

On the Rise

The meaning of “emerging artist” has become ever broader in recent years. But these 15 members of The Artsy Vanguard are building clear momentum with buzzy solo shows and increasing institutional attention.

Max Hooper Schneider [⊕ Follow](#)

B. 1982, Santa Monica, California. Lives and works in Los Angeles.



Most contemporary artists angle for MFAs at schools like Yale or Columbia. Not Max Hooper Schneider. After studying biology and urban design at NYU, he got a master's in landscape architecture from Harvard. And yet this course of study seems entirely necessary for the artist's brilliantly unclassifiable work: aquariums and terrariums that contain meticulously assembled environments where natural and artificial elements combine to create objects of startling, strange beauty.

Since his breakout show in 2014 at the Los Angeles gallery Jenny's, Schneider has shown at venues such as fellow L.A. space [Kayne Griffin Corcoran](#) and cutting-edge Paris gallery High Art. He's also been steadily notching prestigious commissions, including projects for the [High Line](#) (which, over the last year, had shown [a tank Schneider installed and filled with crystals, razor blades, and synthetic hair](#)) and the BMW Art Journey (for which he explored coral reefs around the world).

Owning and maintaining one of Schneider's works, which are miniature ecosystems of sorts, can be a challenge: Imagine if, like one collector, you had to [continually source](#) square watermelons for the sculpture *Genus Watermeloncholia* (2014), a bioengineered melon that is displayed in an aquarium. Nonetheless, Schneider's work has still made it into a number of prestigious museum and private collections, including the Rubell Family Collection and that of the [Hammer Museum](#), which acquired an old-fashioned popcorn machine that Schneider transformed into an aquatic habitat for snails.