
GEGHAM ALEKSANYAN


EDUARD ANIKONOV


DARIA BAGRINTSEVA


SYLVIE BISSON


PAUL BOND


CATHERINE CHIARA





SUNGMO CHO


CHRIS DELLORCO


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TIM GAGNON


SARAH GOODNOUGH


JACQUIE GOUVEIA


TIBI HEGYESI


ABBIE KOZIK


RAY LARSEN


PATTY MILLER HANCOCK


ANDREW MYERS


JESSE MICHAEL NEWMAN


ANNA RAZUMOVSKAYA


LINDA SHINKLE
RODNEY &
THEODORE SHINKLE


RENEE BROWN


JENNIFER VRANES


MARTA G. WILEY



# TOP 50 EMERGING ARTISTS 2012

BY **JENNIFER M. WOOD**



## COUNTING DOWN THE ARTISTS OF TOMORROW WHOSE NAMES YOU NEED TO KNOW TODAY

Art may be subjective, but talent is not. Nor is passion. But strong technique means nothing to an artist if he or she doesn't have the fire to back it up. Whether one learns to paint before he or she learns to walk or discovers the passion later on in life is irrelevant. All that matters is the strength and persistence of one's vision.

As the individuals profiled here indicate, no two artists share the same path to success. Some are born with an innate desire to create while others discover the meditative qualities of artmaking in their darkest hours. While our top 50 Emerging Artists share an abundance of ability, their styles, philosophies and paths to being recognized by *ABN*'s editors could not be more unique.

In the November/December edition, we introduced you to the first half of our top 50 emerging artists of 2012. (Read all about them again toward the end of this article.) Since the release of that issue, our editorial team has had the pleasure to meet and hear from hundreds of talented emerging artists the world over, and speak with dozens of art industry insiders, who have shared with us their own choices for the accolade.

Narrowing the final list down to 50 was no easy task, but we're thrilled with the final lineup—and can't wait to watch these talented artists' careers grow over the next year and beyond. So without further delay, we present to you the stories and work of the Top 50 Emerging Artists of 2012.

### GEGHAM ALEKSANYAN

***WWW.GEGHAM.COM***

Born in Armenia, Gegham Aleksanyan's artistic education and career began in his home country, where he made his debut as a professional artist after earning a master's degree from the Yerevan Academy of Fine Arts in 1984. Twenty years later, his ongoing search for new inspirations and challenges brought him to the U.S., where he has been working steadily ever since. "In my work I try to explore the ambiguity of the world beyond reality," says Aleksanyan. "The abstraction of lines and objects aims to obliterate the physical meaning of the images, thus taking my art adrift into the world of imagination—a world as real to me as the reality we physically live in." Aleksanyan's pieces have found homes in private collections and galleries across Armenia, Russia, France, Germany, Austria, Portugal, Italy and the U.S.

### EDUARD ANIKONOV

***WWW.ANIKONOV.COM***

Born in the Russian steel-making town of Magnitogorsk, it should probably come as no surprise that industrial objects (think blast furnaces and giant steel pipes) are a recurring theme in the work of Eduard Anikonov. "All my works are self-expressions using the means of art," says Anikonov, an alum of the prestigious Russian Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg. "Art does not 'invite' anyone. A serious artist is distinguished and determined by the fact that he does not follow anyone and follows no one's focus. One must look for those complex metaphors with... which one can reveal [himself] and excite and arouse the viewer. This is the most important task of the artist."

### DARIA BAGRINTSEVA

***WWW.DARIART.COM***

Upon earning her MA degree from one of Russian's most celebrated art academies, Daria Bagrintseva decided to use her education as a license to break all the rules. "I have deliberately refused to follow many principles that we were taught at the Academy," says Bagrintseva of her rebellious tendencies. "Having the professional background allows me to play with forms, colors and composition, to go beyond the rules and deliberately allow incorrectness." Bagrintseva's star has been on the rise for a decade now, but the past year has been a particularly fruitful one; her work has been exhibited in the U.S., France, Spain, Italy, India, Sweden and Bulgaria, while the price of her paintings have doubled as a result of increased demand.

## SYLVIE BISSON

***WWW.FEELMYART.COM***

Art is more than a visual medium for Quebec-based artist Sylvie Bisson, it's an all-sensory experience. More important than getting people to see her art is getting them to *feel* it (hence her Website). "I am always inspired by what I live, observe and feel," says Bisson. "What matters to me is what we all eventually go through in our lives, such as death, pain and suffering, and how we can learn to accept the unavoidable." Because of the deeply personal nature of her work, "I cannot do the exact same painting or drawing twice," says Bisson. "The message has to be different each time. When someone asks me, 'How long did it take you to do that painting?' I always answer: 47 years! It took me that many years to reach this point in my life where I am able to identify, recognize and trust my creative process."

## PAUL BOND

***WWW.PAULBONDART.COM***

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico but now based in Southern California, Paul Bond draws upon his heritage for inspiration. Influenced by Magic Realism, a Latin American genre in which magical elements combine with the real world to evoke a deeper understanding of reality, Bond's deeply symbolic paintings often portray a dreamlike world where anything is possible. "Altering and juxtaposing familiar objects gives me the visual symbols which become the language I use to reflect an emotion or thought," says Bond. "The physical world to me is a heartbreakingly beautiful and profoundly mysterious experience. I am often emotionally overwhelmed with awe, and translating that feeling into art is my way of acknowledging and digesting that great mystery."

## RENEE BROWN

***WWW.ARTEXPOSTUDIO.COM/RENEE-BROWN***

Dreams have served as an influence for many a great thinker, New York-based artist Renee Brown included. Inspired by the work of world-renowned dream interpreter John Paul Jackson, "I paint what I see in dreams and visions," says Brown, whose dreams let her be the master of the past, present and future. "Being a dream interpreter, I am able to decipher metaphorical dream language and highlight this in my present work." Brown's resulting oeuvre—which includes both figurative and abstract drawings—certainly has a dreamlike quality, where lines and colors are clear and defined but never jarring or distracting. "I have been able to center into my realities," concludes Brown.

## CATHERINE CHIARA

***WWW.CCHIARA.COM***

Self-taught artist Catherine Chiara began painting as a college student in Southern California and hasn't looked back since. In addition to developing her own creative techniques, Chiara founded a co-op gallery in California, has collaborated on public and private art installations and has donated several of her own pieces to charitable causes. "I have exhibited in California, Louisiana, Ohio, Kentucky and New York City," says Chiara. "My motivation for painting and creating is that my best form of communication—either sending or receiving—is through visuals. Painting is a way to get the visions from my head into a form of communication." In addition to her passion for painting, Chiara also works as a craftswoman—creating her own line of handbags made of artist canvas and oil paint—as well as a guitarist. Chiara has been working in her current style, Pixelism, since 2005.

## SUNGMO CHO

***WWW.SUNGMOCHO.COM***

Throughout the history of the creative arts, roads have been an important symbol. "From early history to the present, the road has represented civilization," says New York-based artist Sungmo Cho. "They were built for convenience and to economize time. However, road-building necessitates some destruction of nature. Thus the duality of the road, as it destroys nature while it brings us into nature. The road can offer us a variety and abundance of visual experience, just as in our lives we have many experiences. The road can be a metaphor for life." And it's this very metaphor that serves as a springboard for much of Cho's work, which employs rich colors and mixed media to explore this longheld symbol of freedom.

## CHRIS DELLORCO

***WWW.DELLORCOFINEART.COM***

Influenced by the European masters but with a definite modern twist, it takes an up-close look at one of Chris Dellorco's oil paintings to realize that you are not looking at a photo. "In my oil paintings I strive for near-photo realism, yet keeping a certain level of sensuality," says Dellorco. "I often depict the female figure, set against old-world European architecture... In each painting I try to reveal a subtle yet provocative story, contrasting human beauty and frailty against the solidity and strength of mankind's greatest monuments. While I want to create something truly beautiful, I also want to explore some level of loneliness and sadness in my art. I think that truly beautiful art often has some element of sorrow in it... Frailty versus strength. The bitter and the sweet. It is those contrasts that I hope to capture."

## NANCY "WEEZY" FORMAN

***WWW.JUNIPERWINDDESIGNS.COM***

While its her unique photography that landed Nancy "Weezy" Forman on this list, it's hard to ignore her talents—and success—in a variety of creative endeavors, fashion, jewelry-making, ceramics and home design among them (she and her husband own Philadelphia's Performance Kitchens, a full-service kitchen design and remodeling firm). "From an early age I was always drawn to seeing everything as color and balance," says Forman of the genesis of her creative eye. "I have always had a gift for remembering color." And a penchant for finding beauty in unexpected places, too. "Often my subjects are not conventionally beautiful, but waiting for the right combination of light and balancing the background, colors, shapes and textures

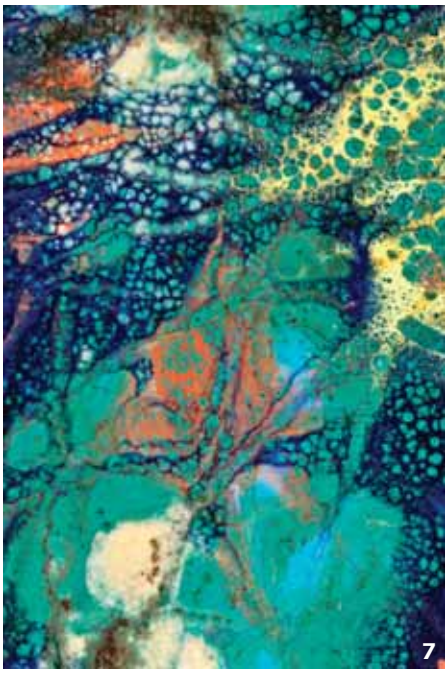






1. Andrew Myers' *An Artist's Winter*
2. Jennifer Vranes' *Meadow of Amethyst*
3. Paul Bond's *A Favorable Wind*
4. A piece by Catherine Chiara
5. Linda Shinkle Rodney and Theodore Shinkle's *Dead Trees Living*
6. Chris Dellorco's *Appassionata*
7. Patty Miller Hancock's *Submerged Treasures*
8. Sarah Goodnough's *Knowing Home*




















allows me to see images in a very special way," she says.

## TIM GAGNON

***WWW.TIMGAGNONSTUDIO.COM***

Tim Gagnon likes a wide canvas to tell his stories. "I love painting the landscape, but I also love to tell a story," he says. He achieves this through careful composition, the use of bright colors and capturing as many details as he can within each frame. "I like subtle messages in my paintings, especially when it comes to politics." But even when delivering a political message, Gagnon says "I prefer to make people smile and think, rather than be in your face telling you what to think. My goal as an artist is to present the landscape in a different way. I want people to find beauty and peace in my paintings, but I also want them to think about them beyond just being landscapes.... I paint from my imagination to ensure that I'm not restricted by what I see in a photograph." For Gagnon, the fact that a landscape is constantly changing is what intrigues him; he need only go for a walk or quick car ride to find a whole new source of inspiration. "This gives me the freedom to use my own emotions and thoughts to influence the painting," he says.

## SARAH GOODNOUGH

***WWW.SARAHGOODNOUGH.COM***

Contemporary, self-taught Northwest artist Sarah Goodnough lives for the moment. "I work in an intuitive style of painting," she says. "I do not plan or have an exact predetermined outcome. I allow the creative process to evolve and spontaneity to flow from a painting's beginning to end." With a kaleidoscope of colors at her disposal, Goodnough uses glazes, splatters, scratches and drips to tell her story, which is how her paintings evolve "into an exciting picture with energy and a life of its own." Inspired by nature and the strength of the human spirit, Goodnough believes "it is important to create art that uplifts the viewer. I try to capture the essence of life in a way that is fresh and unique [in] our everyday experience, celebrating and honoring it. I think by challenging what we view as real, we free our imaginations. Stretching our minds visually, and looking at the essence of a subject, we begin to recognize the beauty and possibility in everything."

## JACQUIE GOUVEIA

***WWW.JGOUVEIA.COM***

Though her educational background is in business, "I believe I was born an artist and have always had a need for expressing myself with pictures," says contemporary abstract artist Jacquie Gouveia, who cites natural landscapes and music as her two main sources for inspiration. "Color and the creative process are what really drives me to paint," she says. "I'm fascinated by how colors interact with each other and have the ability to create the essence of light or a mood. I'm also humbled by the creative process and how it offers me the chance to connect to something bigger than myself. My biggest hope and goal as an artist is that I will always have this relationship with making art and that I remember to appreciate the journey."

## TIBI HEGYESI

***WWW.TIBI.CA***

Using rich colors and depth of field to capture the world he sees around him, Toronto-based visual artist Tibi Hegyesi is never short on inspiration. "Life in all its complexity is the endless source of inspiration for me," he says. "There is a story worth telling about a place, a face, a state of mind and certainly about a smile. Even the most mundane act occurring in a person's life is part of a unique and intricate adventure that's worth telling or painting in my case. Interpreting and transferring these stories on canvas while evolving with each new piece I do is what's keeping me creating something new everyday." Hegyesi's personal approach has connected him to collectors near and far; his work can be found in in private and corporate collections in North America, Europe and the Far East and he regularly exhibits in art galleries and at art events in Canada, the U.S. and beyond.

## ABBIE KOZIK

***WWW.ABBIEKOZIK.COM***

At the heart of Abbie Kozik's art are two ideas: That there is beauty in resilience and survival. And that to recognize that beauty, we must also experience that which is ugly. To explore this dichotomy, Kozik draws inspiration from the balance between growth and destruction and beauty and ugliness in nature. "Events in nature are not random, but happen for a reason," says Kozik. "In looking at our world, we have to ask, 'What are we willing to see?'" Kozik's connection to the environment extends to her technique as well. "I hate to waste paint," she says. "When I'm done with a piece, I scrape off paint from the palette and, right then, another painting is developing. I smear these colors onto another canvas." In doing so, Kozik creates a one-of-a-kind layering technique that brings life and depth to her eco-conscious work.

## RAY LARSEN

***WWW.RAY-LARSEN.COM***

There are few creative techniques that Ray Larsen has not mastered. He's well-known for his lively paintings, sculptures and woodworking, as well as for the uniquely sculptured frames he creates for each of his pieces. "I love color," says the man who has been called the "Picasso of Florida." "I have to do everything in color. I dream in color, I work in color," Larsen's whimsical, tongue-in-cheek style has a language all its own, but it's one that Larsen says has taken a lifetime to evolve. When inspiration calls, Larsen is ready to answer. "[When] I get a sudden urge to make a new painting or sculpture, I can't wait," he says. "I have a preconceived idea, but the details emerge as I go along—shapes and colors juxtaposing almost intuitively."

## PATTY MILLER HANCOCK

***WWW.ARTEXPOSTUDIO.COM/PATTY-MILLER-HANCOCK***

They say that those who can't do teach. But in the case of Connecticut-born artist Patty Miller Hancock, she does both, claiming that having taught


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1. Anna Razumovskaya's *Aurora*
2. Nancy Forman's *Miles*
3. Abbie Kozik's *How Time Flies*
4. Daria Bagrintseva's *Kiss*
5. Jesse Michael Newman's *Gaea*
6. Gegham Aleksanyan's *Red Reflection*
7. Jacquie Gouveia's *October*
8. Eduard Anikonov's *Thirst*





1. Renee Brown's *Cleansing*
2. Tim Gagnon's *Gold Balance*
3. Scott Steele's *Vesuvio Bakery*
4. Ray Larsen's *The Card Game*







art to students aged two to 92 for 25 years ignited her "enthusiasm for exploring the reaches of my materials. I love combining technical knowledge with being surprised. I love visually defining fleeting moments of time, place and inner space," says the artist. Moving from Connecticut to rural Iowa inspired the artist's color palette. "Exactly the same colors I see while walking in the woods and on trails are in the natural oxides I use to create my natural oxide paintings on clay," she says. "Red oxide, raw sienna, burnt umber, rutile, chromium green, cobalt blue, yellow ochre..." Hancock's pieces burst with color and creativity.

## ANDREW MYERS

***WWW.ANDREWMYERSART.COM***

When it comes to his artwork, Andrew Myers says "Screw it." In his search for unique and modern materials, the Braunshweig, Germany-born and Ciudad Real, Spain-raised artist has created quite a stir with his screw art, where he utilizes those tiny foundations of construction to create incredibly detailed human portraits. Myers combines modern materials with classical figurative techniques and subjects with universal appeal to create a style that is all his own and has led to several public and private commissions. His work has been published in a variety of publications and recently took home the top prize in sculpture at the world-renowned Sausalito Arts Festival.

## JESSE MICHAEL NEWMAN

***WWW.JESSENEWMAN.COM***

Before taking an 18-month sabbatical to focus on his art, New York-based artist Jesse Michael Newman boasted a thriving career as a visual effects artist in the film and television industry. So it's not surprising that his approach to art is cutting-edge. "I aim to create art that is intrinsically beautiful (where it can be appreciated whether or not one knows the back story), future-proof (in terms of both craftsmanship and aesthetic timelessness) and layered with meaning," says Newman. Newman believes that *Rebirth of Gaea* (see pg. 39) is his best work. "It is an epic visual tapestry, delicately interweaving reflections on the environment and spirituality through the rich imagery of Greek Mythology," he says.

## ANNA RAZUMOVSKAYA

***WWW.ANNA-ART.COM***

"Modern" and "romantic" would be two words to describe the work of Anna Razumovskaya, whether it's a figurative, floral, landscape or portrait. Subtle lines, bright colors and elements of the abstract are the keys to Razumovskaya's unique style. But according to the artist herself, the artistic process "cannot be analyzed. It is like a miracle. You are just drawing and that is all... simply not thinking of anything definite. The moment you start thinking, that's it—unnecessary stroke, unnecessary detail. God knows how it all happens. Pleasure, passion [and] joy are characteristics of this process."

## LINDA SHINKLE RODNEY & THEODORE SHINKLE

***WWW.SHINKLEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM***

When they're not in the digital dark room, editing and fine-tuning their unique post-production process, Linda Shinkle Rodney and Theodore Shinkle—the mother-and-son team behind Shinkle Photography—can often be found snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, hiking, donning waders or boating, all in the name of finding their next subject. "Shapes, abstract and textural elements together with connectivity among shadows, reflections and light inspire our spontaneous and staged tableaux fine art photography," say the duo of their work, which displays an otherworldly view of nature and people. "Our process delivers a highly nuanced, stylized body of work [that evokes] an interpretive emotional response rather than a literal experience. Our entire artistic process—other than





1. Tibi Hegyesi's vision of New York City
2. Sylvie Bisson's *Time to Say Goodbye*
3. Sungmo Cho's *Along the Road*
4. Marta Wiley shows off her work






the location shoot—occurs in our studio, where we print limited editions on museum quality fine art paper, canvas and metal." Their work has been exhibited in galleries since 2004, published in magazines and shown in numerous national juried exhibitions.

## SCOTT STEELE

***WWW.SCOTTSTEELEGALLERY.COM***

"I paint in two distinctive styles," says self-taught artist Scott Steele. "The first style is photorealism, inspired by architectural street scenes and details that interest me. This was the first type of painting I became involved with, and was inspired by the time I spent traveling. I love urban architecture and life, and wanted to capture the beauty I saw." This love of travel—and the landscape that surrounds him in Northern Ontario—led Steele to his second style, abstract landscapes. "I try to capture the light, mood and feeling of different times of days and the different seasons in Ontario," he says. "I feel fortunate to have made my living as an artist over the past 15 years, and my goals would be to keep exploring the landscapes around me and express them in paintings."

## JENNIFER VRANES

***WWW.JENSART.COM***

As the popularity of color and texture continue to endure as two in-demand trends in art, demand for the paintings of Jennifer Vranes continues to rise. From soothing Aspen forests to magical European landscapes, Vranes' paintings contain that perfect combination of these two elements, and have led to her working being including in many public and corporate collections, such as the U.S. Embassies, Oregon State Capitol and medical centers in Irvine and Simi Valley, CA. They've also been collected by Red Sox player Fred Lynn, PGA star Justin Leonard and pitchman Anthony Sullivan. (Not to mention the fact that her work hangs in more than 30 top galleries around the world.) Vranes' trademarked technique of using a palette knife to "sculpt" in thick texture creates a three-dimensional illusion that allows viewers to step into her landscapes.

## MARTA G. WILEY

***WWW.MARTAWILEY.COM***

There's one thing that Marta Wiley wants you to know: "I am a Mexican-American and I am proud of it. Proud of being an American because it is the country... that gave me the opportunities to be who I am today and a country that believes in freedom of speech and artistic expression." Born in Coyocan, Mexico, Wiley had the unique opportunity to grow up and develop as an artist from a very young age within a diverse, cultural mecca—in the very same place where Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo lived and painted. Wiley was guided and supported in her artistic explorations by my her Grandmother—herself an accomplished artist, recognized by the Mexican government as a National Treasure. Wiley's early formative years were spent within Mexico, followed by Miami, Florida. Wiley has shown and sold work in galleries (nearly 300), museums and trade shows throughout the world, and her works have been published and licensed through a variety of major publishing companies. Wiley's publishing company, Marta G. Wiley Studios, gives her an outlet and vehicle for her substantial catalog of original art works (more than 9,000 and growing daily), music (100 original albums), books, installation works (such as sculpture, mosaics, murals and other mixed-media installations), apparel and other products and media. ABN

**Want to be considered for ABN's next lineup of 50 Emerging Artists? E-mail your info and accomplishments to: letters@artbusinessnews.com.**

# 25 MORE EMERGING ARTISTS



In the November/December issue of *ABN*, we introduced you to the first half of this year's Top 50 Emerging Artists. Here they are again…

***SARAH ALI • SARAH-ALI.COM •*** With bold brushstrokes and vibrant colors, Sarah Ali's intense and moving paintings offer a window into her emotions and provide her with a kind of therapy that no traditional medicine can offer.

***YISA AKINBOLAJI • YISAGALLERY.COM •*** From his native Nigeria to the University of North Dakota to his current home in Winnipeg, Canada, Yisa Akinbolaji sees art as one connected journey.

***TED ASNIS • TEDASNIS.COM •*** After a successful career as an architectural illustrator, Ted Asnis now devotes his full attention to painting the world he sees around him in his Hamptons home of Sag Harbor, New York

***MALENA ASSING • MALENAASSING.COM •*** Working in both figurative and abstract imagery, photographer Malena Assing uses light as a metaphor for joy; "I work with images `stolen' from the instants of life," she says.

***MICHAEL BEDOIAN • PEACEFULCOEXISTENCE.NET •*** After a life-changing experience left him contemplating suicide in 2006, Michael Bedoian found solace in communing with—and painting—the black bears that surround him in the mountains of western North Carolina.

***JEANNE BESSETTE • JEANNEBESSETTE.COM •*** After enjoying a decade-long career in photography, Jeanne Bessette could no longer ignore the creative itch that still burned within her and so she returned "home" to the canvas

***JAMES CALDWELL • JAMESARTIST.COM •*** Influenced in equal parts by his father, renowned landscape artist Jim Caldwell, and his own passion for cars, James Caldwell is elevating automotive art to new levels.

***CHARLES C. CARTER • ARTEXPOSTUDIO.COM •*** A native of Scottsdale, Arizona, Charles C. Carter's whimsical work is influenced by the native Arizonan Indian culture and Mexican folk art that surrounded him as a child—not to mention the abstract beauty of the Sonoran Desert.

***MINDY DONAHUE • MINDYDONAHUEFINEART.COM •*** By focusing on human subjects, watercolor painter Mindy Donahue captivates her audience and vicariously engages them in everyday interactions and emotions.

***LYNETTE JOEL • LYNETTEJOELDESIGNS.COM •*** Fine art. Judaica. Embroidery. Interior design. Stained glass. Clothing. Jewelry. Fabric. There are few art forms on which Johannesburg, South Africa native Lynette Joel hasn't successfully put her stamp.

***L. ERNESTO MONTERO • ERNESTOMONTERO.COM •*** The unspoken dialogue between artist and viewer is the central focus of abstract painter L. Ernesto Montero, who works to keep this conversation pure from the get-go by not premeditating anything about a new work until he first stands at the canvas.

***ROLAND MORIN • MORINFINEART.COM •*** Modern artist Roland Morin's positive outlook is apparent in his bright and lively color palette, which he applies to simplistic designs in order to create artwork that's a treat for the senses and can brighten up any space.

***KRISTEN R. NAUGLE • KRISTENRAYNAUGLE.COM •*** Kristen R. Naugle combines her love of realism with her knack for technical design to offer "beautiful images that create pause."

***KEN ORTON • KENORTONGALLERY.COM •*** If looking at Ken Orton's work from afar, you would swear that he was a talented photographer. But move a little closer and you'll realize that his classification as a photorealist painter is no typo—that's a painting you're seeing.

***TINA PALMER • TINAPALMERART.COM •*** Tina Palmer—whose work hangs in a model condo in New York City's Trump World Tower—has never limited her subject matter or style, jumping from painted hearts to tree-filled landscapes to her latest focus on umbrellas in everyday life.

***HANS PETERSEN • HANSPETERSENART.COM •*** Educated at the Royal Danish Academy of Art in Copenhagen, Hans Petersen was inspired by the CoBrA movement—an avant-garde art style based on spontaneity and experimentation—which still informs the artist's work today.

***LISA-ANNE REGO • LISAREGOART.COM •*** Though separated from her island home of Bermuda for more than two decades, the location's powerful lure never lost its grip on Lisa-Anne Rego, and it's that subject that inspires her work today.

***ILENE RICHARD • ILENERICHARD.COM •*** Like the importance of facial expressions in a live performance, Ilene Richard uses strong design, color and narrative to communicate a deeper story to her viewers, particularly the female ones.

***RICHARD RIVERIN • LABELLEIMAGE.ORG •*** Mixing abstract and impressionistic elements, Richard Riverin's uniquely heavy textures give his work a depth not often seen, creating a window into the artist's world for every viewer.

***CAROLINE ROVITHI • CAROLINE.GR •*** Though born in Germany, self-taught artist Caroline Rovithi now-resides in Athens, where she recently participated in the "1+25 artists" group show in honor of the 2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games and has taken part in Athens Fashion Week.

***SUZANNE STROCK • STROCKDESIGN.COM •*** Using her travels throughout Europe as well as the beauty found in her very own backyard of St. Augustine, Florida as her subject matter, Suzanne Strock says "I sometimes think of the great Henri Matisse when he said, 'I don't paint things, I only paint the difference between things.'"

***ANDREA VARDI • ARTEXPOSTUDIO.COM/ARTISTS/ANDREA-VARDI •*** An artist to the core, Andrea Vardi uses art as a way to share her life experiences. "For the past 15 years I have traveled extensively, particularly in Europe," she says. "I love to paint the feeling of each place... to evoke the colors and shapes of the individual countries and cities."

***KENT R. WALLIS • KENTWALLISART.COM •*** A full-time artist for more than 35 years now, self-taught artist Kent Wallis uses oil to explore the boundaries between Romantic realism and impressionism.

***HEATHER WHITESIDE • WHITESIDEART.COM •*** A professional artist for the past 20 years, Heather Whiteside has lived all over the world, and it shows in her work and penchant for cityscapes.

***YUMING ZHU • YUMINGFINEART.COM •*** Born in Shanghai, Yuming Zhu works in oils, pastels and Chinese watercolors—a unique blend of East meets West artistry that Zhu himself refers to as "transism," in reference to his constantly evolving interests.