

ARTSY

The Artsy Vanguard
Breakout Talents

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There's no formula for how to break into the art world as a young artist, but a few key career markers tend to hold true, like getting picked up by a tastemaking young dealer or getting tapped for a group show at an influential museum. For many of the 15 freshest faces included in The Artsy Vanguard—a new, annual list of the 50 most influential talents shaping the future of contemporary art practice—a combination of those hallmarks holds true. Others, meanwhile, have charted entirely new paths toward art world relevance.

TM Davy

B. 1980, New York. Lives and works in New York.



TM Davy by Daniel Dorsa for Artsy.

Born and based in New York City, TM Davy is known for his delicate portraits with heavy chiaroscuro, as well as compositions that capture the lighting effects of flickering candle flames. A 2017 solo exhibition at Lower East Side gallery 11R found his draftsmanship in fine form, as he presented nearly life-sized paintings of horses. Davy's approach to figuration is achingly dreamy and unapologetically realistic; he has a knack for bringing art history to bear on the contemporary, often with a proudly queer edge (witness the 2008 painting *Kalup Reclining*, his elegant nude portrait of the artist Kalup Linzy, posed in a way that alludes to the ambience of Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres's *Grande Odalisque* of 1814).

Davy is currently represented by Van Doren Waxter in New York, following the gallery's merger with 11R last year. European audiences can see his work at Galerie Thomas Fuchs in Stuttgart in June, his third solo show on the continent. And his paintings are currently a highlight in "The Lure of the Dark: Contemporary Painters Conjure the Night" at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Massachusetts.

"Davy's works are making visitors swoon, moving us with their incredible skill, but also with their unabashed romanticism," says MASS MoCA curator Susan Cross. Highlighting his "emotional portraits of love, intimacy, and friendship," she points specifically to a new 11-square-foot canvas, *Fire Island Moonrise* (2018). "It's a masterful study of light and atmosphere—as well as an homage to Henri Rousseau—but it also hints at the importance of Davy's close-knit community of artists and friends on Fire Island."