

## Press Reviews

Susan Cheng, Cedar Pasori, Leigh Silver 'The Most Important Artists of 2013', Complex, December 2013

# The Most Important Artists of 2013

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2013 saw no shortage of monumental exhibitions, collaborations, and masterpieces from some of the greatest artists of our time. Just last week, we covered **Art Basel Miami Beach**, where, in addition to a **huge main fair**, satellite events like **FAILE's** beloved **DeluXX Fluxx Arcade** and the North American debut of **Jeff Koons' BMW Art Car** got us excited for whole new year of art-making and viewing.

Before we get to 2014, though, we have to look back. 2013 brought with it the emergence of digital artists like **Molly Soda**, who sold a performance piece at "PADDLES ON!," the first ever digital art auction, and challenged us to re-think the concept of art (and checking our email) as we know it. Even established street artists like **Banksy**, who took residency in New York this October with his "Better Out Than In" project, **sparked conversations** about art's shift towards the Internet.

As 2013 comes to a close, we've rounded up those we think are **The Most Important Artists of 2013**, ranging from the curious and delightful **Yayoi Kusama** to all-around creators like **James Franco**.

## 17. Wes Lang



It seemed only natural for Kanye West, considerably one of the the most controversial figures in rap, to recruit **Wes Lang** as the designer of the Yeezus tour apparel. Not unlike the rapper, Lang has never taken heed of public opinion and made quite a stir earlier this year with his designs. The merchandise Lang made consisted of t-shirts emblazoned with his familiar imagery of Grim Reapers, Native Americans, as well as something a bit more provocative than his usual—skeletons swathed in Confederate flags.

"I like to take American history and then completely ignore it," **he told Interview Magazine in 2009**. "I come at it visually, taking images and telling my own story." Evidently, nothing has changed since 2009, and Wes Lang is still a bad ass, opening a solo show "**Blessings**" at New York's Half Gallery in November.