

Art Fairs

4 Sensational Painters Who Stole the Show at Independent New York 2020, Where Oil-on-Canvas Is Still the Cutting Edge

Galleries presented strong work by several new names to keep an eye on.

Artnet News, March 5, 2020

If New York art fairs were like the film industry, the Armory Show would be the big-studio blockbuster and the [Independent New York](#) would be the cool indie festival film: where the real critics go for substance and style.

It's also a great place to discover new talent young and old—something that's become nearly impossible at its blue-chip sibling on the piers. With that in mind, here are the best discoveries at this year's Independent, the 12th edition of the fair. A hint: painting stole the show.

Tunji Adeniyi-Jones at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery

On the Walls: Tunji Adeniyi-Jones's work has drawn comparisons to that of Henri Matisse in the past. With his spring garden color palette and curving, elongated figures, the reference is particularly apt at Independent, where the 27-year-old painter debuts a series of paintings and works on paper inspired by his time in Dakar, Senegal, at Kehinde Wiley's Black Rock residency program.

In a trio of complementary canvases that evoke West African rituals, scarred figures dance among birds and flowers before a monochromatic backdrop. In *Greeting Gifts* (2020), which depicts a more allegorical scene, a woman is offered a pair of masks by two men.

Price Range: \$3,000 for works on paper; \$25,000 for paintings



Tunji Adeniyi-Jones. *Greeting Gifts* (2020). Courtesy of Nicelle Beauchene Gallery.