Forbes

Meet Europe's 30 Under 30 Taking Over Kitchens, Galleries And Runways Nathania Zevi Jan 15. 2017



Kour Pour

Artist

Age 29
Residence Los Angeles, CA

British-Iranian Kour Pour's work explores the social and cultural connections between western and eastern cultures. Pour is most known for his large-scale paintings inspired by Persian carpets. His work has been exhibited in Los Angeles, New York, Berlin, Dublin, Naples, and Hong Kong.

The most distinguishing feature of the honorees in this year's 30 Under 30 Europe Arts category is their distinctly "glocal" quality: every one of them has a deep connection to their place of birth, where they live and where they work, while also fearlessly facing the world and the boundaries between different artistic disciplines. Each of the talents found in our search of Europe's vast artistic pool is deeply rooted in the culture of the old continent. However, through their work they express the ability to belong everywhere and to be open to inspiration from every corner of the globe and to permeate the different art forms and their inspirations.

This year's list is filled with individuals who do not just react to trends, they set trends. Whether it be with what you put in your wardrobe, what you put on your wall, or what you put on your plate, or even just the way you think about the arts, members of this year's list will be sure to have an impact if they haven't already.

The featured honoree from the 2017 class is David Andrés Morera, 29. The Catalan native has worked closely with a multitude of multi-Michelin-starred chefs, including Xavier Pellicer, Joan Roca and Jordi Cruz. Andrés, the two-time winner of the best young chef of Spain & Portugal (2015 & 2016), truly represents the excellence of contemporary Spanish cuisine. He is Chef de Cuisine at ABaC Restaurant & Hotel (2 stars) and owner and Head Chef of Somiatruites in Barcelona. In the future, he hopes to take what he has been able to do at Somiatruites to other cities in Spain and abroad with new openings.

This year's class is making the finer things in life more accessible. Mark Moriarty, 25, recognized as the San Pellegrino World Young Chef of the Year in 2015, has since been cooking pop-up dinners across the world. While touring the world and working with chefs from every corner of the globe, pop-up dinners have given Moriarty a platform with which he can display his skills and ability to adapt his unique cuisine to different guest lists and settings. Instead of traveling to another country or continent to eat a meal prepared by a world famous chef, pop-up dinners make the world a bit smaller by bringing the chef right to your city if you're lucky.

Two of our youngest picks are in their early twenties and already making a sizeable impact in their fields. Anna Karenina, 21, is far from green behind the ears and already showed at multiple fashion weeks. Her four collections a year are represented by Tomorrow LTD and available in 40 shops in over 20 countries. Simon Straetker, 23, a passionate environmentalist, founded his first production company right out of high school. His current company, FairFilm Productions, creates socially conscious documentaries and films, working with everyone from the World Wildlife Fund to Ashoka.

This year's entrepreneurs in the fashion industry features a diverse cast of talents in different disciplines: supermodel-turned-businesswoman Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, 29, who used her insider knowledge to launch a collection of clothing and cosmetics. Bea Bongiasca, 26, founded her jewelry line by marrying her love for east Asian aesthetics with Western pop-culture. Kiko Kostadinov, 27, who will be featured during Paris Fashion Week 2017 for his Mackintosh 0001 capsule collection, is also a founder of his own menswear brand that will be available worldwide through Dover Street Market stores.

Three of this year's honorees have taken international galleries by storm. In contemporary fine arts we found a world full of young talent making big strides worldwide. Zsofia Schweger, 27, had her first solo show this year at London's Griffin Gallery, and she was nominated for Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2016. Making it into Phaidon's Vitamin P3 survey of contemporary painting is Louisa Gagliardi, 27, whose works have been shown in galleries like the Tomorrow Gallery. Kour Pour, 29, has had his art shown across the world from the Depart Foundation in Los Angeles to the Gnyp Artspace in Berlin and the Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong.

Months of research went into the search for Europe's best. After sifting through hundreds of candidates, we passed off a shortlist to three expert judges: Jeremy Till, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of the Arts London and Head of Central Saint Martins; Heinz Beck, Head Chef of La Pergola, Rome's only 3-starred establishment; and finally Oliviero Toscani, the creative mind behind some of the most recognizable brands and the most effective advertising campaigns and corporate images like those of Chanel and the United Colors of Benetton. The result: 30 innovators leading the way in the arts in 2017.