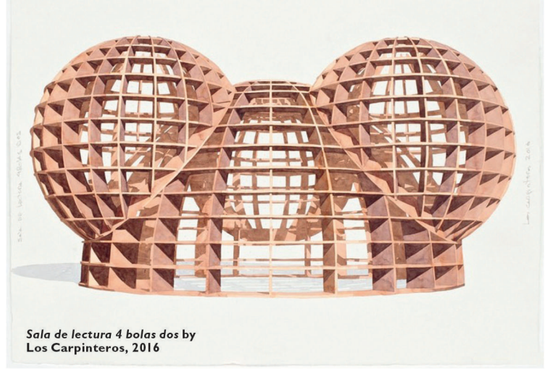
rachel uffner

STROKES OF GENIUS

Five ingenious artists who are reimagining the art scene. By Desmond Lim Zhengs.



Sala de lectura 4 bolas dos by Los Carpinteros, 2016

LOS CARPINTEROS

Cuban artist collective Los Carpinteros, which translates to The Carpenters, merges architecture, design, drawing, and sculpture in unexpected, quirky ways. Based in Havana, Marco Castillo and Dagoberto Rodríguez have created few of the most important art pieces to emerge from Latin America. They are best known for their impossible furniture—for example, a bricked-in fireplace that is unable to provide warmth—that bear metaphorical contradictions. These decorative and conceptual pieces straddle functionality and practicality, exploring conceptualism, activism, and formalism. *www.loscarpinteros.net*

DOUGLAS COUPLAND

Known for his highly acclaimed book *Generation X*, Coupland, a celebrated artist and novelist, has a keen awareness of larger societal obsessions. His recontextualisation of contemporary cultural trends and how they are articulated by the latest technology examines the cultural landscape and reveals the artist's personal ones. His new works *Deep Face* and *Trash Vortex* reflect his training in sculpture, design, and the legacy of pop art. *Deep Face* presents portraits camouflaged with hand-painted pixelation that explores Facebook's intrusive proposition to identify faces using facial recognition algorithms, while *Trash Vortex*, paint splatters on vintage globes, highlights toxic waste in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. In another work, *Twelve Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century*, a representation of modern fixations, features slogans that simultaneously celebrate and mock everyday pop culture. *www.coupland.com*

Just Like Ali McGraw by Douglas Coupland, 2016

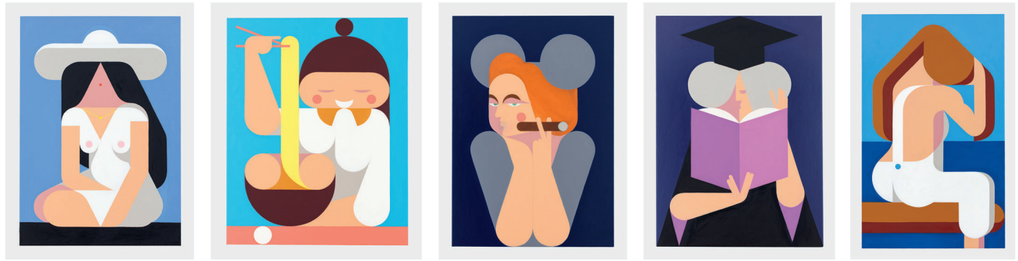
Pacific Trash Gyre No.14 by Douglas Coupland, 2016

Twelve Slogans for the Early Twenty-First Century by Douglas Coupland, 2011

Racer X by Douglas Coupland, 2016

LEONHARD HURZLMEIER

Munich-based artist Leonhard Hurzlmeier reimagines women in pared-down shapes engaging in daily activities. Bright colours are emphasised by abstract, curvaceous forms with hints of Cubist flair. Acts as simple and mundane as flossing or wearing boots are given playful reproductions. Building upon art historical methodology, Hurzlmeier's most recent Blue Suite series features paintings that fuse geometric abstraction and the history of portraiture, finding humour in his voyeuristic approach to real life and the women that inhabit it. *www.racheluffnergallery.com/artists/leonhard-hurzlmeier*

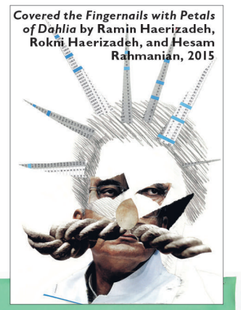


L-R: *Black Beach Beauty* (Blue Suite, Cobalt), 2016; *Pasta Pause* (Blue Suite, Turquoise), 2016; *Smokey Mouse* (Blue Suite, Prussian Blue), 2016; *Doctor's Diary* (Blue Suite, Indigo), 2016; *Sailor's Wife* (Blue Suite, Cyan), 2016

Defeated by Hesam Rahmanian, 2012

RAMIN HAERIZADEH, ROKNI HAERIZADEH, AND HESAM RAHMANIAN

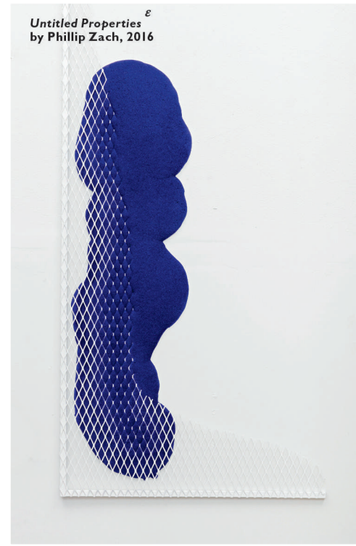
Currently taking refuge in Dubai, Iranian brothers Ramin and Rokni Haerizadeh joined forces with childhood friend Hesam Rahmanian to form a collective making "controversial" art. Their works incorporate performance, video, installation, painting, drawing, and sculpture. Their affinity for assemblages were translated into incessant vandalism, while another installation saw the trio painting walls and floors to mimic an extravagant Middle Eastern courtyard. The upcoming Liverpool Biennial will see their media sprinkled throughout the city, including an on-site installation with "smuggled" objects from Dubai, permeating a "what if" narrative. *www.biennial.com/2016/exhibition/artists*



Covered the Fingernails with Petals of Dahlia by Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh, and Hesam Rahmanian, 2015

Madame Tussauds VI by Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh, and Hesam Rahmanian, 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY: PHILLIP ZACH, COURTESY OF FREEDMAN FITZPATRICK, LOS ANGELES; GALERIE PETER KILCHMANN, ZURICH; LEONHARD HURZLMEIER, COURTESY OF RACHEL UFFNER GALLERY; RAMIN HAERIZADEH, ROKNI HAERIZADEH, AND HESAM RAHMANIAN, COURTESY OF GALLERY ISABELLE VAN DEN EYNDE AND CALLICOON FINE ARTS; DOUGLAS COUPLAND, COURTESY OF DANIEL FARIA GALLERY



Untitled Properties by Phillip Zach, 2016

PHILLIP ZACH

Often echoing organic architecture and utopian design, Zach's works are abstract, texture-heavy amalgamations that investigate the dialectics through which cultures are formed and explore the mechanisms of human mind. His brilliant Untitled Properties series of globular blobs of sand and soil permeates perforated substrates, oozing out of their confines to form inhabited zones. *www.artsy.net/artist/phillip-zach*