



MICHAEL BILSBOROUGH

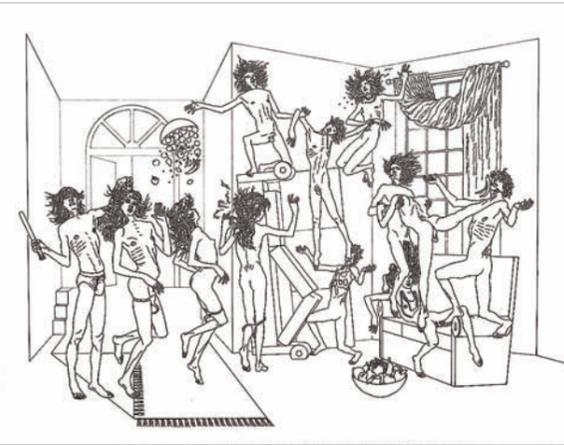
Based in: New York City

Type of art: Drawing

What has been the highlight of your career so far? One long, hot night with Jasper Johns.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? Franz Schubert.

What are you currently working on now? My Halloween costume.



HANNA LIDEN

Based in: New York City

Type of art: Photography

What has been the highlight of your career so far? The Whitney Biennial in 2006.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? Werner Herzog.

What are you currently working on now? A horror film script, some photo-based collages, a book, and new photographs.



MICHAEL BILSBOROUGH, "HEART OF GLASS", 2008

AUREL SCHMIDT, "BARF BUCKET BOYFRIEND", 2008; HANNA LIDEN, "EIGHT ARE YOU ARE NOTHING TO ME, YOU ARE LIKE AIR", 2008. COURTESY OF RIVINGTON ARTS.

YOUNG BLOODS

They are ambitious, full of ideas, and exploding with energy. These young artists are proving their creativity with recognized projects, and are all on the verge of becoming the next big thing

Photography by Kai Regan



AUREL SCHMIDT

Based in: New York City

Type of art: Drawing

What has been the highlight of your career so far? I don't know yet! I have my biggest show to date at Deitch Projects in a couple weeks. It will already have happened by the time this interview comes out. Right now I am not even close to done and losing my mind! If it turns out well it could be the biggest highlight so far, but if it sucks it will be my deepest darkest lowlight! You in the future already know, me here in the past can only cross my fingers, drink Chinese good luck serum and work 17 hours a day until the opening!

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? The art section at the public library in my hometown of Kamloops, British Columbia. It wasn't very big but those books changed my life. There was light at the end of the tunnel and I was going to find it.

What are you currently working on now? Still lifes.



BRENDAN FERNANDES

Based in: New York City and Toronto
Type of art: Video and Sculptural Installation

What has been the highlight of your career so far? Living in New York City would have to be the highlight of my artistic career thus far. I love being in this city and while being here I have participated in the Whitney ISP and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Work Space Residency. These have given me the opportunity to make art full time where I am able to exhibit internationally.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? My biggest artist inspiration would have to be my mother. She has taught me to be ambitious and to go for my goals, but always in a modest way. She supports me always. Also, I would have to say David Hammons. His use of cultural objects mixed with ready-mades create nuanced and sophisticated sculptures and installations that question identity in playful yet powerful way.

What are you currently working on now? I am currently working on a new video project. The piece is a short narrative work which accounts the ideas of what I have become since leaving Kenya, the place of my birth. In the work I am writing a letter to my so-called "motherland", but I am also making reference to my caregiver, the woman who looked after me while I lived there. The video will juxtapose appropriated footage of Massai warriors dancing with images of models walking the catwalk.



BRENDAN FERNANDES, "NEO-PRIMITIVISM I", 2007. PHOTO BY: GUY CHENUEUX; HANK WILLIS THOMAS, "BLACK POWER", 2008.

NICO DIOS

Based in: New York City
Type of art: I make whatever the idea requires.

What has been the highlight of your career so far? This very moment, it keeps getting better.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? Aleister Crowley, L.Ron Hubbard, and David Bowie.

What are you currently working on now? A vicious rumor.



NICO DIOS, "UNTITLED", 2005; DONNA HUANCA, "ALBERT HOFFMAN AS THE CHANGING", 2008. COURTESY OF ROAMING.COM.

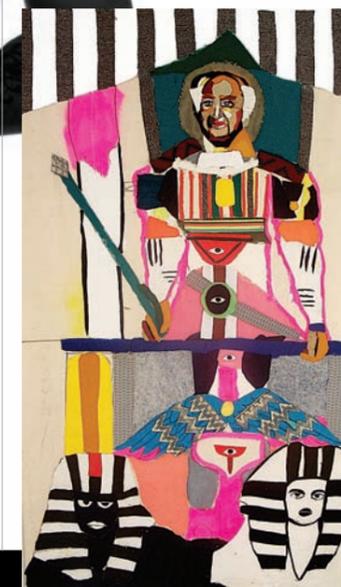
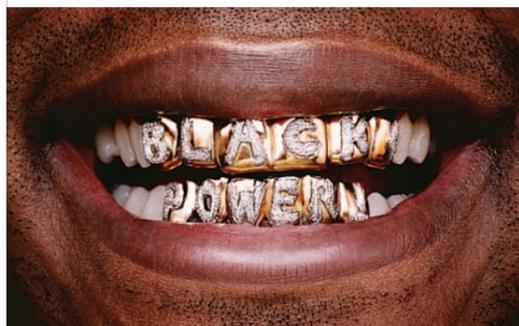
HANK WILLIS THOMAS

Based in: San Francisco Bay Area and New York City
Type of art: Installation and Performance

What has been the highlight of your career so far? My new book, *Pitch Blackness*, which is published by Aperture and due out this Fall.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? Deborah Willis, Ph.D., who is an artist, curator, writer, professor and a great mom!

What are you currently working on now? I have a show coming up in February at Jack Shainman Gallery and one in May at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Both shows require different work, so I am working on getting my life in order so I can have enough clarity of vision to knock them both out of the park.



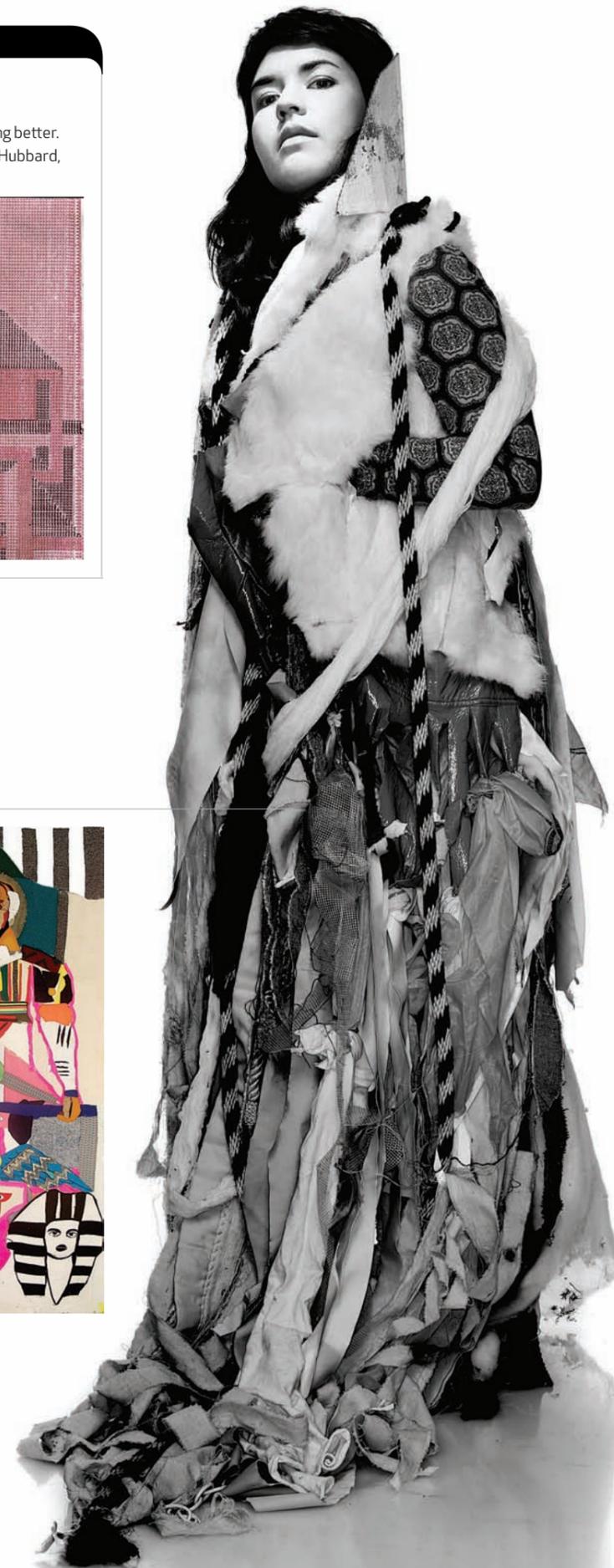
DONNA HUANCA

Based in: Nomadic
Type of art: Installation and Performance

What has been the highlight of your career so far? Owning my time.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? My deceased dog, Zoe Huanca.

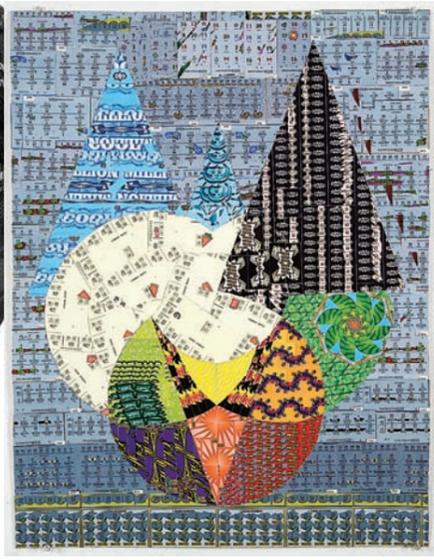
What are you currently working on now? Various approaches to alchemy.





KON TRUBKOVICH

Based in: New York City
Type of art: Painting, Drawing, and Video
What has been the highlight of your career so far? It's been pretty exiting all along.
Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? Bob Fosse.
What are you currently working on now? I am making new paintings of vanity plates.



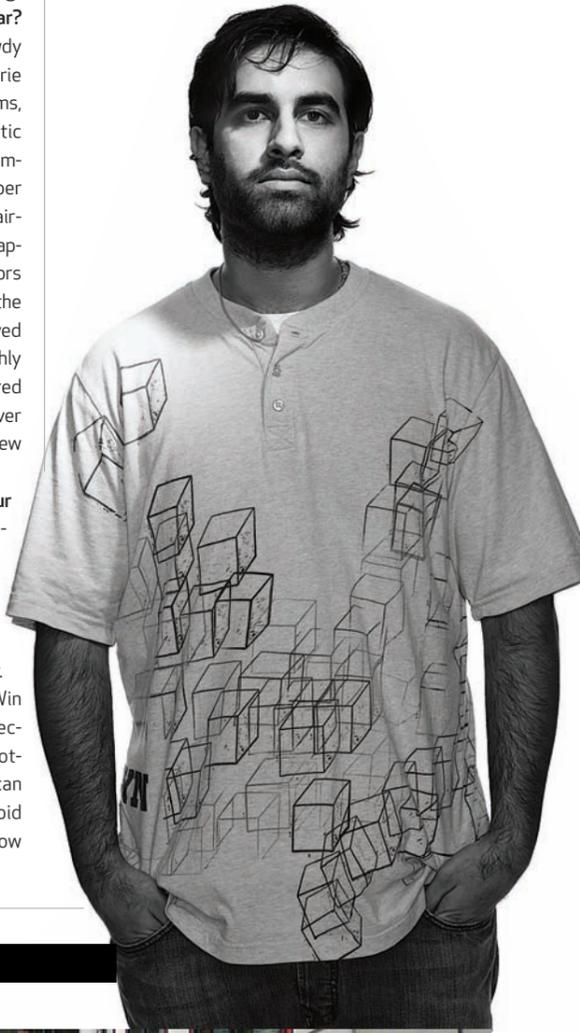
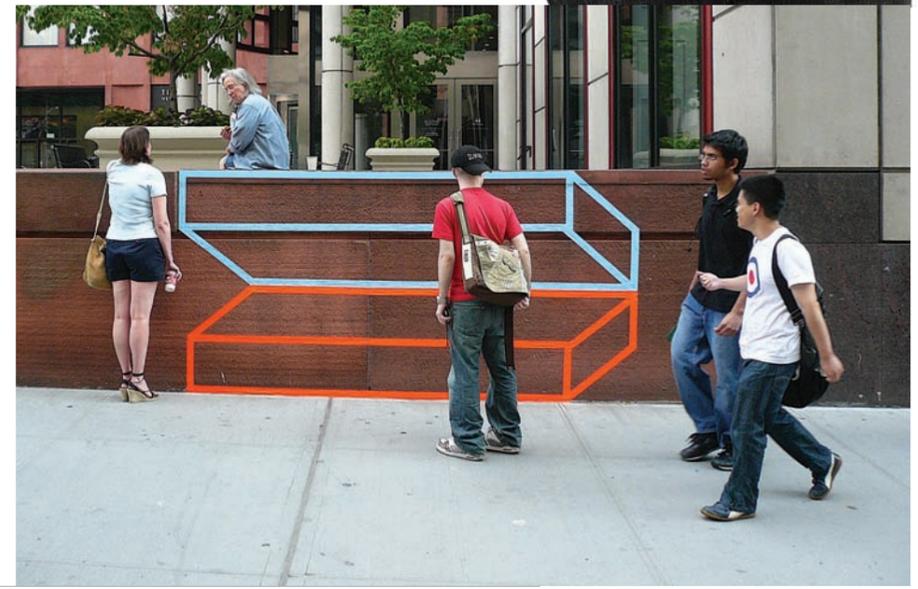
MELISSA BROWN



Based in: New York City
Type of art: Printmaking, Performance, and Painting
What has been the highlight of your career so far? Collaborating on a performance called the Rowdy Remix. It was a makeshift hair salon where we, (Marie Lorenz, Andy Hershey, Brian Belott, Michael Williams, Eunice Kim, and I) agreed to give each other drastic makeovers during an opening that was standing-room-only. The salon was covered with original foil wallpaper and was stocked with Fiskars, a flow-bee, color hair-spray, and a basket of press on nails. The highlight happened moments before "the reveal." A group of sailors in uniform strolled into the gallery. They pushed to the front of the crowd, claiming that they had just arrived from Iraq and demanded a haircut. We had been freshly made-over as a Sasquatch, a silver robot with smeared make-up, a gang member, a hippie bleach bag, a raver with a half shirt, and a monk. While sporting our new looks, we gave the sailors buzz-cuts as the finale.
Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? A few that first come to mind. Andy Warhol, preempting reality television by making the Screen Tests and transcribing a 24 hour audio tape of *Ondine* as he wandered around New York. Bucky Fuller's writings are thought provoking. Andy Kaufman wrestling women that are bigger and smarter than Jerry Lawler.
What are you currently working on now? How to Win the Lottery — a presentation that outlines a collection of strategies to win any Power Ball or 6-ball lottery game. The Tabloid Deck. The deck of cards can be used both for card counting and to predict Tabloid headlines. I am also working on paintings for a show called, "I'm on Top of Things" at Galleri Loyal.

AAKASH NIHALANI

Based in: Brooklyn, New York
Type of art: The use of colored industrial tape as a medium for street art, while also focusing on painting in the studio.
What has been the highlight of your career so far? The people who stop by while I'm putting down a piece to share their appreciation for what it does to their neighborhood, the emails from other New York City street artists passing nods of approval, and the support I've gotten back from New York has been more rewarding than I ever imagined.
Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? Anyone who isn't doing it the way I do it.
What are you currently working on now? Getting ready for the 4th annual Art in Odd Places in October. A bunch of collaborations, including some new canvases with graffiti artist Cahbasm, as well as the ongoing sessions with subway artist Poster Boy and painter Cahil Muraghu. I'm also working on a new series of hats and bags for unklaku apparel coming out next spring.



MELISSA BROWN: GEOMETRY OF WASHINGTON D.C.; 2008. KON TRUBKOVICH, COURTESY OF MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY.

COURTESY OF AAKASH NIHALANI



KADAR BROCK

Based in: Brooklyn, New York

Type of art: Painting and Sculpture

What has been the highlight of your career so far? Everyday when I get into my studio and make something I'm excited about. One fond memory though is having Roberta Smith's New York Times review of my first solo show come out on my birthday.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? My mom. Seriously. She turned me onto esoteric and gnostic thought, and also bought me Jams and Zubaz pants as a kid. My work basically deals with intersecting those aspects of my youth with contemporary (think Albert Oehlen) and historical (think Barnett Newman) abstract painting.

What are you currently working on now? Totems. Big sculptures and large-scale paintings.



KADAR BROCK, "THUNDERBIRD", COLLECTION OF SUSAN HANCOCK NYC AND LA.



MARY MATTINGLY, "NORTHERN PASSAGE", 2008, JOE BRADLEY, "CASEY", 2008, COURTESY OF CANADA.

JOE BRADLEY

Based in: Brooklyn, New York

Type of art: Painting, Drawing, and Installation

What has been the highlight of your career so far? Lunch with Howard Coldcut.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? There have been many... Franny Wheeler, Sam Magillcutty, and Rich Pulljibe.

What are you currently working on now? I am working on a series of paintings called "Schmagoo Paintings" that will be shown at CANADA (the gallery) in New York during October and November.

MARY MATTINGLY

Based in: New York City

Type of art: Photography and Sculpture

What has been the highlight of your career so far? The highlight of my practice is the project I am currently working on called The Waterpod, because the process is very challenging and when the structure itself is complete, it will really transform my life in an experimental way, and I'm not sure what the outcome will be. It will be an autonomous water-based structure that I will live on for at least six months, probably much longer, in the waterways near Manhattan. Also, the triennial at the International Center of Photography, titled Ecotopia, was a big deal for me because the exhibition's featured image was mine, and that attention has brought me many opportunities. Currently, my work is part of the Prix Pictet, an international award recognizing sustainability in photography with a series of shows commencing at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris.

Who has been the biggest artistic inspiration in your life? To limit this as much as possible, there have been a consistent four: François Truffaut, Constant Nieuwenhuys, Buckminster Fuller, and Samuel Beckett.

What are you currently working on now? I am currently working on two bodies of work: "Anatomy of Melancholy" and "Nomadographies." "Anatomy of Melancholy" is a study of both sculptural installations and actual spaces that provoke feelings of melancholy, based on the failure of an ideal or failing of a would-be utopia. For instance, I documented the Biosphere II outside of Tucson, Arizona, a Titan Missile Silo, and Theodore Kaczynski's cabin. For this series, I have also recreated a shelter familiar to me from my childhood. "Nomadographies" includes photography, sculpture, and video, and tracks a lone pilgrim in a hybrid bicycle. Finally, The Waterpod will be completed in 2009. To do this, I am collaborating with a team made up of four artists and several scientists to make it an autonomous space created from all recycled materials, ready for the rising tides.



Special thanks to Eric C. Shiner, the Milton fine curator of art at the Warhol Museum; CITY editorial board member Ken Miller; and photographer Kai Regan for helping to select the artists included in this piece.

