

ART ■ ZEALOUS

Art Zealous' 30 Under 30-ish: Part 1

September 20, 2016 by Yacine Fall

14. Simon Abrahms, 26, Gallery Owner



AZ: Why did you decide to open a brick-and-mortar gallery?

SA: I first started representing artists in early 2010, and by 2013 I knew I wanted to open a public space – but I enjoyed the flexibility of being able to visit artists and clients when it made sense to, which is something that becomes more difficult when you keep regular business hours. It was when I began showing larger scale works that I knew I wanted a public gallery.

AZ: What do you think the future holds for glassmaking as a fine art?

SA: Historically, glass has not really gotten its due as a medium of fine art, as it's largely seen in a craft context. I think as the work progresses and explores deeper topics that relate to society, the medium, particularly sculptural pieces, will have a much stronger place in the context of the fine art world.

AZ: How have the artists you've worked with impacted you and/or your business?

SA: Being a young dealer, it's really important to keep an open mind as to what you can learn. As a business that has always focused on its artist relationships first, I've had the opportunity to understand the perspective of the artist; their family lives, techniques involved, troubleshooting the logistics of making bigger and better work, developing new series and the business side of their world. It's greatly impacted my ability to help them pursue their goals and create a better understanding of the whole picture for their audience as opposed to just seeing a finished piece in a gallery, as well as enhanced my project management skills, especially with installations.

AZ: What advice would you give a young person just starting out?

SA: Be open. Some of my best relationships have come from introducing myself to people in unexpected situations.