

ARTnews

Who Will Shape the Art World in 2021?: ARTnews Presents ‘The Deciders’

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Who and what determines what counts as art in the year to come—and for the sake of the future farther out on the horizon? Artists, curators, gallerists, museum directors, auction specialists, social and political activists—the cast of active players in the art world is eclectic and diverse. And then there are the institutions that help give that cast a pedestal or a stage. For our second issue dedicated to Deciders, the editors of *ARTnews* looked to the present in an attempt to foresee what’s yet to come in a year with a lot on the line.

NXTHVN



Vaughn Spann, *Beach Side*, 2019.

When artist Vaughn Spann became a fellow in 2019 at NXTHVN, an art center in New Haven, Connecticut, his name was not familiar to many in the art world. Since then, his presence has grown more and more inescapable through representation at Almine Rech, a network with five locations around the world, and shows at closely watched galleries (Night Gallery in Los Angeles, David Castillo in Miami, Kaikai Kiki in Tokyo).

Spann is one of many success stories seeded at NXTHVN—founded in 2017 by artist Titus Kaphar in collaboration with Jason Price and Jonathan Brand—which offers apprenticeships, work spaces, and exhibitions that provide a pipeline for young emerging artists. Price said that when NXTHVN was launched, he and the other founders asked a question: “How do you create environments for collaboration and trust—but in my own backyard, for the benefit of NXTHVN and the artists?” The operation now attracts major financial supporters—including mega-gallery Gagosian, which, when it started representing Kaphar in 2020, also began endowing NXTHVN apprenticeships and having Gagosian gallery directors mentor NXTHVN fellows. —*Alex Greenberger*