

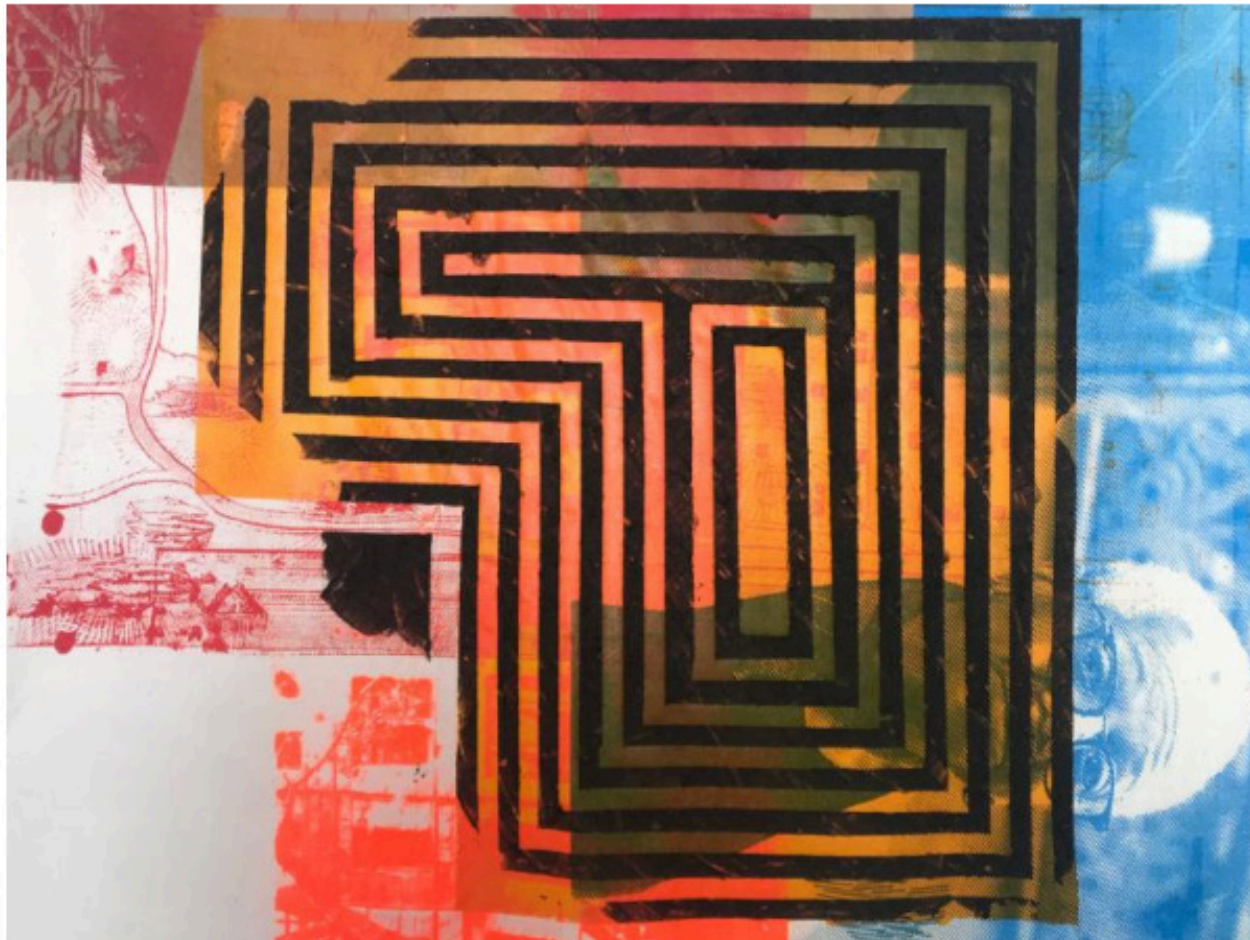
artnet news

People

Which Emerging Artist Dominated 2019? 12 Art-World Players Share Their Thoughts

Which artists commanded the spotlight in 2019?

Artnet News, December 21, 2019



Tomashi Jackson. Courtesy of Tilton Gallery.

There is never any shortage of cutting-edge work by rising art stars to get your fill of, and this year was no exception. With so much material to wade through, we asked curators and other art experts to tell us which names dominated 2019 and are worth keeping an eye on as we head into the new year. Below, 12 experts share their thoughts.

Kelly Akashi



Kelly Akashi, *Flowing Figure (Hooked)* (detail) (2019). Courtesy of the artist, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York and François Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles.

With her materially dynamic and elegiac exhibition last year at François Ghebaly in Los Angeles and three residencies—at ARCH Athens, the Ojai Institute, and Headlands Center for the Arts—LA-based artist Kelly Akashi had a busy and exciting year in 2019. Her practice, which is both conceptually rigorous and seductively handmade, considers enduring themes which feel especially resonant in this moment: entropy, deterioration, and the capacity and fragility of the natural environment and the human form. The year ahead includes various notable exhibition projects, including Kelly’s first solo gallery show in New York (opening in February at Tanya Bonakdar), a project at the Aspen Art Museum (opening in March), and a new outdoor commission at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts (opening this summer), all of which will no doubt catalyze new developments in her work and her audience.

—Molly Epstein, curator and art advisor

“Which Emerging Artist Dominated 2019? 12 Art-World Players Share Their Thoughts” *Artnet news*, December 21, 2019.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/breakout-artists-2019-1710882>