



Michael Angelo Mangino Biography

Michael Angelo Mangino (b. 2004) is a painter living in Pittstown NJ. He attends Delaware Valley Regional High School's Community Based Instruction program, FIERCE, and paints from Studio Route 29 in Frenchtown NJ. Recent solo exhibitions include *Bloom World Wonderful Green Roses For Me Myself*, Shrine, New York NY, 2025, and *Paint*, ArtYard, Frenchtown NJ, 2023. Recent group exhibitions include *Index*, Julie Casemore Gallery, San Francisco CA. Mangino is participating in group exhibitions curated by Jennifer Lawren and Fleisher Olman in 2025.

About Mangino's work

In charming Frenchtown, NJ, 20-year-old artist Michael Angelo Mangino has reinvented abstraction. Mangino's highly consistent style of painting was created outside art historical references; it is self-developed and completely non-representational.

Mangino's paintings come to life at Studio Route 29, an art studio and local creative hub for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. He began attending Studio Route 29 in 2022 through FIERCE, his high school's community instruction program, and immediately connected with the satisfying materials available at the studio. Mangino has quickly developed into a sophisticated artist and abstract painter, and making art has become a key means of expression and sharing for him as he is primarily non-speaking.

The fluency and invention in Mangino's private, non-objective language are both rare and profound. They highlight the power of art and art-making to bring transcendent meaning to those open to its call and that art can open doors that could have easily been left shut without a slight helping hand in finding the innate creative potential within. Mangino's story is amplified by the sheer confidence and power evoked in his paintings, which possess a competency and level of distinction that belies his years and experience.

- Scott Ogden



Theo Baransky Biography

Theo Baransky (b. 2003, Ithaca, NY) is a painter based in Milford, New Jersey. Baransky's work has been shown in a solo exhibition at Beauty Gallery, NJ and group exhibitions at The Hibernia Firehouse Gallery, NJ, and Open Invitational, FL. He has an upcoming solo exhibition at White Columns in September, 2025.

About Baransky's work

Baransky's practice largely orbits around a fervent interest in film production and distribution, and the work draws from an extensive collection of researched images as well as his own fastidious memory. They are small-scale works in which a floating sign is held before us in air. Often symmetrical or nearly so, they call to mind ritual objects or the symbols that bring about magic (as in the magical light of a movie). The paintings are focused on the moment of expectation just before the feature presentation takes the stage; they infer both the soaring moment of pleasure that happens before watching a good and perhaps oft-retuned-to movie (an affect captured so well by the music accompanying these logos), as well as the power structures which finance, shape, and mediate movie production and, so, movie reception to what degree this is possible. As sigils they locate us at the precipice of something which promises (and at times delivers) immersion, wonder, splendor, excitement, a role model, heartbreak, a vision of ourselves at our best and worst, the letters of which spell the names of corporate entities whose objectives also include such mundane violences as the operation, consolidation, and expansion of hegemonic power via the portals of representation and storytelling. The grand edifices, heroic animals, spotlight chrome letters, gods, goddesses, and skyscrapers that tend to feature in the logos of Baransky's time period of interest are here rendered in the familiar, gentle tones of a much touched pebble, the intimate scale and tender, searching brushwork bringing us towards a reception of the grandiose and operatic as friendly, tended to, companionable.

Alongside his painting practice, Baransky hosts an interview series with people in the film industry which can be viewed on Studio Route 29's YouTube Channel.



Artist Statement

Feature Films for Families

Theo Baransky

I was never truly the biggest fan of art, until I started at Studio Route 29 in Frenchtown NJ. When I first got there I started off testing markers. And then in December when we started making the Films for Friends intro I started using watercolor. At the time I liked watercolor so much that when I had COVID last December I was feeling so bored at home that Hop came over to my house and brought me some Watercolor supplies. But in January of this year, after we had completed the Films for Friends intro, I decided I did not like the watercolor because it spread on the paper too fast. Ever since I started doing acrylic paint in January of this year I've fallen in love with it.

There is a company called Feature Films for Families that I love from Utah that releases edited movies. The reason why I love the Feature Films for Families videos is because they are not only rare and hard to find, but the parents guides on the back of the tapes are fun to follow along with. They are guides to help you follow along with the movie and relate to whatever is going on in the movie. The edits are interesting because of how they were done ranging from before computers were around into the computer ages. It's also interesting how they edit the films without ruining the reels.

Painting makes me feel relaxed, quiet, and at home.



BJ Armour Jr.

BJ Armour Jr. is an artist, musician, and performer born in Frankfurt Germany, raised in Memphis, TN and currently based in Frenchtown NJ. Armour's work has been exhibited at Beauty Gallery NJ, ArtYard NJ, and Open Invitational FL. His work has been featured in projects by Elizabeth Gilbert and Vashti Bunyan. His music is available on all streaming platforms, and he has an album forthcoming on Beauty Music in May 2025 with William Scott and Hop Peternell.

About Armour's work

In rhythm with the spell-like rapture of his dreaming, BJ Armour's drawing and painting practice bring into the this world lovingly entangled visions of another, in which pop culture heroes, loved ones living and no longer, and his own powers to move through time offer companionship, love, affirmation, and agency. His drawing practice also heavily involves depictions of his aunt (with whom he lives), presented in many fantastical shapes and guises.

In his musical work, Armour makes songs that tell stories from his waking life woven with his dream world, often with disarming swings between the tragic and comic, playful and real. Armour's recent album *moooooons/aspirations* can be streamed wherever you stream. Upcoming 2025 release *Peace Makers in the Summer Time: William Scott and BJ Armour* will come out on Studio Route 29's Beauty Music label in digital and physical forms.