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BY BONNIE GANGELHOFF

It's time once again to celebrate the next generation of artists! In the following pages you'll meet 21 artists under the age of 31 who are worth watching. Some are still in high school or college, while others are beginning to make their ways in the art world. They hail from around the West

> and across the country, and their artwork is just as diverse as their home states. From still lifes to figures and from traditional to contemporary, we think you'll find much to admire in this collection.

























The Nature of Time, oil, 14 x 11.

## Victoria Steel New Jersey

Art Education: Lattended Ani Art Academies Waichulis in Pennsylvania right out of high school. I studied under the strict guidance of painter Anthony Waichulis in a small group setting for about five years. Style: I believe my style fluctuates between realism and imaginative realism. Recently, I've been disrupting my realistic portrayal of subjects with intuitive marks and unplanned developments. Creative Spark: The drive to create is constant. But when it comes to finding inspiration for new paintings, ideas usually pop into my mind when I am half asleep at night, traveling, or just zoning out. Second-Choice Career: I would be an art curator or on a gallery staff. I have only curated one show in the past, but I have helped assist the setup of exhibits. I love organizing and coordinating events, and

I have a passion for knowing anything and everything about the artwork around me.

Other Passions: Cooking, eating, CrossFit, traveling, beach days, private tutoring, and spending time with my soon-to-be husband, Kevin Moore (who's also an artist). Favorite Work by Another Artist: If you are asking about dead guys, William-Adolphe Bouguereau and Salvador Dalí are on the top of the list. I recently went to The Dalí Museum in Florida. Mind-blowing. Future Goals: My forever goal is to paint until I die and make a living at it. Sounds like "the life" to me. Price Range: \$200 to \$5,000. Representation: Abend Gallery, Denver, CO; Rehs Contemporary Galleries, New York, NY; Lovetts Gallery, Tulsa, OK; Haven Gallery, Northport, NY; www.victoriasteel.com.



East of the Sun, oil, 40 x 30.

## Nikita Budkov California

Art Education: I received a certificate in fine art after completing a three-year course of study at Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art.

Style: Contemporary traditional. Creative Spark: Atmosphere is most important to me—the beauty of the mystical is something that moves me, be it music, a story, or a visual image.

Other Passions: Healthy lifestyles. listening to music, learning about the past, and seeing into the future. I try to balance and mix intellectual and physical activities. One Thing People Don't Know About You: I was the homecoming king back at Cotter High School in Minnesota while I was an exchange student from Russia.

Best Advice Received: Slow down to speed up.

Biggest Fear: Important phone calls.

Pet Peeve: Waking up in the afternoon.

Quirkiest Trait: I laugh, then I cough, and then I sneeze.

Mantra or Motto: I feel it is important to have a strong body with a clear mind and a powerful spirit, like the philosophers were advocating in the past.

Favorite Work by Another Artist: THE LADY OF SHALOTT by John William Waterhouse and ASGARDSREIEN by Peter Nicolai Arbo.

Future Goals: I am striving to make a living from my art. My goal is to create meaningful and beautiful narrative paintings, and to help make the representational art movement as big as it was before. Representation: American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena, CA; Hillside Fine Art, Claremont, CA: www.nikitabudkov.com.

## Mallery Marsh Utah



Feelin' Golden, acrylic, 5 x 7.

Art Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts in art education from Arizona State University.

Style: Abstract landscapes focusing on color and letting the brush strokes have a life of their own. Creative Spark: Being outside either

hiking or skiing, and seeing other. artwork

Second-Choice Career: Interior designer and flipping homes.

Other Passions: Playing with my golden retriever, Riley, as well as rock climbing, skiing, and reading.

One Thing People Don't Know About You: When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a jockey, work for Disney Animation Studios, or be a pro skateboarder.

Best Advice: From Steve Jobs, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have

to trust in something-your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down. and it has made all the difference in my life."

Biggest Fear: Terminal illnesses.

Pet Peeve: When people gulp water. That noise drives me crazy.

Favorite Studio Music: Lewis Capaldi, Dean Lewis, Maggie Rogers, and piano instrumentals.

Favorite Work by Another Artist: I'm obsessed with Sarah Maderia Day and Amanda K. Hawkins. Both are artists I stumbled across on Instagram. I love how loose they are with the brush.

Future Goals: I would love to start working with interior designers and continue to make my mark in the art world. Someday I want to buy a fixerupper and slowly remodel it.

Price Range: \$45 to \$550.

Representation:

www.malleryjane.com.