



Dabin Ahn in his studio in Chicago, IL. Photo by Dabin Ahn.

DABIN AHN

With acute precision, restricted palettes, and nary a brushstroke in sight, Dabin Ahn makes paintings that resemble the professional documentation of decontextualized historical artifacts undergoing authentication. Each painting is “an idea of a thing,” often informed by a childhood memory excavated and distorted by affect, time, and perception. Raised in Korea in the mid 1990s, Ahn’s relationship with objects and creativity stems from his mother, a sculptor who idolized Auguste Rodin, and his father, one of the most prolific and celebrated actors of Korean cinema. Undertaking a rigorous process of research, planning, and technical implementation, Ahn paints like he imagines his dad prepares for a role—taking time to study and “choreograph” before performing on set / in the studio. Ahn’s performances are in part determined by his visual perception—born with red/green colorblindness, the artist completes paintings in one or two sittings since drying colors become difficult to distinguish from their fresh counterparts. Ahn’s heightened sensitivity to texture has resulted in perfectly smooth surfaces, as shadows in the grooves of paint interrupt carefully planned color choices. For Ahn, the most successful artworks are a malleable mix of fiction and the artist’s truth(s).

Dabin Ahn (b. 1988, Seoul, Korea) received his BFA (2016) and MFA (2020) in painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Ahn’s work has been exhibited at venues including The Green Gallery in Milwaukee, WI; Edgewood College Gallery in Madison, WI; Mindy Solomon in Miami, FL; Hyde Park Art Center, Research House for Asian Art, and ARTRUSS in Chicago, IL; The Hole and Shatto Gallery in Los Angeles, CA; Marvin Gardens and Long Story Short in New York, NY; and Gallery LVS in Seoul, Korea. Ahn currently lives and works in Chicago, IL.



Devin Farrand in front of his artwork, 2023.
Courtesy of the Artist and OCHI. Photo by Henrik Munk Soerensen.

DEVIN FARRAND

Devin Farrand was raised in a family of builders. Growing up in rural Oregon, he quickly became part of a tradition rooted in generations of exploring craftsmanship and manufacturing. Finding structure and meaning through poetic contrasts and perspectival shifts, Farrand lives and works between a cabin in the mountains of rural Idaho and an industrial warehouse space on the outskirts of Los Angeles. To highlight the intrinsic and aesthetic properties of traditional and industrial production techniques, Farrand often employs abstraction in pursuit of affect, nostalgia, and the sublime. Using a wide range of skills—oil painting, marble carving, welding, sandblasting, anodizing, electroplating, and more—his material selections convey ontological relationships to the landscape. Inspired by the intersection of aesthetics and production, shop equipment and industrial materials are transformed into streamlined minimal objects.

The cinematic quality of Farrand's paintings, marble works, and metal plates heightens these transformations and converges with a calm crystallization of time that washes over the work. His refinement of these forms become stand-ins for and allusions to idealized models. Deeply personal, Farrand's work bridges the experience of the physical and metaphysical, shifting the viewer's sense of time, and slowing the impulse for distraction. Farrand's rendering of silence, of felled forms, is an evocation of intuitive steadfastness and a commitment to commanding beauty.

Devin Farrand (b.1986, Salem, Oregon) received an MFA in Ceramics from the Cranbrook Academy of Art, a BS in Art from Eastern Oregon University, and currently lives and works between rural Idaho and Los Angeles, CA. Farrand's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally at venues including Casa M+B in Milan, Italy; Ibid Gallery in Los Angeles, CA and London, United Kingdom; Good Weather Gallery in North Little Rock, AR; Gallery Vacancy in Shanghai, China; BBQLA in Los Angeles, CA; New Release Gallery in New York, NY; Gallery Kornfeld in Berlin, Germany; Piasa in Paris, France; and OCHI in Los Angeles, CA and Sun Valley, ID. Farrand's work can be found in public collections including the Burger Collection in Hong Kong, China; Sishang Art Museum in Beijing China; SoHo House in Malibu, CA; New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum in Taiwan; Mercedes-Benz Financial Services in Farmington Hills, MI; Nightingale Gallery at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, OR; and Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, MT. Farrand is represented by OCHI.



Anna Valdez in her studio in Los Angeles, California (2023). Courtesy of the artist and OCHI. Photo by Michael Dee.

ANNA VALDEZ

Anna Valdez is a multi-disciplinary artist who examines the relationship between objects, cultural formation, and collective consciousness. Creating epic tableaux in her studio, Valdez moves seamlessly between still life and landscape painting as she collects objects and makes new ones—throwing, firing, and glazing new ceramic vessels inspired by ideas for paintings, new plants or taxidermy, recent trips, or works in progress. Toggling between collection, creation, observation, and fictionalization, Valdez works with saturated hues and surprising scale shifts to communicate an abstract temporality. Layering the personal with the historical in dense compositions that collapse foreground and background, Valdez’s compositions resemble immersive installations.

Valdez (b. 1985, California, United States) received her BA in Anthropology and Art from University of California, Davis in 2009 and her MFA in painting from Boston University in 2013. Her work has been exhibited internationally at venues including Dangxia Art Space in Beijing, China; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR; North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC; New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, CT, Asheville Art Museum in Asheville, NC; Cañada College in Redwood City, CA; Hashimoto Contemporary in San Francisco, CA; David B. Smith Gallery in Denver, CO; 1969 Gallery, Alexander Berggruen Gallery, and Nancy Margolis Gallery in New York, NY; and OCHI in Sun Valley, ID and Los Angeles, CA. Valdez’s work has been featured in publications including *The New York Times*, *Juxtapoz*, *Artforum*, *Artsy*, and *Artillery Magazine*. Her work is included in various private and public collections including the Columbus Museum, GA; the New Britain Museum of American Art, CT; the American Museum of Ceramic Arts in Pomona, CA; Xiao Museum in Rizhao, China; the Phyllis & Ross Escalette Permanent Collection of Art at Chapman University in Orange, CA; the Microsoft Art Collection in Seattle, WA; and Aritzia in Toronto, Canada. Valdez currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA and is represented by OCHI.



Hana Ward in her studio in Los Angeles, CA (2022). Courtesy of the Artist and OCHI. Photo by Joonbug.

HANA WARD

Hana Ward makes paintings and ceramic works that explore themes of identity, introspection, and transformation. Appearing both ethereal and visceral, Ward weaves together moods, motives, and narratives to depict Black and Brown feminine figures who reflect and dream, creating their sovereign worlds from the inside out. These multitudinous visions of unfolding self-actualizations are sometimes sheltered in the solitude of domestic space and other times liberated into landscapes. Influenced by anticolonial histories, spiritual texts, and cycles of the natural world, as well as the canon of art history, Ward's work excavates inner dimensions to discover a world where one's sovereignty is in the here and now.

Hana Ward (b. 1989, Los Angeles, CA) received a BA from Brown University in 2011. Ward's work has been exhibited internationally at venues including Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Harun Gallery, Beyond Baroque, and OCHI in Los Angeles, CA; The FLAG Art Foundation in New York, NY; Mrs. in Queens, NY; Roche Projects in Kyoto, Japan; and The Breeder in Athens, Greece. In 2023, Ward was granted Artist Residency in Hayama, Japan. In 2017, Ward was awarded a Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs Artist-in-Residence Grant. Ward's work has been featured in publications including *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Financial Times*, *Amadeus*, *Artillery Magazine*, and *AUTRE*. Ward was also featured in the Voices on Art Podcast in conjunction with Independent Art Fair. Ward currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA and is represented by OCHI.