

VOGUE

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PROFILES & PLATFORMS

TNT: Inside the Studios of Five New York Artists

by Elisabeth von Thurn und Taxis



Photographed by JM Houle

Von Thurn und Taxis, Elisabeth. "TNT: Inside the Studios of Five New York Artists," *Vogue Daily*. November 4, 2011.

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Ena Swansea

Ena Swansea's mysterious paintings are still hugely inspired by the city—even after two decades of living in New York. Originally from North Carolina, Swansea headed north straight out of college. She covers her canvases with a metallic (sometimes graphite, sometimes ground-up stainless steel) over which she then paints in oil colors. She describes the technique she employs as “problematic.” Similar to a stained-glass window, her paintings change with the light, and on occasion the dark background, swallows the work itself. But therein lies their beauty: They are elusive and shy at times, omnipresent and radiant at others. Next month, she will be exhibiting at the Sammlung Falckenberg gallery in Hamburg, Germany. Would she be able to paint if she left New York City indefinitely? She squints mischievously. “Maybe,” she says, “but I don’t know how I would do that.”

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