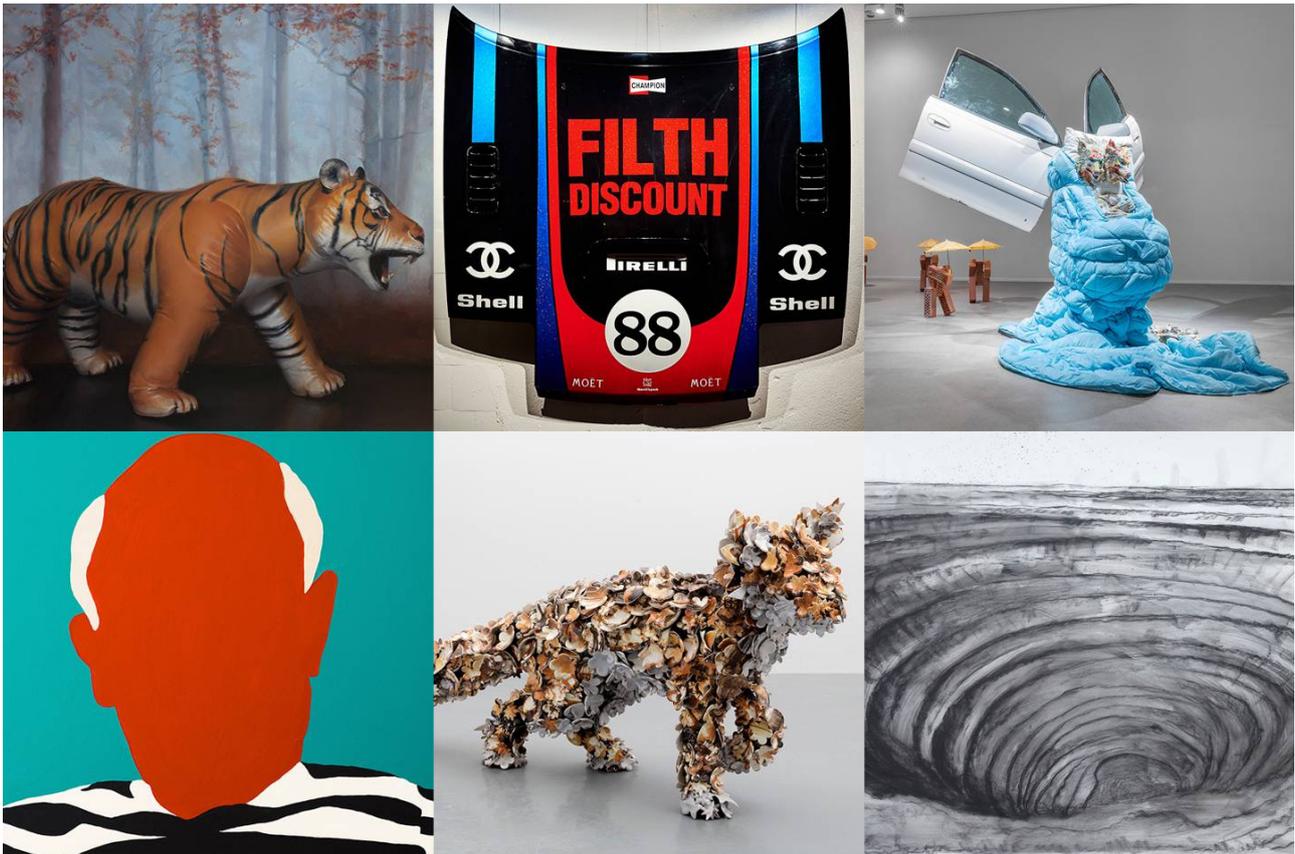


10 of the best artists working today

Searching for the next Picasso, Pollock or Hockney to invest in? We select the 10 best artists around today.



BY
FLORENCE
WALKER

Monday 24
September
2018

According to Picasso, it took him four years to paint like Raphael but a lifetime to learn how to paint like a child. An untrained eye cast over 'Nude, Green Leaves and Bust' might wonder how its simple lines and poster paint colours could command a record breaking price-tag of \$106.5 million, racked up in eight minutes at auction. And now that Pablo and co. have well and truly freed art from its shackles, the layman might well struggle to discern a true contemporary masterpiece from what a kid could knock out in fourth period after milk and biscuits.

So let our guide help you pick out the best artists making the Unmade Beds (not to be confused with the cleaners leaving coke cans in galleries) - before they get too big for their own easels. The following talents have found their own freedom to create on whatever they deem to be a canvas, be it stretched linen, the floor or a Jaguar E-Type. Grab 'em while they're fresh - and affordable.



Barnaby Barford

Born 1977. Lives and works in London, UK

Working primarily in ceramic and works-on-paper, this Royal Academy of Art graduate's work explores the human condition with irreverent wit and satire. His 2013 solo exhibition "The Seven Deadly Sins" looked at what sin means to the modern mind by making a series of sculptural mirrors in ceramic. His 2016 solo exhibition, "ME WANT NOW" and his 2015 work 'Tower of Babel' - a sixty metre tower of 3000 miniature shops made from bone china shown at the V&A - explored our obsession with celebrity, privilege, and consuming. Barford's love of London is juxtaposed with the uncomfortable truth that a desire for more is precisely what built the capital. Barford hopes that his piece opened up a conversation about whether our own love of London has left us not as citizens but as mindless consumers.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVID GILL GALLERY