

TO WATCH

*Learn the names
of these artists,
soon to be on the lips
of tastemakers everywhere.*

BY CHRISSY CRAWFORD

As an art collector, I love when pieces in my home captivate guests, the kind of pieces that make you forget about the sofa and the rug and whatever else is in the room and go, "Wow!" As an art advisor, I guide my clients through the tricky world of art investment. When they're unsure about a new artist's work, I always offer three criteria to consider. First, they must know and trust the dealer—they must determine whether she's a tastemaker, has good relationships with top collectors and institutions, and whether she's launched other artists' careers. Next: Is there a secondary market for the artist's work? Can it, in other words, be resold at a later date? Third—and most important—do they like the work? Does it speak to them? Can they imagine living with it for a long time, and will it remain interesting to them?

For me, the eight artists I've chosen here—poised on the cusp of art-world stardom—easily tick off all these boxes. All are represented by galleries with indisputable taste or top dealers with stellar track records. These men and women of all stripes and colors, from diverse backgrounds and working in every medium—from painting to drawing, sculpture to photography, and beyond—create art with a strong point of view, works of beauty and pieces that push boundaries and spark discussion. And perhaps most critically, in my dual roles as collector and advisor, I would be thrilled to display any of these artists in my home and hear more of those "Wows."

SHINIQUE SMITH

BORN 1971 in Baltimore
BASED IN Marletown, NY
shiniquesmith.com

"I feel best when I can stand in a place where I'm vulnerable and hold my ground."

A few years back, I curated one of Shinique Smith's pieces—it was a perfectly formed bundle of discarded clothes and blankets wrapped with rope. Smith's intelligent, timely paintings and sculptures center around consumer waste in a culture of fast fashion and easy replacements. "I think the consumerism, the clothing, the trappings, the shedding skins, the little bits, make us who we are," she says. "I try to string it all together." Smith's work has been exhibited in top venues from The Museum of Fine Arts Boston, to the Brooklyn Museum, to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, to name just a few.



By the Light, 2013
Ink, acrylic, fabric and paper collage,
and objects on canvas over wood panel
84" x 60" x 2.5"

