



A R T O F C H O I C E

Art of Choice brings you a 'no-bullshit' approach to art. We believe in democratizing the art world, breaking down "art talk," and making art accessible to all. Enjoy reading!

With our bi-monthly newsletter, we give you our **Art of Choice:** *choice* of exhibits currently on view, *choice* of highlights from fairs and other happenings, *choice* of original artist interviews, and more.

Each newsletter will highlight our *choice* from the pulse of the art world, featuring the hottest finds from artists at every stage in their careers.

Interview

This week we interviewed **Tajh Rust**.

Tajh Rust paints to explore representation. He creates intimate scenes where the figures emotions are worn on their faces. Often drawing attention to personal moments that are universally experienced, Rust acknowledges the importance of life experienced in the private realm. Fresh off of his MFA from Yale University, Rust is based in New Haven, CT.

For our full interview with Rust, click [here](#).



Review

Shara Hughes at Rachel Uffner Gallery





In her current solo exhibition at Rachel Uffner Gallery, Shara Hughes continues her exploration into landscape painting by focusing in on the representation of flowers. *In Lieu of Flowers* features seven paintings of various sizes hung along the four gallery walls. Walking into the room, you are engulfed with Hughes' trademark stylistic combination of aggressive beauty.

To read our full review of Shara Hughes' *In Lieu of Flowers*, click [here](#).

Upcoming: *Punch*, Curated by Nina Chanel Abney



Punch, curated by artist Nina Chanel Abney, will be the summer exhibition at Jeffrey Deitch Los Angeles

(June 29 – August 17, 2019). *Punch* expands the acclaimed exhibition presented at Deitch's New York gallery last fall, with an increased focus on Los Angeles artists.

Punch features thirty-three artists who examine contemporary culture and society through the lens of figuration. The exhibition focuses on artists in Abney's circle whose work embraces the hybridity of the contemporary art discourse, exploring connections and disconnections between culture and subculture, figuration and abstraction and the physical and the digital.

Many of these artists grew up in the digital age, seeing firsthand how multiple streams of information from different media can penetrate consciousness. These image streams create a common language for artists to examine and digest how developments in society and culture have altered our perception of contemporary life.

The visual energy in these works is palpable—the rhythm and bold forms create a dynamic dialogue between art and popular culture. The works in the exhibition reference art historical precedents such as Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art as well as street art. The integration of design, graffiti, cartoons and satire expands the language of representation when presented with visual punch.

Using painting, sculpture, and performance as acts of defiance, these artists explore how they can create a hybrid practice without adhering to historical labels while portraying a society immersed in new media and pop culture. *Punch* presents diverse approaches to contemporary figuration that defy traditional expectations.

For more details and information on the artists participating click [here](#).

Artist of Choice

In every newsletter we feature one artist we are crushing on and highlight why we are such fans of their work. This newsletter features **Ivy Haldeman**.

IVY HALDEMAN

Since 2016, Ivy Haldeman has been exhibiting erotic paintings of feminine, anthropomorphic hot dogs. These ladylike link-sausages, with pouting lips, svelte human limbs, and Cinderella-heels are seen lounging seductively inside pillowy hot dog buns. The leggy figures recalls classic pin-ups by Alberto Vargas,



the elegantly drawn, erotic fantasy illustrations of “All-American Beauties” that ran in Esquire Magazine and were famously idolized by young, lonely airmen during World War Two. Haldeman’s imagery is disarmingly funny and sexy.

Text via [Brooklyn Rail](#)



Nude of the Week

Art of Choice's feature, *Nude of the Week*, highlights an artist portraying the naked human

body in a way that is both beautiful and contemporary. This feature also lives on our [Instagram](#), so be on the look out for your weekly nude! #SendNudes

This week's nude is by **GaHee Park**.



GAHEE PARK

GaHee Park's paintings may be realized in the “naive” style that recalls painters like Henri Rousseau, but her subject matter is far from it. Often depicting romantic scenes where the idyll has turned sour, the sexual acts that seem to be transpiring in her paintings are at odds with their quaint settings, where art history’s favorite still life subjects—rotund fruit, cheeses, and bottles, appear on the verge of rolling off the surface of the table: so pitched is the surface, so hyper-stylized is her take on forced perspective. And yet, space doesn’t seem to recede in Park’s paintings. It’s cancelled out by the kind of flatness only a laboring love of texture and pattern can produce. Space comes to a halt as Park revels in woodgrain and brocade. Any indication of space comes courtesy of some framed element that seems to replicate the scene, albeit with some slight modification like a game of “Spot the Difference.” A window? A mirror? Another painting? Park revels in these ambiguities as well. *Image & text courtesy of Perrotin*

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