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NEXT MOST COLLECTIBLE ARTISTS



⊕ TALA MADANI

Born in Tehran, trained at Yale, and now living and working in Los Angeles, Madani is among an ever-growing faction of young female painters who are expanding the boundaries of the medium with a style and a language of their own. "It's this really wonderful, painterly treatment of humanistic and cross-cultural moments that can be rough and raw and quite dynamic," says Phillips specialist and former New Museum curator Benjamin Godsill. "We're seeing a lot of interest in the work." Madani exhibits with Pilar Corrias, in London, and last year her work was the subject of solo exhibitions at the Nottingham Contemporary, in the U.K., and Moderna Museet, in Malmö, Sweden. Her paintings are "just starting to peek into the secondary market," Godsill adds. "The top pieces are commanding very respectable prices and interest from very respectable parties." Prices realized at auction range from \$9,375 to nearly \$40,000. **-RW** | *SUN WORSHIP*, 2012. OIL ON LINEN, 68 X 66 IN.

⊕ KRIS MARTIN

Don't be fooled by the prankster performances, such as smashing and reconfiguring the same object each time it is exhibited, as he has done with a seven-foot-tall reproduction Ming vase. Martin's conceptual work seriously probes the cerebral and profound. Discovered by countryman and curator Jan Hoet in 2001, the Belgian architect-turned-artist became an art fair darling after insisting on a moment of silence at 2007's Frieze London, causing an actual hush on the typically cacophonous festival floor. "Collectors are attracted by the strong conceptual basis combined with witty and often unexpected forms," says Daniel von Schacky, a contemporary art specialist at the Berlin auction house Villa Grisebach. At the Armory Show booth of Düsseldorf's Sies + Höke gallery, Martin's *Festum*, 2010, made with more than 200 found Christ figurines, sold for \$50,000. **-SM** | *VASE*, 2005. CHINESE PORCELAIN AND GLUE, 88½ INCHES HIGH.

⊕ JASON MARTIN

Mining the very plasticity of paint, this 43-year-old Brit renders luminous, seemingly effortless compositions. "They are soothing and spiritual," says L.A. Louver director Kimberly Davis, "and at a time filled with anxiety, people enjoy living with them." Large-scale paintings range from £50,000 to £95,000 (\$77-147,000), and Martin's six international dealers, including London's Lisson Gallery, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac in Paris, Galerie Forsblom, in Helsinki, Madrid's Galería Javier López, and Anima in Qatar, maintain this rate in sterling. His auction sales are in line with the primary market—*Thresh*, 2007, sold last year at Christie's London for £61,250 (\$97,000) on an estimate of £35,000 to £55,000 (\$56-87,000)—but, according to Davis, collectors seem reluctant to part with the best pieces. Martin's work is regularly seen on the fair circuit: Lisson released *Boadicea* for £70,000 (\$105,771) at the Armory Show in March. **-DW** | *DUVALIER*, 2013. OIL ON ALUMINUM, 69 INCHES IN DIAMETER.



⊕ JULIE MEHRETU

One of the few female artists to break the million-dollar mark at auction—*The Seven Acts of Mercy*, 2004, sold for \$2.3 million at Sotheby's New York in 2010—the Ethiopia-born, New York-based artist is an established market favorite and a perennial good buy. Her often large-scale work, much of it blending architectural imagery and energetic abstraction, has an international following, says Alexander Branczik, head of contemporary art at Sotheby's London. In fact, the house offered her characteristic *Rising Down*, 2008, at its contemporary art auction last April in Doha, where the 8-by-12-foot painting met its high estimate with a price of \$3,077,000. Mehretu is represented by Marian Goodman in Paris and New York and White Cube in London; past solo exhibitions include the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Opera House, and the Guggenheim Museum. She appeared in Documenta 13. **-RW** | *RISING DOWN*, 2008. INK AND SYNTHETIC POLYMER PAINT ON CANVAS, 8 X 12 FT.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOSHUA WHITE; TALA MADANI; AND PILAR CORRIAS; LONDON; L.A. LOUVER; VENICE; CALIFORNIA; SOTHEBY'S; ACHIM KUKULES AND SIES + HÖKE; DÜSSELDORF