

Derosia

Kat Herriman, Cultured, Winter 2016

# CULTURED

## ORION MARTIN: 30 UNDER 35

Q&A | DEC 2016 | BY MAXWELL WILLIAMS



Orion Martin. Portrait by Jeff Vespa.

Orion Martin's playful paintings depict friends, fruit, well-hung mythical creatures and flora in a colorfully kitschy way that is also crispy and chic— all with a dose of humorous irreverence. The L.A.-based artist is currently working on paintings for Bodega's booth at NADA Miami Beach.

**How do you know a work you've made is good?** When you're away from it for a while, then you feel good about it. When I first finish a painting I end up hating it, because I spend a long time with it, and then it's a traumatic relationship, but a little bit of distance makes you grow fonder.

**How do you find inspiration?** I save things on my phone a lot. Looking around you see a sign that looks like it would be a good painting, then you make a painting that tries to look like that sign.

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Installation view, Flatlands, Whitney Museum of American Art

**If you could trade with anyone who would it be?** I would probably trade with Jim Nutt. But I don't know if he would want my painting. Do they have to want the painting? Because he was my teacher and I don't know if he liked my paintings. But I liked his a lot.

**When you aren't in the studio, where are you?** Probably with my girlfriend. I like TV a lot. I'm watching *Transparent*.

**In your practice, what comes naturally to you and what do you have to force?** I would say painting comes naturally, but painting in a weird room for 12 hours straight isn't really very natural.



Orion Martin, Chean Brinx tres, 2015