

## ART WORLD

# Meet the New Generation of Young London Art Dealers

Lorena Muñoz-Alonso, Thursday, August 6, 2015

London, home to a seemingly unending selection of commercial galleries, top-notch museums, and the ever-powerful Frieze fair, is the European art center *par excellence*. But with real estate prices rocketing and a fiercely competitive gallery scene, it might seem like a daunting space to launch such a high-risk enterprise such as a young gallery. Not for these young dealers, though, who all braved the odds and opened their commercial spaces in the wake of the recession. Some of them—like The Sunday Painter and Arcadia Missa, both in South London, Supplement in East London, and Kinman—started as non-profit projects spaces before turning into full-fledged galleries a few seasons later. Others, like Carlos Ishikawa and Southard Reid, took the plunge without safety net, as its founders had had previous experience working for established commercial galleries and had gathered enough contacts and know-how. Despite the huge amounts of capital exchanging hands in the city on a daily basis and its thriving cultural scene, however, London's been getting a substantial amount of bad press of late due to the high cost of living in the city. But still, the pros outweigh the cons for these gallerists. As Harry Beer from The Sunday Painter gallery put it: "London is definitely facing some serious and worrying issues at the moment around higher-education, property prices, and public funding cuts, that all threaten the future of London as a capital for culture, and indeed a place to live. However, it is a busy, thriving place that lures interesting, odd, and ambitious people." "Everywhere I go, I'm always so happy to come back to London, it's a privilege to live somewhere so inherently progressive," Vanessa Carlos, from Carlos Ishikawa, chimed in. Meanwhile, Henry Kinman told artnet News that "London's artistic community has a history of thriving in such circumstances." Meet the rising generation of art dealers that are keeping London young, weird, and interesting.



**Southard Reid** David Southard and Phillida Reid were a pair of good friends working in the arts (Southard for Hauser & Wirth and the artist Martin Creed, and Reid for Anthony d'Offay and then Waddington Custot Galleries) when they decided to launch Southard Reid in 2010. "We had both been in the art world for some time and felt there was an opportunity to work with the artists we already knew," they told artnet News. Of all the galleries featured in this list, Southard Reid probably has the most central location, in a quiet and beautiful mews bang in the middle of Soho, whose streets are perennially heaving with people coming and going to nearby bars, restaurants, cinemas, and theaters. Entering the inconspicuous mews, in Southard Reid's split level gallery, a fantastic program of emerging artists has been unfolding for the past four years. The gallery represents Hany Armanious, Mark Barker, Sam Belinfante, Lea Cetera, Benny Chirco, Ann Craven, Celia Hempton, Neal Jones, Alec Kronacker, Daniel Lipp, Joanna Piotrowska, Prem Sahib, and Edward Thomasson, of whom a good number are living and working in the capital. "London remains inspiring and exciting, and the acceleration that's going on just means that we all have to adapt," they told artnet News. "In some ways the sharpened environment creates more clarity and responsibility and gallerists have a strongly navigational role." Southard Reid has participated in Frieze London, Independent, Miart, and ARCO, and is about to take part in the first edition of the art fair SPRING 1883 in Sydney, starting on September 9.