



Emily McDermott, "10 Female Artists to Watch," *Elle*, May 9, 2017

ELLE

# 10 Female Artists to Watch

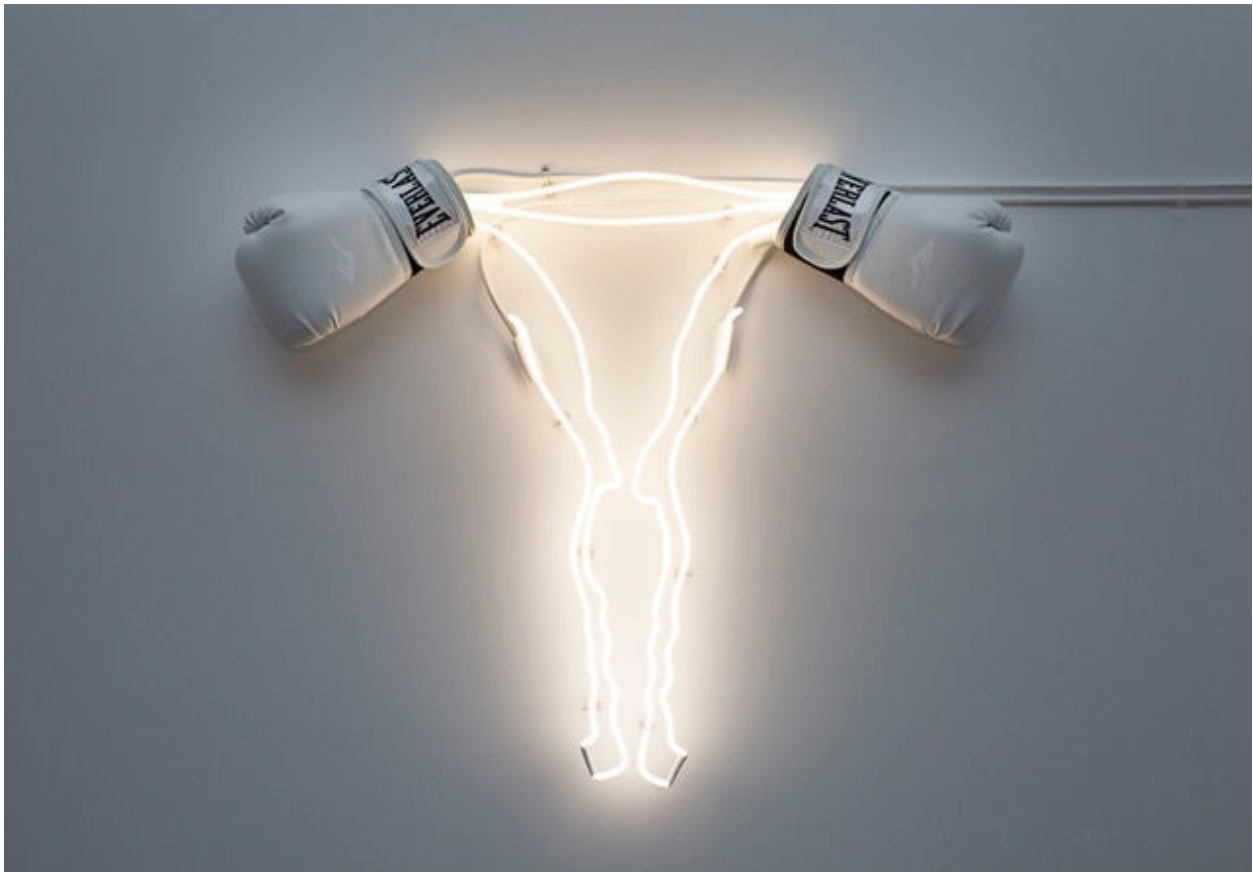
These are the art stars to know.

BY EMILY MCDERMOTT MAY 9, 2017

From the 57th Venice Biennale to Documenta 14 and Skulptur Project Münster, the art world has a hectic few months coming up. These major events, which are held only once every two, five, and 10 years, respectively, will happen this spring and summer. And before artists, collectors, curators, and writers jet off to Venice for the opening of the Biennale later this month, they will have descended upon New York City for multiple art fairs.

During the past few months, we've kept an eye on women who are making art in response to their experiences, shining a light on racism, bodies, motherhood, and so much more. Here are 10 female artists we think you should know.

## Zoë Buckman



'CHAMPION,' 2015  
COURTESY OF ZOË BUCKMAN



In 2015, the British artist Zoë Buckman exhibited a series of works titled *Present Life*, which included her placenta, preserved through a process called plastination. Last year, Buckman, who works with neon, sculpture, photography, and more, grabbed our attention with her neon sculpture of a uterus, which put boxing gloves in the place of ovaries, as well as her embroidered lingerie from the series *Every Curve* (one piece reads: "I swear I'll never call you Bitch again"). Buckman currently has work on view in a group exhibition at Fort Gansevoort in New York.

## Lady Skollie

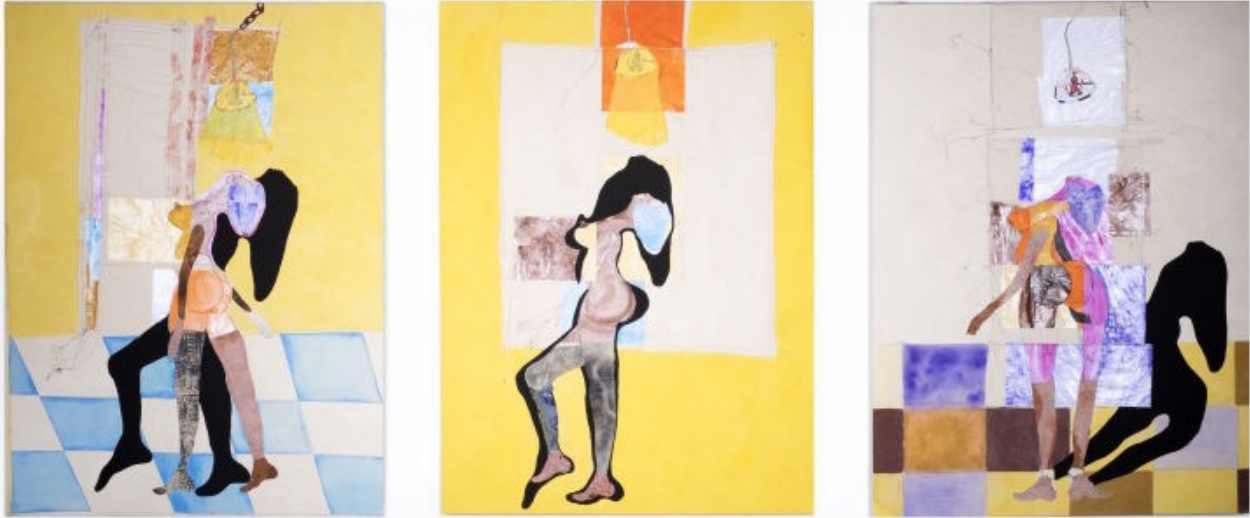


'Passion Gap a self portrait of the artist wrestling with her daddy issues; reaching misguidedly for the validation of men,' 2016  
COURTESY OF TYBURN GALLERY

Laura Windvogel produces work under the name Lady Skollie. She's based in Johannesburg, where she creates playfully sexual paintings using ink, watercolor, and crayon. Lady Skollie made her U.K. debut earlier this year at Tyburn Gallery in London with the exhibition *Lust Politics*, in which her images depicted suggestive and symbolic fruit among brightly colored nude figures. Through her art and in her *Kiss & Tell* podcast, Lady Skollie tackles subjects such as sex, pleasure, and consent.



## Tschabalala Self



L-R: 'Chandelier 1,' 'Chandelier 2,' 'Chandelier 3,' 2017  
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND THIERRY GOLDBERG GALLERY

Recently included in Forbes' annual "30 Under 30" list, Tschabalala Self is on the rise. According to art-world superstar Jeffrey Deitch, Self's paint, fabric, and patchwork collages outshone works by Andy Warhol and Jeff Koons in a group exhibition presented during Art Basel Miami Beach in December. Born in Harlem and now based between New York and New Haven, Connecticut, Self focuses her artistic practice on "the iconographic significance of the Black female body in contemporary culture" and examining the intersectionality of race, gender, and sexuality. She has said that her contribution to confronting sexism and racism is showing a "real spectrum of human emotion."



Mira Dancy



'QBS Shadow Bloom,' 2016  
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND NIGHT GALLERY

Mira Dancy has generated a lot of buzz over the last few years, and her vibrant artistic output hasn't ceased. So if you aren't already familiar with her larger-than-life paintings—often of nude female figures dancing between canvases—then now is the time to take a look. Using fluorescent pinks, purples, and blues, Dancy depicts women in utopian landscapes and imaginary settings, free from all men. She presents paintings on varied surfaces, from canvas to Plexiglas, and has also used other materials, like neon and printed vinyl. Her poetic figures address a wide range of subject matter, including motherhood and sexual assault.



## Sara Rahbar



'Unraveling,' 2016  
COURTESY OF SARA RAHBAR

Sara Rahbar's work is largely autobiographical, drawing from personal memories. Born in Tehran, Rahbar fled the country with her family at the onset of the Iranian Revolution. Although she now lives and works in New York, her early experiences are invoked in many of her sculptures, installations, and photographs, which confront suffering, nationalism, and history. Currently on view at Carbon 12 gallery in Dubai are her bronze sculptures of disembodied limbs, some with curled toes and clenched fists, which speak to unspecified acts of violence.

## Elizabeth Jaeger



'Pommel,' 2017  
COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND JACK HANLEY GALLERY

Elizabeth Jaeger's sexually charged sculptures frequently explore her interest in domesticity and human presence. She made one of her earlier works, *Serving Vessels* (2013), after a photographer took a photo of her that differed from the original concept and used it, even after she asked him not to. Jaeger reclaimed the situation through a sculpture of a nude woman sitting atop a glass-and-metal shelving unit that holds an assortment of vases. In addition to her artwork, Jaeger also co-owns and operates the publishing group Peradam.



## Natalie Frank



'Dancer I,' 2016-7  
COURTESY OF NATALIE FRANK

Whether the subject matter is characters from unsanitized versions of Grimm's fairy tales or abstracted nudes, Natalie Frank paints the female figure with unapologetic brute strength. In June, at Rhona Hoffman Gallery in Chicago, she will show a new series of paintings based on dominatrixes she met and photographed. More recently, she also collaborated with Zoë Buckman on a large-scale mural promoting women's rights. The pair compiled and reproduced quotes from politicians about women's bodies on a wall at the Ford Foundation Live Gallery at New York Live Arts.

## Stephanie Sarley



Stephanie Sarley is something of an internet sensation. On her Instagram, she exploits every sexual innuendo that fruits and vegetables could possibly express. In one video, her finger tenderly caresses half of a clementine until it squirts. In another, her hand grips a banana, shifting up and down, until she squeezes too tightly and half of the banana topples off. And, perhaps not for the fainter of heart, she violently slices a carrot with one swift stroke of a knife and shaves the skin of a cucumber. Sarley also designs cheekily graphic coloring books that are for sale on her website.

'Fake President,' 2017  
COURTESY OF STEPHANIE SARLEY



Trollkrem



Trollkrem fanposter. Concept, art direction and throne by Trollkrem.  
Photographer: Tove Sivertsen. Logo by Luke Libera Moore.  
COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

Together Jennie Hagevik Bringaker and Tor Erik Bøe are the Norwegian performance art duo Trollkrem. Although the name sounds like it could be entirely mythical and mysterious, it is, in fact, a traditional dessert made of lingonberries and egg whites. The duo is quick to note, however, that the dessert is about the same color as sperm mixing with blood. Through evocative performances, Trollkrem twists gender stereotypes, aiming to create new images and representations of what the words "woman," "man," "mother," and "lover" can mean. In June, they will present a new video and installation at the biennial Momentum 9 in Moss, Norway.



## Kandis Williams



'Esophagus Pin Up,' 2016

COURTESY OF KANDIS WILLIAMS AND NIGHT GALLERY

Kandis Williams' artistic practice often confronts themes of race, femininity, and psychology. She is known for creating large-scale black-and-white collages, but she also incorporates drawing, performance, choreography, and photography into her work. The way she splices images of the human body, layering and appropriating limbs, draws attention to the functions of flesh. A viewer might see fighting figures or heads floating in abstract landscapes—all bringing attention to the qualities of human interactions and presence in specific spaces.