

**Trevon LATIN**

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*'I'm Building My Own Mythology': How a Generation of Artists Are Fusing Club Culture With  
Traditional Crafts for a New Queer Aesthetics*

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Art World

## 'I'm Building My Own Mythology': How a Generation of Artists Are Fusing Club Culture With Traditional Crafts for a New Queer Aesthetics

Trevon Latin, Raúl de Nieves, and other artists are uplifting traditional craft techniques for a new era.

Osman Can Yerebakan, June 22, 2021



Trevon Latin.

The artist Trevon Latin used to hide his textile paintings from his professors as an undergraduate at the University of Houston. At the time, he thought fabric would not be welcome as a material in a studio practice.

Last week, he opened his first solo exhibition of paintings and sculptures made with sequined cloths and found textiles at Perrotin. “This work is 100 percent me,” he said, standing between his sculptures of mythological figures embodied in lushly textured fabrics, as well as sequins, tassels, and jewelry. “I’m building my own mythology, so earth doesn’t have to be green or the sky, blue.”

Latin is among a wave of contemporary queer artists revolutionizing different forms of craft—and, in doing so, subverting the traditions’ established notions of gender, hierarchy, and labor. Sewing, beading, tiling, and other practices that have long been undervalued are now being freed from stigma as they increasingly find space in institutional collections and white cubes, such as Perrotin, which offered Latin his solo debut after showing his work in their online Yale thesis show last summer.

When Latin first started his MFA, portraiture was central to his practice. Today, he channels his traditional learnings and inspirations into sewn paintings. “I still look at John Singer Sargent’s colors and stitch a painting from back towards the front,” he said. Aside from the Impressionists, nightlife has also had a critical impact on his visual language. The unapologetic vibrancy of the club scene proved to the artist the potential of his skill. Making his own masks and costumes for dance floors taught him how to tell a story with fabrics.

The show came to fruition during a five-month sewing process. Titled “Trinket Eater,” it features 18 pieces woven with found materials that date back as far as a decade. “This tarp is from a walk I took around my university campus in Houston,” he said, pointing at one of the works stretched onto a circular panel. His subjects range from classmates to characters from Scandinavian folklore, and even himself. “There are many variations of myself here, a boy or a girl,” he said.

From a kid stitching outfits for his action figures to an artist exhibiting an international powerhouse, Latin has always reached out to fabrics for self-expression. “I just needed to find my right color of fabrics and sew my stories in three-dimensional surface.”

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