



"Lighter Relieving A Steamboat Aground: Cracking Jokes And Drinking While Everyone's Trying To Be Art Serious," by Shawn Huckins

5 Colorado Artists To Collect Now

It's time to buy your artwork from the Mile High City's community of talented artists. Five art experts tell you whose work they're loving right now.

BY [KARAH KEMMERLY](#) | [5280 HOME OCTOBER/NOVEMBER](#)

Colorado, you already get your veggies from a CSA, shop for your snowboards at Weston, and drink small-batch, Denver-made craft brews. It's time to get local when you buy your art, too, because the Mile High City's community of talented artists is diverse and growing—which is both good and bad news. On one hand, there are so many compelling pieces to choose from; on the other, it's tough to know where to start. To help you in your quest, we asked a few local art experts—a gallerist, a museum curator, and two art consultants—to

share some of their favorite Centennial State artists of the moment. Whether you're a veteran art buyer or collecting newbie, the following names should be on your radar.

1. Shawn Huckins

The Expert: Ann Benson Reidy, [Ann Benson Reidy & Associates](#)

What do the Digital Revolution and the American Revolution have in common? It sounds like the beginning of a cringe-worthy joke, but for Denver-based artist Shawn Huckins, the question has sparked intriguing (and hilarious) oil paintings. "I thought that was a very interesting concept, to combine our new way of communicating with high society from the past," he says. "The irony between the two worlds is fascinating to me." That paradox is particularly striking in recent works: portraits of notable colonials (think: George Washington and Thomas Jefferson) overlaid with white text reading "LOL" and "SRSLY." Since moving to Denver five years ago, Huckins has crafted these tongue-in-cheek images of 18th-century pioneers and Western landscape scenes for his Goodwin Fine Art show *The American _tier*. Ann Benson Reidy, a Denver-based art consultant who works with private collectors and corporations, loves how Huckins' art can be interpreted as funny or serious. "His work is incredibly contemplative," she says. "And it's political but still humorous.... Plus, he's an amazingly skilled painter."

(available through Goodwin Fine Art)