GLADSTONE GALLERY


THE TASK OF CHOOSING MOST-COLLECTIBLE ARTISTS is even trickier than it first appears, beginning with a discussion of what the term collectible means. To some it may simply be a synonym for popular. For certain connoisseurs it may function as shorthand for aesthetic quality. When the editors of Art + Auction convened for the first time to discuss the topic several months ago, we each brought our own predilections and biases. Was this an opportunity to laud established artists who had not been given their due? Should we hitch our reputation to our favorites from the up-and-coming generation? Ultimately, this being a magazine of the art market, we decided our aim should be to identify artists who have demonstrated past strength at auction or in primary sales and show promise of continued development. We did not want to merely list the people at the top of the market, but to cite those who might find themselves there in 10, 20, or 30 years. In short, we were looking for artists whose works have room to grow aesthetically and rise in terms of monetary value.

Setting the goal was just the beginning. Conversations with collectors, art advisers, auction house specialists, and dealers followed, as we sought to track who has been selling and who has been buying, which works have been most in demand and which undervalued. Some artists we thought showed potential fell by the wayside. In other instances, the more we talked and the more we learned, the more passionate we became. The short summaries on the following pages barely scratch the surface of fascinating careers filled with ups and downs. We hope that, taken together, they portray some of the complexity of the art market. We also hope that, individually, they lead you to delve more deeply into the work of these compelling, evolving—and collectible—artists. The editors
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ROSEMARIE TROCKEL

Long admired, Trockel is primed to make the leap to blue-chip status later this year, when she will be the subject of three major museum exhibitions. Among them is “Rosemarie Trockel: A Cosmos,” which travels from Manhattan’s New Museum to Madrid’s Reina Sofia and juxtaposes works by the multidisciplinary artist with objects that have influenced her. The Cologne-based Trockel, who became famous in the 1980s for her knitted pictures exploring gender, politics, and sexuality, works today with found objects, paint, ceramics, and video. In light of a number of recent major exhibitions focused on women, “people are reconsidering how they look at female artists,” says art adviser Carmen Zita, noting that Trockel, who shows with Gladstone Gallery in New York, Donald Young in Chicago, and Sprüth Magers in Berlin and London, is among the most respected female artists working today. Her prices, too, are on the rise: Trockel’s auction record was set in May 2011, when Sotheby’s sold a prime knitted wool piece from 1987 for $962,500, well above the $700,000 high estimate. Smaller knitted works sell for $100,000 and above, and ceramics cost approximately $150,000. / BALAKLAVA BOX–UNIQUIM, 1986–90. WOOLEN BALAKLAVAS AND FIVE MANNEQUIN HEADS IN PLEXIGLAS CABINET, 13¾ X 60¾ X 12¾ IN.