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An American in Paris

At home with

Lenny Kravitz

THE ART AND DESIGN SPECIAL

The

TASTEMAKERS

2019

**Introducing the 50 most influential people
in London's art and design scene**

Megan Piper — *Art dealer*

Piper is a contemporary art dealer and co-founder of The Line, a sculpture trail in East London. An innovator in the London market, Piper seeks out artists seemingly overlooked, leading the *Telegraph* to dub her a “white knight” for older artists. She operates from temporary spaces in Mayfair and St James's.

Jeremy Epstein & Charlie Fellowes — *Gallerists*

Epstein and Fellowes established Edel Assanti in London's Victoria in 2010, representing a small group of artists, the core of which remains with the gallery. In 2015, Epstein and Fellowes were appointed to Tate's Acquisitions Committee.

Omer Tiroche — *Gallerist*

Art dealing runs in Omer Tiroche's family. His father, Micky, has been operating as a dealer in London since 1996, having founded the Tiroche Auction House in Israel. At just 22, Tiroche opened in Mayfair — and has exhibited works by Yayoi Kusama and David Hockney.

Sir Peter Blake

Artist — 87

One of the most prominent figures in pop art, Blake loves popular culture references in his collages. Best known for co-creating the sleeve design for the Beatles' album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, Blake was knighted for services to art in 2002.

Grayson Perry — *Artist — 59*

Grayson Perry is known for his ceramic vases, tapestries and cross-dressing, as well as dissecting our “prejudices, fashions and foibles”. Perry's vases have classical forms and are decorated in bright colours, depicting subjects at odds with their appearance. There is a strong autobiographical element in his work, in which images of Perry as “Claire”, his female alter-ego, and “Alan Measles”, his childhood teddy bear, often appear.

Gilbert & George — *Artists — 77 and 75*

Gilbert Prousch and George Passmore are Gilbert & George, known for their distinctive and highly formal appearance and manner in performance art, as well as their brightly coloured graphic-style photo-based artworks. Adopting the slogan ‘Art for all’, they aimed to be relevant beyond the narrow confines of the art world. We interview them on page 74-75.

Will Ramsay

Will Ramsay founded the Affordable Art Fair 20 years ago with a mission to make art more accessible. Now there are 13 art fairs in nine countries. The Affordable Art Fair gathers together galleries and artists from across the UK and matches them with the buying public over a few short days with a focus on introducing art to as many people as possible. >

Nick Campbell

Art consultant

Nick Campbell is on the cusp of his tenth year as one of the city's top regarded art advisers. But as he sits across from me in a charcoal suit and sipping a glass of sparkling water, it's hard to believe that he's anywhere near old enough to have reached such a milestone already. In fact, he was just 19 when he bought (and later sold for three times what he'd spent) his first piece — a sleeping lot by Andy Warhol of Jean Cocteau. “It was in this big house sale in Surrey and I saw it bundled under a staircase, and I fell in love with it,” he remembers. He remains determined to buy it back one day.

It's this penchant for sniffing out what others might have missed, alongside a genuine enthusiasm for the art he sources, which has taken Campbell's career from strength to strength while many of his contemporaries have struggled. “A lot of people sink quite quickly, because they'll say ‘well, I have a couple of rich friends and I know of a Picasso’. Suffice to say, knowing of a Picasso is one thing; the art of the deal, Campbell can attest, is quite another.

Before founding his consultancy, Campbell studied Art History and Art Management, and worked in a handful of galleries where he learned the basics. “I had never really come across the idea of being an art adviser, but I started to watch these guys coming in, and saw the freedom they had when they were buying pieces that would be the most important to their clients.” A spark was ignited, and Campbell set out to make his own ripples in a notoriously overcrowded pond.

“As I became more involved, I gained access to exhibitions at smaller galleries and realised there were amazing pieces that didn't cost the earth. I figured I should do a little homework, and realised that there was nobody offering advice for the little guys with smaller budgets. There was too much emphasis on big money.” Campbell had found his market, and quickly set about creating Narcissus Arts, a consultancy which sources pieces for under £10,000. “There's way too much emphasis in the discussion of art on the top 5%,” he says, “when there's so many interesting, promising artists out there.”

His quest to seek out the Next Big Thing for discerning clients sees Campbell “looking behind all the noise around the big art fairs and big ticket items,” travelling to attend all the graduate shows he can, and keeping an ear to the ground for under-represented artists doing underground pop-ups.

It's a quest he's still excited about after a decade. “I want to be doing this forever,” he enthuses. “I realise every day I'm so lucky to be doing something that I love so much.”

“There was nobody offering advice for the little guys on smaller budgets. There was too much emphasis on the elitists and their big money”