

January 6 2026

Ocula

"New Rules: Artists to watch in 2026"

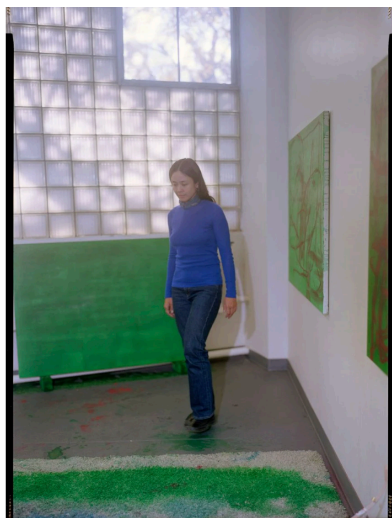
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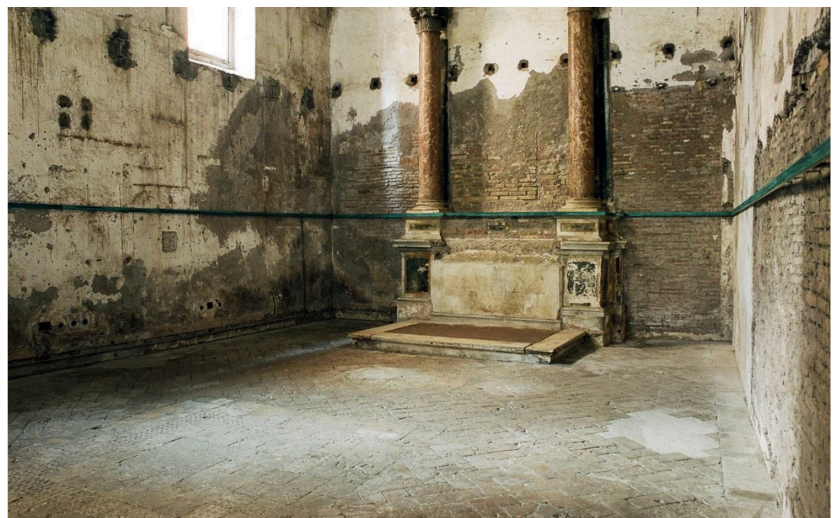


By Ocula Editors – 6 January 2026

Our editors share their thoughts on the names who will be making an impact during the coming year.



Brook Hsu. Photo: Ian Lewandowski.



Exhibition view: Brook Hsu, Sant'Andrea de Scaphis, Rome (15 December 2022–25 February 2023). Photo: Alessandro Cicoria and Valeria Giampietro.

Brook Hsu

My earliest impression of Brook Hsu's work was an emerald-green waistline encircling the mottled interior walls of Sant'Andrea de Scaphis in Rome. Decorative from a distance, the 2022 painted-wood installation revealed itself, up close, as densely oversaturated with skeletons and fluid landscapes. It encapsulated what the Taiwanese American artist, who is based in New York and Wyoming, does with quiet precision: an intimate, non-linear mode of storytelling that moves between loss, love, humour and the unsayable residues of memory. Hsu's paintings, sculptures and writings draw freely from mythology, art history, cinema and literature, folding these references into personal sentiments. Increasingly, this sensitivity to atmosphere and structure has extended beyond her own works. In 2025, Hsu curated the group exhibition *From Being Jealous of a Dog's Vein* at Kiang Malingue's New York space. Centring radical approaches to traditional mediums—particularly works on paper and ceramics—the artist-curator aims to unsettle the assumed neutrality of the gallery and transform it into a kind of 'garden theatre', where objects, images and viewers unfold together in time. – Shanyu Zhong