnish aluminum and transfer my photography and illustration to the etched metal. This yields a holographic effect but, most importantly, a visual experience. The work moves with light, and my clients consistently say it seems as though [the art] is breathing on their walls."



Jodi Simmons
jhsgallery.com
 "What excites me and hopefully shines through the work is the freshness of interpretation I bring to the old stories, which are rich with potential for inspiration and historical appreciation."



Mark Vassallo
markvassallo.com
 "Collectors have described my images as 'ultra-real' or 'three-dimensional' or even that the flowers are 'reaching out' to them. To achieve this kind of intimacy, I often spend days observing a single bloom. It's similar to a meditative process resulting in a deep connection with each individual flower."



Jeff Bye
jeffbye.com
 "What separates me from other artists is my unique ability to see things that go unnoticed. I always see the unusual and odd as beautiful and have an immediate response of wanting to capture it in some way."



Anita Marci
anitatheartist.com
 "'Purity of expression' is the trademark and the hallmark of my art. I distill the essence of my subjects and portray them with as little information as possible. This complex challenge leads to an economy of form and a profusion of exciting color."



Louise Cutler
louisecutlerstudio.com
 "My work is meant to be a calming sanctuary for weary souls — to bring a sense of peace into a chaotic world, to create a place where one can find rest."



Yoorim Erin Park
yoorimpark.com
 "Collage plays a key role in my artistic practice. Inspired by Dada and surrealist collagists, I am interested in creating an image where its outcome is accidental, unpredictable and surprising. I am interested in creating an enigmatic scene, conflicting yet coherent, discordant yet contemplative."



Anna Paola Pizzocaro
annapaolapizzocaro.com
 "My art focuses on the contemporary issues of global warming and adaptation. I like to create sophisticated composite images representing a surreal world in the most realistic way possible."



Kirsten Høst
hoestart.com
 "My trademark is a combination of harmony and balanced colors, conveying a hidden message of emotions and feelings, often with a double meaning — which I leave the viewer to wonder about!"

Stephen Schubert
schubertmodern.com
 "[My process] captures paint in resin layers and creates the effect that the paint is floating above itself. Great depth and vibrancy with minute shadow effects create an intimate drama in the final work."



➔ **H. Allen Benowitz**
h-allenart.com
"Depth and texture are trademarks of my work: depth, with a goal of drawing one's eye in to the picture, where the moment was captured, and texture, which gives me a visceral pleasure, highlighting varying objects' multifaceted shapes and shades of light, bringing a still image to life."



↑ **Ed Heck**
edheck.com
"My work is bright, bold, whimsical and, in the words of my collectors, 'art that makes you smile.' My pop art style was born out of my love of children's art. I tried to get back to that place where you create without a care about what others would think — to create with innocence."

➔ **Barbara McGivern**
bmcgivern.com
"This year I have ventured into another realm of my work, using words and symbols that reflect what is going on in today's society. I use gold leaf and Swarovski crystals because I feel they add another dimension to my work."



↑ **Helen Beekman**
helenbeekmanart.com
"I am currently working in hay as my primary medium that I infuse with rich and intense color. The hay is then manipulated and applied on canvas or boards. I try to make my abstract works resonate as a visual tonal poem, while my other figurative hay images nod to classical human sculptural forms or earthly creatures."

➔ **Nick Paciorek**
paciorek.com
"My cityscapes spotlight the interplay between figures and their environment. I try to capture the activity of people in cities that tell many different stories in one painting. The constant movement conveys a different emotion than empty streets."



➔ **Vlad Griss**
vladgriss.com
"Art is my religion, and work is my prayer. This is not only a story that lies behind each piece but a meditative approach of creating every sculpture by hand. While creating, I float into the world of imagination and attempt to express the stream of consciousness that instantly originates." **ABN**