

Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)

Artist Biographies

Luke Edward Hall

British, b. 1989

An artist, designer, and columnist, Luke Edward Hall creates playful still lifes and portraits of young men surrounded by flowers using pastels, gouache, and watercolours. Deeply inspired by elements of fantasy, romanticism, and other aesthetic movements from European art history, Hall hints obliquely at narrative through his colourful works on paper.

Luke Edward Hall works across a broad range of interests, blurring the boundary between art and design. Hall founded his own design studio in 2015, and has since worked on commissions ranging from interior design and fashion campaigns to murals and illustrations. In 2019, Hall released his first book, titled *Greco Disco: The Art & Design of Luke Edward Hall*, which showcased some of the artist's favourite works to date. His projects include interior design, fashion, murals, and illustration work for books, restaurants, and hotels. He has collaborated with diverse brands and institutions, including Burberry, Rubelli, Lanvin, Christie's, the Royal Academy of Arts, the V&A and Ginori 1735. In 2020, Hall completed his first major interior design and art direction project with the opening of *Hôtel Les Deux Gares* in Paris. The previous year, he joined the *Financial Times* as a columnist for FT Weekend. In 2022, Hall launched his own brand, *Chateau Orlando*, which features homewares and clothing. He is the author of three books, published by teNeues, Vendome, and Penguin.

Group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024). Solo exhibitions include *I Walk Over The Mountains and The Waves*, The Breeder, Athens, Greece (2024); *Recent Drawings at The Breeder Feeder*, The Breeder Feeder, Athens, Greece (2023); *300,000 Kisses*, No9 Cork Street, London, UK (2023); *Gardeners and Astronomers*, Daniel Cooney Fine Art, New York (2023); *The Hunter Hunts in a Pink Mist*, The Breeder, Athens, Greece (2022); *Figs and Honey and Sailing*, The Breeder, Athens, Greece (2021).

Edward Hall's work has been presented internationally at art fairs including *Frieze London 2024, 2023 and 2021*; *Frieze Los Angeles 2021*. *Art Basel 2024, 2022*; *Felix Art Fair, Los Angeles 2022*; *The Armory Show, New York 2022 and 2021* and *FIAC Paris, 2021*.

Rowley Haynes

British, b. 1996

Rowley Haynes' work renders frozen intimate moments of friends and family. Whether with oil paint or coloured pencil, Haynes captures transient moments of human existence and highly, emotionally charged works with those in his most cherished circle, casting an even more intimate light on his pieces. The introspective beauty present in these everyday snapshots is one of calm serenity. Subjects tend to be found in isolation depicting scenes of loneliness. Haynes' work calls to mind artists such as Pierre Bonnard and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. Haynes received his BA from the Glasgow School of Art and graduated in 2022 from the Royal Drawing School. He lives and works in London.

Solo exhibitions include *While Others Only Slept*, LKIF Gallery, Seoul, South Korea (2023); Group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024); *Rowley Haynes & Daniel Um*, Scroll NYC, New York (2024) *Delicate Bonds*, Lychee One Gallery, London, UK (2024); *Bird song*, Timothy Taylor, London, (2023).

Killion Huang

Chinese, b. 1999

Killion Huang earned his BFA from the New York School of Visual Arts in 2022. Deeply influenced by a diverse range of artistic lineage – from Matisse and Bonnard to Louis Fratino and Oscar Yi Hou - Killion's work reflects a connection to both art history and contemporary queer culture. His paintings draw on his personal experiences as a queer artist, navigating between his time in New York City during his studies and his current life in China, offering glimpses into the lives of individuals who formed part of his community in these two radically different environments.

Huang's practice is fuelled by a commitment to making queer identities visible, especially in places like China, where queer culture largely remains in the shadows. His work explores the complexities of queer identity, weaving together themes of intimacy, vulnerability, and community. Through his nuanced portraits and reflective compositions, Huang seeks to provide a platform for voices that have long been marginalised, inviting viewers to engage with the emotional and social landscapes of his subjects. His work doesn't just reflect a community; it insists on its presence, challenging the silence surrounding it.

Solo exhibitions include *Reflections*, EDJI Gallery, Brussels, Belgium (2024); *Silhouetted Love*, EDJI Gallery, Brussels,

Belgium. Group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024); *The Retinue of Dionysus*, Nan Ke Gallery, April 2024, Shanghai, China (2024); *Enigmas of Identity*, EDJI Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Killion Huang's work has been exhibited across the United States, Europe, and Asia, and is held in both private and public collections, including the X Museum in Beijing, China and the A4 Museum Shanghai, China.

Steffen Kern
German, b. 1988

Steffen Kern creates intricate coloured pencil and charcoal drawings of familiar yet uncanny images of objects and buildings without a human presence—such as a solitary garden chair lit by an unseen red light, or an after-dark view of suburban façade glowing from within. Creating works in both vivid colour and black and white, the artist's style is uniquely marked by luminous contrasts and a mastery of light and shadow. As if drawing in a dark room, Kern experiments with the visual elements of blooming, depth of field, distortion and shadow caused by direct light. The effect is powerful and striking, harkening back to old masters while simultaneously feeling markedly current. Despite being influenced by the aesthetics of photography, Kern does not work from reference photos; instead, he draws upon his own imagination and memory.

Solo exhibitions include *Light cuts through darkness but not through fog*, Rutger Brandt Gallery, Amsterdam (2023); *Drawings from the Mental Archive*, Evelyn Drewes Galerie, Hamburg, Germany (2021). Recent group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024); *NADA New York x Rutger Brandt Gallery*, New York, US (2024); *Bump in The Night*, Oosterhof Projects X NightCafé Gallery, London (2024); *Dessins*, Galerie Heimat, Arles, France (2024); *Bel Étage*, Evelyn Drewes Galerie, Berlin (2024).

Morteza Khakshoor
Iranian b. 1984

Morteza Khakshoor works with a range of subjects, but it's his attention to the male—in all his foibles, struggles, and pathos—that remains a salient feature of his output. As frequent protagonists in his paintings, like all of his subjects, they result from circuitous paths through found images and memories, seen and remembered, or invented from whole cloth. His consumption of these images feed into his daily drawing practice, which in turn, metabolises disparate information into schema for paintings at once playfully tragic and colourfully dark.

Raised in Iran where, until college, boys and girls attended separate schools, Khakshoor was immersed in testosterone-laden campuses, which he calls the 'homo-social'— particularly in those catering to the unbehaved. As he progressed to co-ed college in male-only dormitories, Khakshoor was exposed to higher stakes in the homo-social environment, in which boundaries were pushed, rules were constantly broken, and chaos loomed through state provocations of the student body. He observed the Shakespearean tragedy in his male cohort, captured in all those productions by Orson Welles, Akira Kurosawa, and Laurence Olivier he had seen on television as a child. Even if he barely understood these films at the time, he had already begun to look at men with an obsessional, yet fearful fascination—for what they were capable of and for being a male himself.

Morteza Khakshoor currently lives and works in Los Angeles California. He moved to the U.S. in 2010 to pursue his education in Fine Arts. He received his BFA in Sculpture from Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts in 2015 and completed his MFA in printmaking at The Ohio State University in 2018.

Khakshoor has exhibited his work widely in the U.S. and internationally since 2011. Solo exhibitions include: *Rapscallions*, Lundgren Gallery, Palma De Mallorca, Spain (2024); *Studio Visit at Emma Gray HQ*, Santa Monica, CA (2024); *Pin-Drop*, Duane Thomas Gallery, New York, US (2023); *Dirty Words & A Melody* at Wilder Gallery, London, UK (2022). Recent group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024); *Dad Bods*, The Hole, New York, US (2024); *Painters – London: A Group Show*, Half Gallery Annex, NYC (2023); *Pour Some Sugar on Me*, Lundgren Gallery, Palma Mallorca, Spain (2022); *It Was The Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times* at Duane Thomas Gallery in NYC (2022), and *Humoral Theory*, BEERS London, UK (2020).

Khakshoor is the recipient of many awards, including the Inaugural Emerging Artist Award at the Editions/Artists' Book Fair (E/AB) in 2018. His works are in private and public collections, most notably at The Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice in NYC, X Museum in Beijing China, and The Bunker Collection in Palm Beach Florida.

Kris Knight
Canadian, b. 1980

Kris Knight is a Canadian painter whose work revolves around representation, queerness and intimacy. He is interested in the portrayal of diverse modes of masculinity, creating work that celebrates tenderness, vulnerability and ambiguity.

Knight's romantic figurative paintings and portraits are simultaneously intimate and remote, heavy and light, dense and playful; presenting emotional worlds: portals of the artist's past and present, retreating from the muchness of the world as much as they reflect it. The reflexivity of his narratives is rooted in personal memory but also depict life in the present: imbuing his contemporary subject matter with historical art references and colour palettes. His pastel and tonal oil paintings conjure a series of shifting moods, themes and experiences that are connected by a wide range of positions regarding the private and public self. Working from personal images often collaged with found imagery, floriography and historical references, Knight's paintings present a quiet, elegant world dominated by sensitivity and subtle melancholy.

Kris Knight has exhibited internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions. Recent solo exhibitions include *When The Sun Hits*, Galerie Alain Gutharc, Paris (2024); *Superhost*, Spinello Projects, Miami, (2024); *Auscultate*, Galerie Nicolas Robert, Montreal (2020). Recent Group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024); *Echoes of Paradise*, Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, USA (2024); *Paréidolie* with Galerie Alain Gutharc, Marseille, France (2024); *Art Basel Miami Beach* with GAVLAK, Miami, USA (2024). *My Velvet Shadow*, CLAMP, New York (2023); *Come Out & Play*; *Beers* London, London (2022); *Male*, Galerie Thomas Fuchs, Stuttgart (2019).

Knight's works are included in private and public collections including The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas, USA; The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas, USA; 21c Museum of Contemporary Art, Louisville, Kentucky, USA and Gucci S.p.A, Florence, Italy.

Igor Moritz
Polish, b. 1996

An electric colour palette saturates Igor Moritz's visceral depictions of loneliness and interpersonal turmoil. With oil paint or coloured pencil, the Polish-born artist creates vivid, almost Fauvist backdrops and characters who stare with forlorn at the viewer. The resulting compositions appear to be equal parts Henri Matisse, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, and Francis Bacon. Moritz is mostly self-taught—he attended an arts high school in Poland but studied industrial design in college, and he developed his fine-art practice on his own terms.

Recent solo exhibitions include *TO LOVE YOUR FATE*, Lundgren Gallery, Palma de Mallorca, Spain (2024); *Daffodils, Grapes & Wooden Horses*, A.more Gallery, Milan, Italy (2023); Group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024); *Handle with Care*, Coleccion Solo, Madrid, Spain; *Breakthrough*, James Fuentes Gallery, New York, USA (2023); *Who is your Master*, 1969 Gallery, New York, USA (2023); *Down in the woods, up to the sky*, Double Q Gallery, Hong Kong; *Shelf Life*, Marlborough Gallery, London, England (2022); *Trust in Mortals*, Brigade, Copenhagen, Denmark (2022).

Moritz is included in international public and private collections including Espacio SOLO, Madrid, Spain, The Rad Hourani Foundation, Montreal, Canada and The Museum No Hero, Delden, The Netherlands.

Kofi Perry
American-Iranian, b. 1998

Kofi Perry (b.1998, Sidon) is an American-Iranian contemporary painter whose work and practice reimagines the ancient past through a contemporary Black American perspective. His large-scale, multi-figure narrative paintings, alongside intimate portraits and museal still life compositions, offer a reinterpretation of classicism, drawing from the shared aesthetics of ancient civilisations: anatomical idealisation, round and simple forms and frieze compositions. His works build on a continuous lore, evoking themes of magic, spirituality and ancient history, intertwined with the austerity of gangsta rap and imagery of the Black Panther Party. Athleticism is utilized as a vital symbol of the physical, emotional and psychological resilience required to navigate a predominantly White society as a Black individual. The simultaneously heroic, saintly and militant figures in Perry's compositions inhabit mythic narratives that allude to climatic and political crises, aiming to inspire and empower Black and Brown creatives for posterity to resist the dystopian realities often imposed upon them.

Solo exhibitions include *Cooke Latham Gallery*, London (Upcoming 2025); *1-54 Art Fair* with DADA Gallery, Somerset House, London; *Remnants From a Distant Future*, curated by Jo Baring, The Lightbox Gallery, Woking UK (2024). Group exhibitions include *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)*, Cob Gallery, London (2024).

Perry was the recipient of The Ingram Prize 2023, The Baton Fine Art Prize (2022) and The Charles Toppan Prize, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia. His work is included in both Cheng-Lan Foundation, Hong Kong and The Ingram Collection of Modern British and Contemporary Art, UK.

Adriel Visoto
Brazilian, b. 1987

In Adriel Visoto's artistic practice, he creates private, confessional, and autobiographical narratives based on trivial experiences and daily rituals. These unfold either within the domestic space or the urban environment, exploring the boundaries between public and private, as well as individual and collective experiences.

The home environment, the urban space, the body, and the objects inhabiting these settings become central elements, staged and choreographed in sensitive and intimate compositions. They function as part of a *mise en scène*, where order and the sense of identification that define this imaginary are disrupted by accident, solitude, and strangeness.

Visoto chooses to create his paintings in small formats, a decision that emphasizes and reinforces their objectual, domestic, and affective dimensions. These scales reduce gestures to delicate and meticulous brushstrokes, inviting the observer to come closer. In doing so, they establish a sense of complicity, akin to that of a confidant, fostering a dialogue that is close and intimate.

Visoto holds a BFA from Escola Guignard (UEMG) and a MFA from Instituto de Artes (Unicamp). He held the solo exhibitions: *Solitude Souvernirs* at Mama Projects (New York, USA), *Estranho Comum* at Verve Galeria (São Paulo, Brazil) and *Não me espere para o jantar* at Memorial Minas Gerais Vale (Belo Horizonte, Brazil).

Participated in the group shows: *Cuir Soul* at Verve Galeria (São Paulo, Brazil), *Rosas Brasileiras* at Farol Santander (São Paulo, Brazil), *Projeto somatória* at Museu de Arte de Ribeirão Preto, *Prelude* at Mama projects (New York, USA), *Letra [] Imagem* at Goethe Institut (Salvador, Brazil), *Conversas entre coleções* at Casa Roberto Marinho (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), *Night, light* at Cob Gallery (London, UK), *Paraíso dos marrecos* at Fonte (São Paulo, Brazil), *Quase pornô* at Galeria Mama/Cadela (Belo Horizonte, Brazil), *Mostra Diversa* at Museu da Diversidade (São Paulo, Brazil), *Programa de Exposições* at Museu de Arte de Ribeirão Preto (Ribeirão Preto, Brazil), *Sobre o que pode ser familiar* at Casa da Cultura da UEL (Londrina, Brazil), among others. He obtained a master scholarship from the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), Participated in the art residency programs: *W Residência* (Ribeirão Preto, Brazil) and *Pivô Arte e Pesquisa* (São Paulo, Brazil), and was awarded the Young Artists Award from Memorial Minas Gerais Vale (Belo Horizonte, Brazil).

Forthcoming Visoto is included in *Histórias da Diversidade*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, 2024.