



What to Collect Now: Miniaturist Artists

Bobby Palmer /MutualArt
FEBRUARY 28, 2019

There's a growing trend for artists whose works are so small, some have to be seen under a microscope. Here's a look at some of the most prominent artists from this creative niche

Miniaturism is having a moment, whether in the feelgood trailer for Steve Carell's *Welcome to Marwen*, or one of the many thinkpieces linking the practise (as the Carell film does) to mental wellbeing. And in the art world, where bigger is often seen as better, it's been gaining traction too.

Kate Pritchard, Valuer & Cataloguer at Rosebery's Fine Art Auctioneers, agrees. "The phenomenon of 'micro art' will almost certainly carve a significant spot in the auction world in years to come when skill and scale are continued to be recognized as reasons to purchase prized works of art hewn by the hand and not machine," she says. "It comes from a long tradition of artists who worked in this genre, from Pieter Bruegel the Elder to Thomas Hosmer Shepherd - and no doubt a revival with a contemporary twist is very timely when residencies are visibly shrinking in size."

With that in mind, below are a selection of some of the biggest modern miniature artists worth investing in. You might have to squint.

Joe Fig

CRISTIN TIERNEY



Joe Fig, *Andy Warhol 1965* (2004)

The work of Joe Fig allows its viewers to take an eagle-eye view on artists' studios recreated on an unbelievably small scale. These artists pore over paintings, chisel sculptures and reside in rooms filled with nanoscopic mess.

The attention to detail is so vivid, you'd be forgiven for seeing a photo of Fig's work and thinking it's the real, much bigger, deal. He's prolific, too - Fig has been a part of 14 different exhibitions since he first came onto the scene in 2008.