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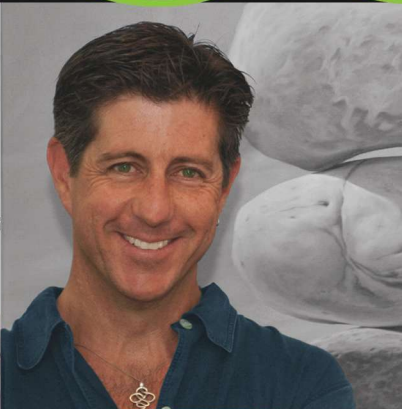
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TOP 50



EMERGING ARTISTS



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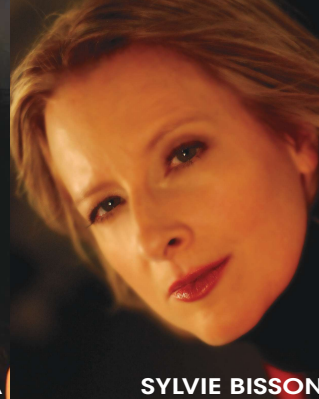
GEGHAM ALEKSANYAN



EDUARD ANIKONOV



DARIA BAGRINTSEVA



SYLVIE BISSON



PAUL BOND



CATHERINE CHIARA



SUNGMO CHO



CHRIS DELLORCO



NANCY FORMAN



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

BY JENNIFER M. WOOD

ABN

EMERGING ARTISTS 2012

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 Russia'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 BISSONWWW.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 BONDWWW.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 BROWNWWW.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 CHIARAWWW.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 CHOWWW.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 DELLORCOWWW.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" FORMANWWW.JUNIPERWINNDESIGNS.COM

While it's 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. 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



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

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 pitcher 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

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.