

Art of the City: Who Are Biggest Artistic Talents in Cities Across America?

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MIAMI - JILLIAN MAYER



Visual performance artist and filmmaker Jillian Mayer. INSET: Her Ocean Drive cover.

In this unique, inaugural Art of The City section, we spotlight and celebrate the freshest, boldest artistic talent from each of the 11 cities in which we publish. From Aspen to Washington, DC; LA to NYC; and for art connoisseurs and enthusiastic voyeurs alike, we're delighted to reveal the diversity and richness of America's emerging artists with in-depth profiles and a rare glimpse into the creation of their portfolios. Be sure to pick up our magazines when you visit our cities for the complete story on each of our featured artists (and how to support them)—together, they make a compelling collection.

Jillian Mayer's first computer was on the bedroom floor; she spent hours in front of it, her body folded over in some parody of prayer. "The computer is your shrine," she says. "Think of the halo, Byzantine gold leaf—it's now the glow of the screen." Mayer, who works with anything from video to photos to other peoples' pornography, has thrown our search history back in our faces, showing us who we are. And while you can find it on YouTube, her art is just as likely to be projected on the exterior of the Guggenheim, at Sundance, or on the streets of Montreal.

By the time she graduated from Florida International University in 2007, followed by an internship at the nonprofit Locust Projects, she'd had a full introduction to Miami's art scene and become a favorite among those "in the know." Her comic yet disturbing short film, *I Am Your Grandma*, at once a message to her unborn grandchildren and a study in meme psychology, garnered more than 3 million views on YouTube, but it was her *400 Nudes*, an art installation of both digitally and physically altered images, at the 2014 Montreal Biennial that received real notoriety. For *Nudes*, Mayer downloaded 400 nude selves from around the Internet, Photoshopped her face onto them, and recirculated the images online at 400nudes.com, a site created especially for the project (tagged with search terms such as "revenge porn") and on card stock around Montreal. The piece nimbly debates sexual politics and rights of representation and privacy as the online world proliferates. "These are the things I think about—the state of identity, the state of existence," she says.