

The Most Influential Artists of 2024

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In 2024, there were major shifts in the art world. The first headline event came in April, when the Venice Biennale opened, projecting a new cadre of artists into the spotlight. The international exhibition "Foreigners Everywhere," curated by Adriano Pedrosa, highlighted Indigenous and queer artists outside the Western art world, many of whom went on to receive international gallery shows, rolling the show's influence across the globe. With underrecognized artists such as these gaining new acclaim, 2024 looked like a year of adjustment towards a canon that is, thankfully, growing all the time.

As art fairs have proliferated across the world and emerging markets develop in importance, art world power is shifting globally, with Middle Eastern and Asian metropolises growing in stature. Against this backdrop, in 2024, artists were often vocal activists for the causes that mattered to them. Influence, for artists this year, was measured not just by what they did within the walls of the gallery, but the collaborations, statements, and impact they made in the outside world.

Here are Artsy's most influential artists of 2024.

Kim Yun Shin

B. 1935, Wonsan, North Korea. Lives and works in Buenos Aires and Yanggu, South Korea.



Portrait of Kim Yun Shin in Venice, 2024. Photo by Lucy Emms, ArtDrunk. Courtesy of the artist, Lehmann Maupin, New York, Seoul, and London; and Kukje Gallery, Seoul and Busan.



Kim Yun Shin

〈Add Two Add One Divide Two Divide One〉 2015-20, 2015

Lehmann Maupin

Kim Yun Shin emerged dramatically on the global art scene this year at the age of 88, after spending more than six decades crafting kaleidoscopic paintings and chainsaw-carved wooden sculptures largely outside the limelight. This noteworthy year for Kim kicked off after gaining dual representation at Lehmann Maupin and Kukje Gallery, with solo exhibitions in New York and Seoul, respectively.

Kim's work, now known for exploring themes like natural harmony, stood out at the 60th Venice Biennale's main exhibition. The display featured eight sculptures, four carved from wood between 1979 and 1986 and four sculpted from stone between 1991 and 2001. These pieces are part of her long-standing series "Add Two Add One, Divide Two Divide One," inspired by the Chinese philosophy of yin and yang.



Kim Yun Shin, installation view in "Foreigners Everywhere" at the Venice Biennale, 2024. Photo by Andrea Rossetti. Courtesy of the artist; Lehmann Maupin, New York, Seoul, and London; and Kukje Gallery, Seoul and Busan.

Lehmann Maupin debuted Kim's work at Frieze L.A. in February. Since then, the artist has become a mainstay at art fairs around the world, featured in major booths at KIAF, Frieze Seoul, and Art Basel Miami Beach, among others.

—Maxwell Rabb