



**"IF I'M FEELING HYPED, THEN IT'S TIME TO DECONSTRUCT OR DO A DRAWING."**

## Creative Time

*A glimpse of artist Titus Kaphar's upcoming exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum.*

**IN THE STUDIO** For the past year, 32-year-old artist Titus Kaphar has been prepping for "History in the Making," his solo exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum, opening April 3. The painter recently purchased a house in Connecticut, where he earned his M.F.A. from Yale, and renovated his garage into a studio space. He and his wife also just welcomed their second son into the world. These days, keeping work close to home is a priority because Kaphar is a family man on a tight schedule. STEVEN PSYLLOS

photography ELIZABETH WEINBERG

### THE SETUP

• "This is my first solo show of this size. A year ago, they flew me out to see the space and we talked about the setup. Then I figured out what works best: Just *make* the work and stop *thinking*."

### LETTING GO

• Kaphar relied heavily on curator Sandra Jackson-Dumont. "You have to work with someone you trust. You have to have a good idea of their vision because then you can let them do that."

### NEGOTIATION

• "Four months ago, Sandra came to narrow down what would be included." Some selections were obvious, while others were not. "There's a piece that I had to pull out. I have conversations with it, like, 'You figure out what you want yet?' and it's not saying. So I'm waiting. [I also ended up] including things I never intended on showing."

### METHODOLOGY

• Kaphar's work is more than painted canvases—he shreds them, crumples them into balls and stitches them together. "If I'm feeling hyped, then it's time to deconstruct or do a drawing. If I've got that focused energy, then it's time to paint."

### TIME MANAGEMENT

• With a small family and a budding career, Kaphar doesn't play. "I get up at 5:30 A.M.—my newborn doesn't sleep—then I get my two-year-old up at 7:00 A.M., make breakfast. At 9:30 A.M., I come into the studio and I'm here until 7:00 P.M. All that romantic 'Ah, I gotta wait to be inspired' kind of thing is gone."

