

In a city where one of the primordial aspects for survival is constant *challenge*, these five artists are doing what any *New York* artists can only do so best, rapidly and *unapologetically* evolving.

Seeing your *true colors*.

PHOTOGRAPHER CAMERON KRONE WORDS BY MIGUEL FIGUEROA



JENNIE JIEUN LEE, MRS. THOMPSON'S MIRROR, 2015



EXPOSED SHOULDER VENT DRESS, AZEDE JEAN-PIERRE.



ARTWORKS FROM MRS. THOMPSON'S MIRROR, 2015



## Jennie Jieun Lee.

Jennie Jieun Lee's work is not your grandmother's ceramics. These are clay masks and vessels that challenge the rigidness of classical ceramics and morphs them into lifelike figures filled with grotesque rhythm. Visceral, unsettling, moody and relatable, Jieun Lee's work can be considered reflections on the simpler different rituals we endure daily like waiting for the bus, going to work, sitting in a dentist chair. For her, "there is a discrepancy between the face I put on the outside versus the internal emotions at times."

After suffering from a creative block for many years and agoraphobia, the Korean American artist was able to conquer her demons through meditation and thanks to her friends who would come meet with her and take her for walks. Also, "steady work came so that forced me to get me out of my zone." Jieun Lee's impressive oeuvre branches out from fine art to apparel and more affordable limited editions pieces.





BLACK SHIRT, ISABEL MARANT.  
DELTA JEANS, ISSEY MIYAKE.  
BLACK PUMPS, BRIAN ATWOOD.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
BECOME, 2015. MERGE, 2015. SYNTHESIS, 2015.



**What I *learned* in  
trying to paint in the new  
*landscape* I was living in  
was that painting was  
an act of *Love*.**

– Alyssa Monks –

## ***Alyssa Monks.***

Alyssa Monks presents strangely confrontational paintings of private moments that are often disregarded as just another instance in our checklist of life's daily chores. With dramatic, yet gentle brushstrokes, her obsession to detail is reminiscent to JMW Turner. Just as he showed the world a new vision of the industrial revolution, Monks paintings remind us to pay attention to the world through the mist of the digital revolution.

Her intention is to transfer the intimacy and vulnerability of human experience into the painted surface. For her, every brushstroke records gestures and decisions of cinematographic dimensions. When her mother passed away, Monks dove into her work for solace and in the process went through a transformative process herself. "What I learned in trying to paint in the new landscape I was living in was that painting was an act of Love." She continues, "It was no longer about finishing paintings, it was about getting lost and finding the resolution through experimentation that doesn't always succeed, but does often surprise." Through this process she was able to appreciate how much beauty was and "is right in front of me."



## Tali Lennox.

In an interview last Spring with the Observer, Tali Lennox, stated "I don't want to do things because it will please other people. I'm not doing this to get fame or any attention. I try to be selective about who I get advice from. I would like to contribute to the art world, but, you know, you can't plan these things." Fame, attention, or the fact that she's the daughter of one of the most important philanthropists/rock goddesses of the last thirty years, have played a part in getting Tali Lennox's name buzzing in the art world whether she likes it or not.

The 22 year old self-taught painter is making a name for all to herself in the scene for her self-portraits and other portraits of friends and models. Evoking the dark spirit of Francis Bacon with Anh Duong's sensual defiance of the self, Lennox recently had her first solo show in New York and has taken up residency in one of the hottest spaces for artists living and working in the city, The Brooklyn Navy Yard. Three years ago, I interviewed a then 19-year-old Lennox, who told me about her work, "I want to communicate honesty, the harsh reality and create an atmosphere that lets people know who I am today." In light of her recent tragic events, we hope that she will continue to create defiant work, better than ever.

NAVY BLAZER, DIESEL BLACK  
GOLD. NAVY PINSTRIPED TROUSERS  
AND WHITE TANK TOP, ALL BY  
MARYAM NASSIR ZADAH. BLACK  
FELT HAT, REINHARD PLANK.







BLACK SHIRT DRESS, **RODEJER**. WATCH, ARTIST'S OWN.



LIQUIFY GRID 3, 2015.

## Sara Cwynar.

Sara Cwynar's photographs take on Dutch paintings for a generation that grew up with eye-spy books. The Vancouver-born artist, who lives and works in Brooklyn, and was named an emerging photographer by the New Yorker in 2013, also creates photographic experiments of light and repetition that are reminiscent of early Blumenfeld. Last year, she published her *Kitsch Encyclopedia*; which brings together the writings of Milan Kundera, Ronald Barthes, Jean Baudrillard to formulate a relationship between kitsch and images.

Although she thinks that we live in a kitsch world, she stresses that "there are still so many things that are real and at stake, so it's more important than ever to think about Kitsch in order to cut through the layer of images that we live in." Cwynar, who does not consider herself a "cynical" person "at all", continues, "At the end of the day it's our lives and ways of life that are up for grabs, and that isn't kitsch at all." Cwynar believes that the ultimate representation of this ironic cult to poor taste in current times is the American presidential race. With Donald Trump as a presidential candidate, it doesn't get any more kitsch than that. We are living in the gaudiest - and scariest - of times.





## Francesca DiMattio.

JUMPSUIT AND PLATFORMS, ALL ARTIST'S OWN.

Although, 34 year-old Francesca DiMattio states that she remembers her dreams “almost every night”, surprisingly, according to her, don’t affect the work directly. Interested in the in-between spaces, like a true native New Yorker, she like things that are “difficult to pin down and a bit unstable.” And her work, a reaction against strict classical forms in the history of painting takes on a neo-cubistic and Baldessarian defiance in a world of vectors.

The artist, who studied at Cooper Union and Columbia University, has a futurist mentality of destroy-everything-you-know, “The state of dreams interests me more than the dreams themselves.” Through her oil paintings, where Japanese erotica silk screens interject with Lichtenstein and sculptures, DiMattio has found a new language where worlds of fear and fantasy converge, usually during a really good drug trip or, sorry DiMattio, deep in the stupor of sleep.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
IZNIK, 2015. DAMASK, 2012. FETISH SCULPTURE, 2015.



**JENNIE JIEUN LEE**  
FASHION EDITOR El Lewis  
PHOTO ASSISTANT Ryan Morris  
Here are photos from my recent show at Martos Gallery, Mrs. Thompson's Mirror. All photos courtesy of Martos Gallery.

**ALYSSA MONKS**  
FASHION EDITOR El Lewis  
HAIR Yuhi  
MAKE-UP Miguel Uledo at Artlist  
PHOTO ASSISTANT Ryan Morris  
Artwork courtesy the artist.

**SARA CWYNAR**  
FASHION EDITOR El Lewis  
HAIR Yuhi  
MAKE-UP Miguel Uledo at Artlist  
PHOTO ASSISTANT Ryan Morris  
Artwork courtesy the artist and Foxy Production, New York.

**TALI LENNOX**  
FASHION EDITOR Caitlyn Leary  
HAIR & MAKE UP Allie Smith  
at Sarah Laird  
PHOTO ASSISTANT Ryan Morris  
Interview was conducted in June, 2015.

**FRANCESCA DIMATTIO**  
FASHION EDITOR Sarah Cobb  
HAIR & MAKE-UP Munemi  
at Honey Artist  
PHOTO ASSISTANT Ryan Morris  
Artwork courtesy the artist.