



Announcing!
The Top 10 California Artists You Need to Know in 2012
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We asked the top art curators in the state to help us pick the 10 California artists who are on the rise. On the panel were Franklin Sirmans (*Chief Curator of Contemporary Art, LACMA*), Jens Hoffmann (*Director, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts*), Rebecca Morse (*Associate Curator, MOCA, LA*), Jill Dawsey (*Associate Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego*), Eli Ridgway (*Owner of Eli Ridgway Gallery in SF*), and Craig Nelson (*Director of Fine Art Painting, Academy of Art University*). Now, find out who made the cut.



When it comes to inspiration, interdisciplinary artist Sarah Cain, 33, makes sure all her bases are covered. "In my practice, I think about trust, belief, risk, failure, doubt, love, fragility as strength, the ephemeral and the synthesis of extreme opposites," says the Los Angeles resident, who began creating (mostly undiscovered) art in abandoned buildings. Perhaps these beginnings are what contributed to her once-fervent belief that "a museum setting deadens the soul of a piece." Nevertheless, her large-scale work *Hello Darkness My Old Friend*, a vibrant abstraction rendered in spray paint, bells and seedpods, hangs in SFMOMA—the very establishment that awarded her the SECA prize in 2006. At the work's center is a thwarted attempt to create a classic spiral; the pursuit itself is a testament to Cain's artistic conflict. "Sometimes I will use a bad idea as a starting point," says the New York native, whose electrifying oeuvre is celebrated in a forthcoming monograph published by the Los Angeles Nomadic Division. "Then I work through it until I achieve a serious painting."