

TIME

"The 100 Most Influential People in Art of 2026

By Time Editors

September 17, 2026

These are the 100 most influential people shaping the future of art. They come from all kinds of backgrounds; they are painters, photographers, sculptors, and other artists; they are curators, lawyers, philanthropists, museum leaders, and others who bring this work to the world. These innovators are charting new paths and offering new ways of seeing.

Leaders

Amy Sherlad

JR

Bonnie Brennan

Taryn Simon

Kerry James Marshall

Wolfgang Tillmans

Jennifer Rubio

Cao Fei

David Zwirner

Charles Stewart

Anne Imhof

Hank Willis Thomas

Hoor Al Qasimi

Christopher A. Marinello

Suhanya Raffel

Dayanita Singh

Ken Griffin

Noah Horowitz

Stan Prokopenko

Myriam Ben Salah

Olugbile Holloway

Dana Awartani

Luke Nikas

Vanessa Horabuena

Matthew Affron

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Titans

Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz
Rashid Johnson
Bernard Arnault
Max Hollein
Jenny Holzer
Carmelo Anthony
Simone Leigh
Gerhard Richter
KAWS
Tracey Emin
Thelma Golden
Michael Govan
Jessica Morgan
Matthew Bogdanos
Refik Anadol
Adriano Pedrosa
Elizabeth Alexander
Larry Gagosian
Naomi Beckwith
Amy Cappellazzo and Yuki Terasa
Kymberly Pinder
Susan Freedman
Joe Hage

Icons

Diya Vij
Jeffrey Gibson
Lorna Simpson
Banksy
Sheila Hicks
David Hammons
Emily Wei Rales
Gabriel Orozco
Ronald Lauder
Theaster Gates
Florentina Holzinger
El Anatsui
Josh Kline
Hito Steyerl

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Catherine Opie
Salman Toor
Amalia Mesa-Bains
Magdalene Odundo
Komal Shah
Michael Heizer
Philomene Magers and Monika Sprüth
Sarah Lewis
Annabelle Selldorf
Maxwell Graham

Innovators

Maurizio
Lauren Halsey

Trevor Paglen



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By Isa Farfan

Trevor Paglen is part detective, part hacker, and part poet. Raised in a military family and holding degrees in the seemingly disparate fields of art, geology, comparative religion, and music composition, the highly decorated artist is fascinated by the way mass surveillance and artificial intelligence shape perception. In March, Paglen added the LG Guggenheim Award, a \$100,000 unrestricted cash prize, to his list of accolades, which includes a 2017 MacArthur "Genius" grant. He has launched a diamond-shaped satellite into space, photographed secret prisons and military bases, and made a cube-shaped sculpture out of radioactive material collected from the nuclear exclusion zone in Fukushima, Japan, and the Trinity atomic bomb test site in New Mexico. Paglen says the cube will be viewable to the public in up to 30,000 years when he estimates the Fukushima exclusion zone, where it's held, is deemed safe. This year, Paglen published *How to See Like a Machine: Images After AI*, translating his art practice into a legible conversation about image-making and surveillance in the age of AI slop. Paglen says he's currently working on a part-science, part-art project with Cornell University neuroscientists exploring the effects of "new types of media" on the human brain.

Alison Luchs
Christine Sun Kim
Lawrence Abu Hamdan
Anne Kraybill
Michael Armitage
Sarah Arison
Gus Casely-Hayford
Wael Shawky
Cecilia Alemani
Cameron Rowland
Petra Collins
Alex Da Corte
Tuan Andrew Nguyen
Loïc Gouzer
Marie Watt
Leo Villareal
Danielle Mckinney
Tyler Mitchell
Devon Rodriguez
Atsuko Ninagawa
Max Teicher
Mazdak Sanii

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