

## 4 Contemporary Female Artists Who Are Shaping The Future Of Painting

By Priscilla Frank

The year 1913 forever changed the trajectory of painting. Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque were spreading the Cubist gospel, transforming the public's understanding of not only painting, but of seeing. In the same year, Marcel Duchamp's "Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2" premiered at the Armory Show, taking abstraction to new heights. These artists did away with the assumption that paintings should mirror reality, embarking on a modernist and post-modernist journey through the myriad possibilities of pure paint.

If it isn't obvious already, these artists were all men. Thus we were ecstatic to discover an exhibition, on view exactly 100 years after Picasso and company's iconic year, devoted to contemporary painters reacting to history while pushing the field forward. An exhibition that is comprised entirely of female artists.

Galerie Protégé's "Currently Untitled" features four painters, each with a distinct language of shape, color, texture and form. While remaining engaged in dialogue with artists past, the selected women also fight for a relevant future of the medium. Like a form of time travel, the paintings below activate the art historical canon and remix their findings, each creating a distinct vision of contemporary communication as mediated through pigment.



Amanda Valdez *Worry About Yourself*, 2013 Embroidery, fabric, thread 24 X 26 in

Behold, four female artists shaping the field of contemporary painting.

1. Amanda Valdez

"I think about what the body feels: extreme pleasure and pain," Valdez writes in her artist statement. Sharp divisions and enigmatic paradoxes gain visual bodies in Valdez' work, comprised of harsh edges and tight colored strings. There is a physical aftertaste to the paintings despite their angular abstraction, which only furthers the works' inherent oppositions.

2. Danielle Orchard ...

3. Genesis Belanger ...

4. Justine Hill ...

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