

## 10 Disruptors Who Are Completely Changing the Art World

These players are shaking things up.

Rain Embuscado & Eileen Kinsella, October 24, 2016



Derrick Adams. Courtesy artnet News.

### **Derrick Adams**

On the occasion of his sprawling installation at Pioneer Works in Brooklyn this summer, which coincided with a simultaneous show of paintings at Gateway Project Spaces in Newark, artist Derrick Adams told the *New York Times* that his “practice in general is a middle way of meeting the viewer.” As far as this year is concerned, Adams had a number of opportunities to do just that—and his encounters weren’t limited to his artistic output.

Back in March, Adams, who served as Rush Arts Gallery’s curatorial director for ten years, was tapped to organize a special section at the Armory’s sister fair VOLTA, in which he invited nine up-and-coming artists including Doreen Garner, Ibrahim Ahmed, and Kate Clark. Again, over the summer, Adams took the curatorial lead on “The Beat Goes On,” a hybrid exhibition of visual and sonic works by artists Elia Alba, Kevin Beasley, and Tameka Norris at the School of Visual Arts.

There’s no mistaking that the artist-curator is on an upward trend—and as he’s demonstrated at VOLTA and SVA, he’s just as eager to shine the spotlight on others where he can.

Exhibitions

## 10 Black Artists to Celebrate in 2016

These players are killing the game.

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Rain Embuscado, February 13, 2016



Derrick Adams, *Crossroads* (2012).  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist.

### 10. Derrick Adams

Though Derrick Adams is a little seasoned for our lineup of up-and-comers, his forthcoming role as [curator for a section at VOLTA](#) gives us reason to pay heed. The delegated 2,600-square-foot space will feature eight emerging artists working across mediums.

As a celebrated artist in his own right, Adams has shown at MoMA PS1, the Kitchen and, most recently, at last year's Performa. He also served as curatorial director at [Rush Arts Gallery](#) in New York, a space that has historically shown numerous emerging artists of color.

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