

ARTSY

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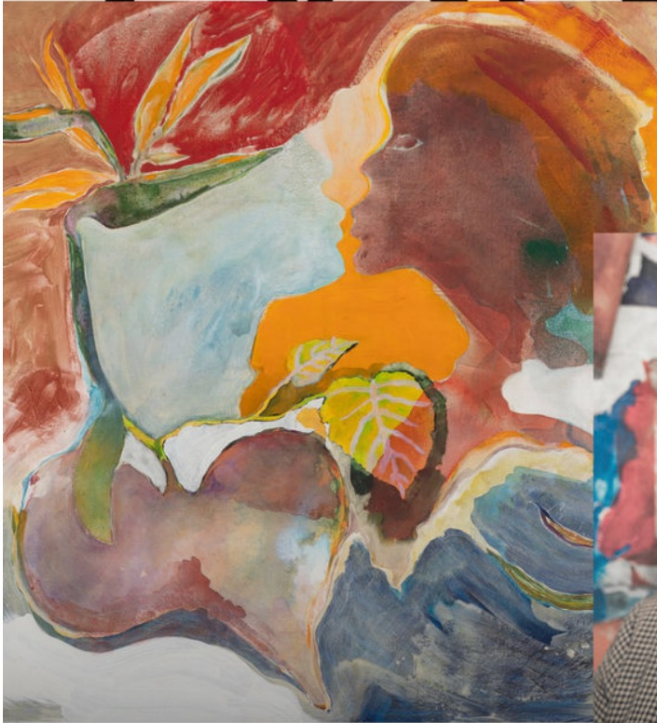
The Artsy Vanguard 2020

The Artists to Know Right Now

SUZ

B. 1944, St. Louis, Missouri

ANNE



Jackson



Being an artist has never been easy. Yet now, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and a global reckoning around racism and inequity, artists are taking on more than ever.

Over the past six months, despite a volatile economy and record unemployment, artists have not shied away from the demands of this moment. They have used their talent and influence to run fundraisers, spread activism, document protests worldwide, and create works that add nuance to our fraught reality—or offer much-needed relief. When we look back on this time, we'll almost certainly look at the art.

The 35 artists of The Artsy Vanguard 2020 are integral to this moment. Nominated by an international cohort of curators and art professionals, they are engaged with social and political issues, but they're also at the forefront of contemporary art. And they're shaping its future.

This year, artists are split into two categories: Newly Emerging, which presents on-the-rise names generating buzz at leading galleries and institutions, and Getting Their Due, which spotlights artists who have persevered for decades, yet only recently received the acclaim they deserve. The Artsy Vanguard 2020 features the artists you need to know, right now.

Suzanne Jackson

Follow

B. 1944, St. Louis, Missouri. Lives and works in Savannah, Georgia.

In 2019, at 75 years old, Suzanne Jackson had her first New York solo show, “NEWS!” at Ortuzar Projects in Tribeca. The works in the show included masterful paintings bathed in light acrylic washes that appear inky and fluid, like the wonderfully composed *a history drawing-cracked wall* (2016–19). The show also featured several of her recent “anti-canvas” —suspended, tapestry-like forms made from acrylic and embedded with poetic arrangements of nets, strings, rods, and found objects, like bells and bamboo. That show followed a major retrospective of Jackson’s work at the Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, Georgia.



Suzanne Jackson, *a history drawing-cracked wall*, 2016–19. Courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects.

Many of Jackson's paintings are abstract with hints of figuration. For example, in *Under Sea* (1996–2000), swirls of blue, yellow, and purple wrap around one another in an intricate dance. Upon closer examination, you can see forms that resemble a sea creature and a person, encircled by leaves resembling kelp. The painting radiates dynamic energy.



Suzanne Jackson, *Lizzie and Me with Friends*, 2005. Courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects.

Jackson has been honing her craft for over five decades, actively creating work and fostering Black art communities since the 1960s. In 1968, Jackson opened her own art space, Gallery 32, in her Los Angeles studio. The gallery showed the work of important African American artists, including David Hammons and Betye Saar, at a time when it was particularly difficult for Black artists to show work at major institutions.



Suzanne Jackson, *Blues Garden + Track/Back-Sea*, 2010. Courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects.

Eventually, Jackson left Los Angeles and relocated to Savannah to teach at the Savannah College of Arts and Design. She lives in the same city today, and is represented by Aaron Galleries and Ortuzar Projects.



Suzanne Jackson, *Hers and His*, 2018. Courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects.

Header and thumbnail image, from left to right: Suzanne Jackson, "Blues Garden + Track/Back-Sea," 2010; Suzanne Jackson, "El Paradiso," 1981–84; Portrait of Suzanne Jackson in front of her 2014 work "Harpie's Hawk" at the Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary Show 2020. Photo by Jenn Terrell. Courtesy of Aaron Galleries; Suzanne Jackson, "Lizzie and Me with Friends," 2005. All artwork images courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar Projects.