

## Studio Visit with Grace Weaver in Bushwick, Brooklyn



I had a wonderful studio visit in early January with the young figurative painter Grace Weaver at her space in Bushwick. Weaver, who is 26, is a recent VCU MFA alum and produces exuberant, vibrant, playful canvases illustrating contemporary life in the 2010s. Fresh off a highly productive 2015, which included two solo shows, 'Teenage Dream' at her New York gallery Thierry Goldberg and 'Skinny Latte', at Soy Capitan in Berlin, as well as exhibiting at Pulse Miami Beach this past December. Weaver's work, mostly oil-based paintings, captures posh millennials enjoying leisurely-filled afternoons spent playing tennis or working off their laptop in bed. In 'Lust for Life', in the midst of an attractive crowd, a young woman walks briskly while listening to music on her iPhone, in 'Getaway', beach revelers sunbathe while one of them takes a selfie. Yet Weaver creates spontaneous and tender moments that are highlighted on the canvas, such as in 'Détente', where a young couple affectionately lay together while each one indulges in their separate interests. There is a beautiful clash of modernity and nostalgia present in her work, contemporary themes sprinkled with vintage European flair and gusto. Weaver is riding an exciting wave of momentum with her work and I'm excited to follow her intently.