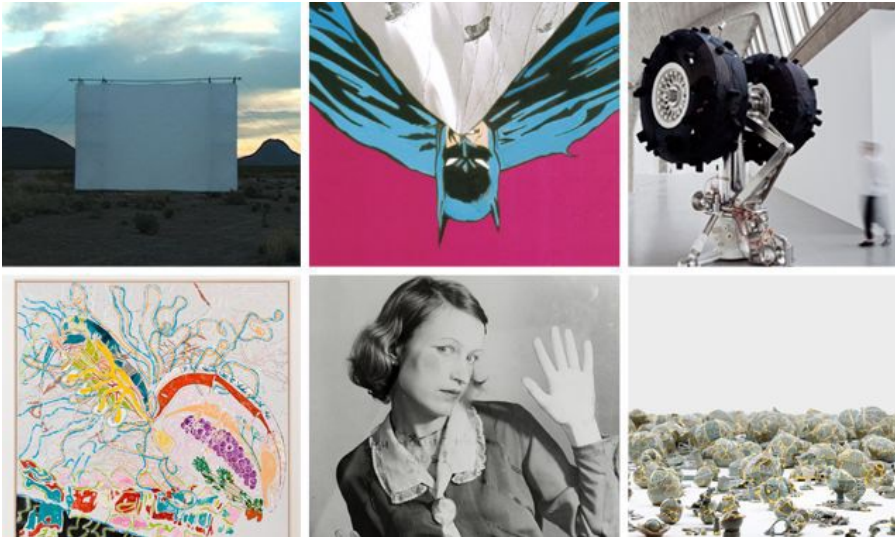


Wise Buys: 50 Women Artists Worth Watching

by Art+Auction 05/09/14 2:45 PM EDT



(clockwise) Chantal Akerman's "Une Voix dans le Désert," 2002 (A Voice in the Desert), Elaine Sturtevant's "Untitled (Batman scale model)," 1997, Yin Xiuzhen's "Nowhere to Land, 2012, Nancy Graves's "Arachn," 1980, Birgit Jürgenssen's "I Want Out of Here!," 1976/2006 and Yeesookyung's "Thousand," 2013

Cristina Vergano | b. 1960 | Italy

Whether depicting a New World maiden suffering from smallpox at the time of the Spanish conquest, flora and fauna of the natural world, fanciful human-animal hybrids, or illuminated manuscripts and scientific instruments, Vergano's fanciful painterly works some rendered on found objects—are virtual *kunstkammern* for the mind. It seems that the whole of history, real or imagined, is fair game for the Milan-born, New York-based figurative artist whose richly rendered canvases, which sell in the \$10,000-to-\$60,000 range, have found favor with the likes of Madonna and Whoopi Goldberg. For "Panamerican Thanksgiving," her 1998 debut exhibition at the Woodward Gallery on New York's Lower East Side, she explored the fallout from the European invasion of the Americas. In her 2003 show "Bitches," Vergano offered implausible portraits of dogs with the faces of women and girls, some in compromising circumstances. Most recently, she has taken on the complexities of interspecies relationships in the animal kingdom. Woodward will present "Laws of Attraction," a solo exhibition of her work, November 1 through December 21.



Cristina Vergano's "Ex Libris, 2003