

Modern Mask Makers

Face Off

James Ensor Masks

Although [James Ensor](#) (1860-1949) is most well known for his paintings which have influenced both expressionism and surrealism, many of these paintings contain images of masks. Heidi Leitzke, Lancaster's Public Arts Manager, recently told me this.

You can find some beautiful papier mache masks that were made by him. These two are from Google Images. It's possible that these were modeled after items in the curiosity shop Ensor's family ran, right beneath his studio

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTg7KbmIX2Y>
- <https://artincontext.org/mask-artists/>









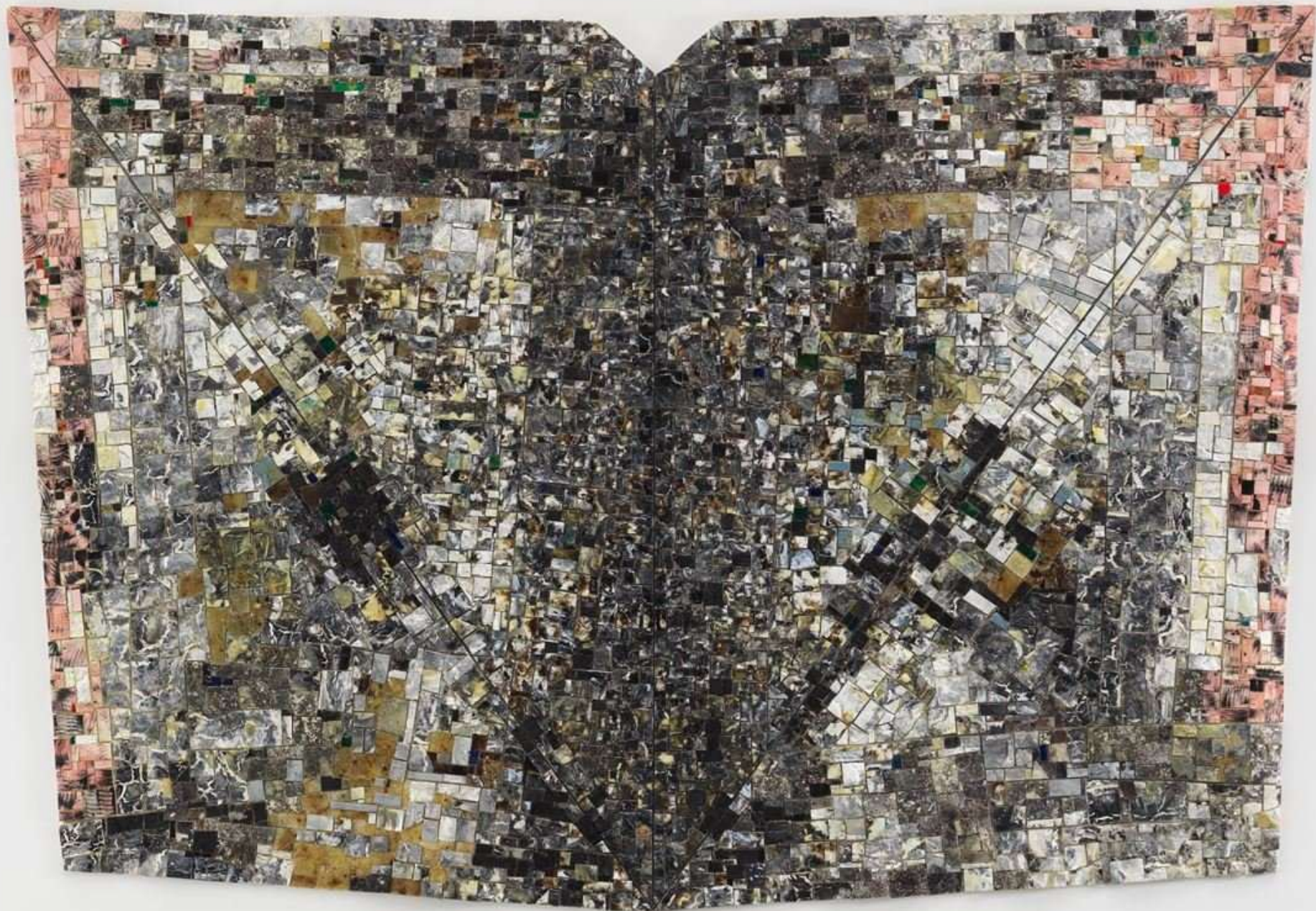
Jack Whitten

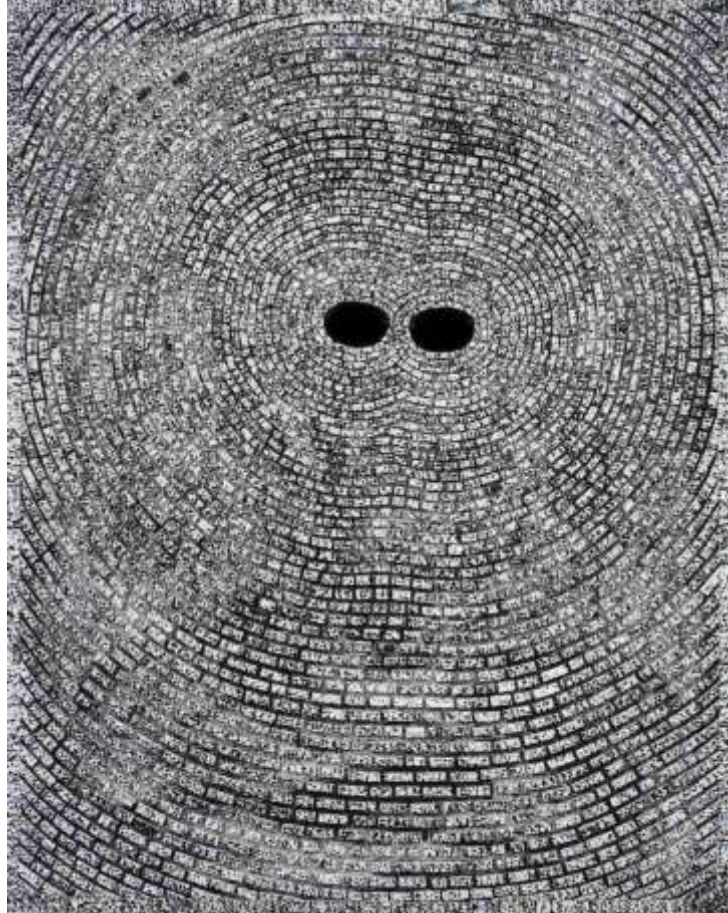
Jack Whitten made dynamic, imposing paintings that combined radical material experimentation, conceptual underpinnings rooted in [Abstract Expressionism](#), and references to Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement. Whitten's best-known canvases resemble mosaic-like topographical maps and geometric explosions. The artist often achieved thick tactility by layering slices of acrylic ribbon in uneven fields of wet paint, or adhering tiles of dried acrylic directly to canvas. In some works, Whitten created marks and textures with Afro combs, squeegees, and rakes. The results are rhythmic, gestural, and deeply invested in the painting process itself. Whitten's work belongs in the collections of the [Museum of Modern Art](#), the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), the [Tate](#), the [Whitney Museum of Art](#), the [Art Institute of Chicago](#), the [Dallas Museum of Art](#), and the [High Museum of Art](#), and has sold for millions on the secondary market.

- <https://www.hauserwirth.com/artists/2853-jack-whitten/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzxhXbXGeTc>









Thomas Yates

Thomas Yates was made redundant at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. With more time on his hands he started picking up rubbish and turning that rubbish into art. After making his artworks he sends the litter off to be recycled. Since he started he has collected more than 2,800 abandoned face masks.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0GnwY-v-qw>







Ahaad Al amoudi

Are the masks we form of ourselves on the open culture of the Internet the same as the masks created by the burqa in Saudi Arabian society? Why is the burqa seen as a barrier to integration and communication, when daily, millions of people around the world create their own masks on the Internet? — Ahaad Al Amoudi

- <http://ofnotemagazine.org/2015/12/05/ahaad-al-amoudi-the-burqa-a-well-worn-modern-mask/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gC0gxQXC25U&t=149s>



Polina Osipova

Polina Osipova makes use of her familial archive and inherited objects to showcase her acceptance and re-embodiment of Chuvash culture. The 23-year-old artist states in an interview with Vogue that she calls all “jewelry, masks, and accessories wearable sculptures”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYNtkH07M-A&t=33s>

rystals dripping like tears from eyes, lace swans adorned with pearls, head pieces that have a Joan of Arc energy about them -- these are all works by 21-year-old Russian designer Polina Osipova. Her delicate yet regal pieces recently caught the attention of [Gucci](#), who commissioned her to create [an intricate Instagram filter mask](#) for them. Mixing folkloric art with an Instagram-friendly aesthetic she serves a 21st century version of the glittery jewels worn by the tsarinas of the Russian court.





Venera Kazarova

Paper and raw fish don't sound like the most conventional materials to work with when making masks, yet these are among the go-tos of Russian-Armenian [fashion](#) and costume designer [Verena Kazarova](#). Why and how fish became a recurring motif in her work, she can't really pinpoint, but she knows they've been part of her practice for a long time -- initially made out of paper and cloth, but now ones from the store. "It's probably some kind of symbol for me, and one day I'll understand what it's about," she explains. "I know all the fairytales and myths about fish. They just fascinate me."

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3861924777201638>







Threadstories

Threadstories is a visual artist from Ireland who has been making waves with her sea creature-esque masks, made from colourful threads she intricately weaves onto a ground surface. As a child she was exposed to handicrafts such as knitting, crochet and numerous other domestic textile craft, which her mother and grandmother ultimately passed onto her. "By the time it reached me I could twist and manipulate the techniques to explore ideas and create art objects, and not make clothing or blankets out of a need to maintain a home," she explains.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uq7PnA1xK00&t=23s>





Calixte Dakpogan

Calixte Dakpogan's masks and sculptures are forged from metal scraps and repurposed consumer goods, integrating anything from steel frames, pens, cassettes, fuel tanks, and soda bottles to form figurative works and abstract assemblages. Dakpogan believes his materials have been "burdened with time and transformed by usage, conferring a degree of vitality," he says. Deeply rooted in his blacksmithing ancestry, Vodun heritage, and the material culture of his hometown—specifically the abundance abandoned and wrecked cars—Dakpogan considers his appropriation of useless, disparate objects into new configurations a symbolic act of hope and renewal.

<https://medium.com/as-mag/the-insiders-are-here-20f405ba54f1>





Romuald Hazoumè

Romuald Hazoumè is a Yoruba artist from the Republic of Bénin, best known for his work *La Bouche du Roi*, a reworking of the 1789 image of the slave ship *Brookes*. *La Bouche du Roi* was widely exhibited in the United Kingdom as part of the centenary remembrance of the Slave Trade Act 1807 by Parliament.

Beninese artist Romuald Hazoumè's masks are **humorous, playful and political — constructed from recycled waste** — he began making the mask series in Benin in the mid 1980s. Hazoumè's 'recycling' refers to the inequitable history of exchange between Africa and Europe.

<https://blog.qagoma.qld.gov.au/african-masks-by-romuald-hazoume-create-a-subversive-loop/>









Jozef Mrva

Jozef Mrva has been creating an exciting series of cardboard animal masks that experiment with identity and which are also extremely captivating to look at.

Mrva says he has been working on these animal masks for a few months now and they consist of materials that anyone can go pick up. Mrva uses mainly pieces of torn up cardboard and the occasional paint or black tape accent to create his masks.

Most of them are reminiscent of animal skulls and Mrva says his "animal masks resemble skulls or remains or abominations" and that "they are made to inspire the inner forces of man and allow behavioral self-expression through identity alternation."

Jozef Mrva intends for his masks to be used in musical performances, video-art and stage performances in the future.

<https://www.trendhunter.com/trends/jozef-mrva>









Noah Harders

Native Hawaiian artist [Noah Harders](#) takes a whimsical approach to style in *Moemoeā*, his first institutional exhibition opening next week at the [Honolulu Museum of Art](#). Translating to dream or fantasy, the show's title offers a conceptual, political, and aesthetic foundation for Harders' vast array of works that transform crustacean shells, skeletal remains, lush jade flowers, and other organic matter into sculptural wearables. The fashions are intricately constructed and mask most of the artist's face as he captures their sprawling forms through bold self-portraiture, which he describes as fostering a connection between himself and the found objects.

<https://www.khon2.com/living-808/local-artist-makes-museum-debut-with-moemoea/>









Magnhild Kennedy

Magnhild Kennedy, who makes work under the name [Damselfrau](#), creates intricate headpieces and masks that are comprised of both high and lowbrow elements. The London and Oslo-based artist mixes together sequins, vintage clothing scraps, and random materials she finds on the street to compose works that expose minimal elements of the wearer's face. The pieces are intended to operate as both art objects and wearable sculptures, and were initially inspired by the elegant clothing seen during her days working at a London vintage shop.

<https://www.designboom.com/art/damselfrau-interview-magnhild-kennedy-mask-02-10-2019/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4YcB5zubGE&t=55s>







Bertjan Pot

Although seemingly these masks tell stories, this again started out as a material experiment. I wanted to find out if by stitching a rope together I could make a large flat carpet. Instead of flat, the samples got curvy. When I was about to give up on the carpet, Vladi came up with the idea of shaping the rope into masks. The possibilities are endless, I'm meeting new faces every day.

- <https://vimeo.com/45513960>









Muriel Nisse

Using materials such as human hair, lace and feathers, Muriel Nisse crafts delicate masks and headpieces from her Bordeaux studio. Each piece is created by hand, which means that some of her most intricate creations can take up to 150 hours to complete.

<https://www.infringe.com/the-mask-maker/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m_bicP3Y8o&t=107s





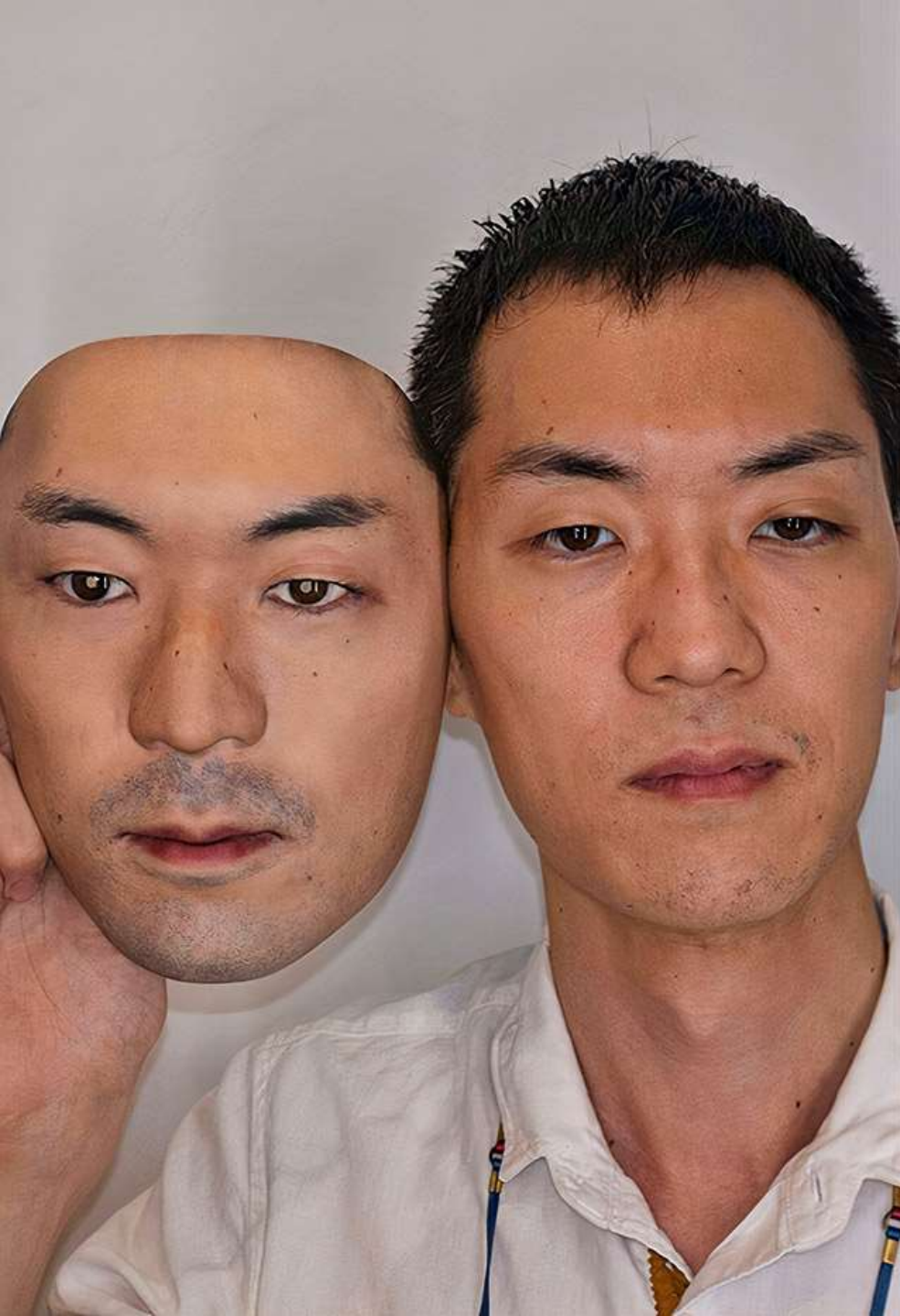




Kamenya Omote

Sell your face or buy a new one? This unique mask shop in Tokyo, Kamenya Omote, started selling masks of real people's faces. The shop buys the right to use people's faces and by utilizing the 3D-printing technology, reproduces them into hyper-realistic masks. JapanPro interviewed the shop owner and tested what's it's like to wear hyper-realistic masks with other people's faces.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcYD9kWkJfw>









Landon Meier

What does it take to make a face? Try \$4,500. At Landon Meier's studio, you can try on a new face for a day. Meier specializes in creating hyper-realistic (and hyper-expensive) masks that could easily pass for the real thing. Take a test run at being Walter White, or try on Mike Tyson for size—Meier's surreal and nightmarish creations cover a whole range of celebrities and politicians, including the ever-popular viral sensation "Crying Baby." Making these masks is no easy task—each one could take up to a year to complete. But for Meier, watching the astonished reactions to his craft makes it all worth it.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jymsVWI888w>





Katie Green

- <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1644753475628>









Felicia Murray

Felicia Murray is a fiber artist from Maine, who now lives and works out of her studio at NW Marine Artworks in Portland, Oregon. Her tactile work explores motifs from nature, while creating imagined landscapes of color and texture. She received her B.F.A. in Fibers from The Savannah College of Art and Design in 2019, and has since been continuing to develop her work through collaborations, commissions, community projects, and exhibitions.

- <https://www.feliciajmurray.com/>



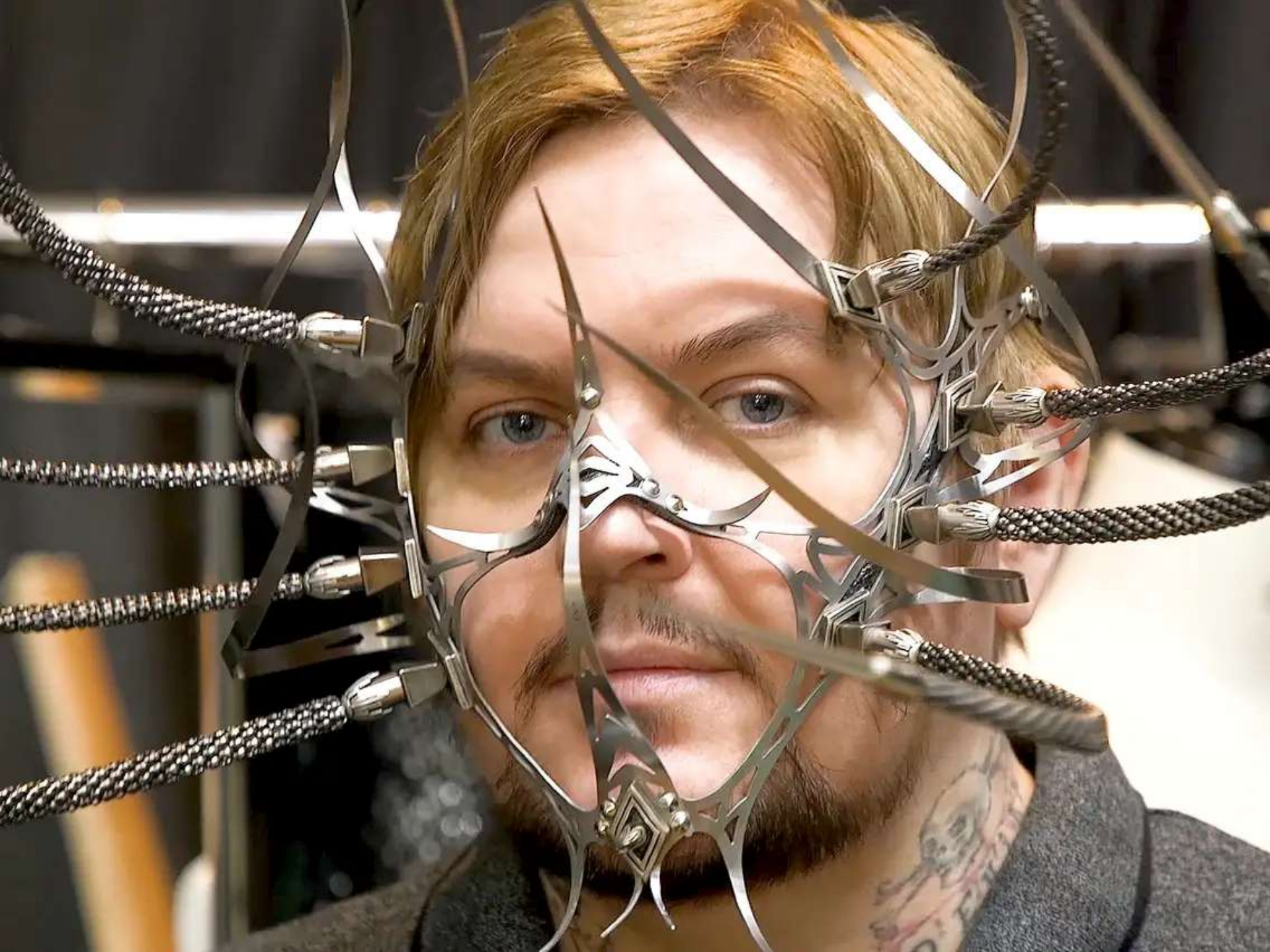
Lance Victor Moore

Lance Victor Moore is a bespoke mask and fashion designer living in San Francisco. He's created pieces for celebrities like Lady Gaga and Milla Jovovich. He crafts these masks using animal horns, insects, and other ethically sourced materials from taxidermy and oddities store, Paxton Gate. Moore takes us inside his studio and shows us how he brings these whimsical face pieces to life.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPUbLpXFjgl>
- <http://www.lancevictormoore.com/>







Aldo Lanzini

Aldo Lanzini is an Italian-born artist. He has been a costume designer within the New York underground scene, a guest of the Missoni Spring/Summer 2011 fashion show, where a group of with his masked covered people blocked out the guests at the entrance and his work has been exhibited and shown worldwide (e.g. Le Case D'Arte/Milan, Triennale Bovisa/Milan, Animamix Biennial/Beijing, also part of private and public collections (e.g. Pompidou Paris, MoMa NY).

Recent work of his includes colourful pieces of skilfully made crochet masks and dresses.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWdkHOMXphg>









David Obi

David Obi (b. 1980) is a **Norwegian based contemporary Artist**. His passion for art started at the early age of 5. He has always loved art and craft, growing up as a kid. He question feelings and emotions on people's face and their life try to reflect them on his work.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0Edj3JHWKU>







Saya Woolfalk

Saya Woolfalk is an American artist known for her multimedia exploration of hybridity, science, race and sex. Woolfalk uses science fiction and fantasy to reimagine the world in multiple dimensions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDNXcqPY4Fc>







Kimmy Cantrell

Kimmy Cantrell enjoys developing fresh variations on several recurring themes: faces, still lifes, nudes and fish. Kimmy uses many forms to tell his stories, from free standing sculptures to still life collages. He uses asymmetry to challenge traditional definitions of beauty. “I want to show the beauty within flaws,” he explains. “Imperfections tell stories that are far more compelling than perfection.”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXsolKLnfeY>
- <https://kimart.com/about-kimmy/>







Balinese Mask Maker

Balinese masks provide homes for spiritual and transcendental energies to dwell in, and are therefore very important in Balinese culture. Many are used in sacred rituals, and even have ceremonies dedicated to their powers. Subscribe to our channel to get a new video every week and download our app to start exploring your world. Discover more about Balinese masks here: <https://bit.ly/2JbJRan>

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrczC8_JO2c

Linda Hall Anxiety Masks

- <http://www.lindahallart.com/anxiety-masks.html>











Zac Monday

Zac Monday's crochet costumes and drawings are animated through performance experiences that are intended to direct how both the viewer and the maker interact. When performed, crocheted characters are focused on guiding viewers through art and everyday spaces, where our emotional and spiritual sensations can be expressed through textile touch; an enigmatic significance, as well as storyline.

- <https://www.craftinamerica.org/exhibition/body-conscious-southern-california-fiber>
- https://visarts.ucsd.edu/news-events/archive/20191023-1113_zacmonday.html
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2jhtiif4_4&t=29s (For Serena)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8NfOJ-oJn4&t=11s>
- <https://www.zacmonday.com/>







Dominican Republic Carnivale Masks

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kE_wAstYFfA

Assignment Suggestions...

- Make a piece of artwork out of discarded face masks.
- Create a painting or work of art inspired by a mask that you own.
- Make a mask out of cardboard (or leaves)
- Build a mask over a face mask
- <https://laughingsquid.com/papier-mache-animal-masks/>