

CULTURED

GALLERISTS UNDER 30

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Photography by Carrie Schneider



DAVID PETER FRANCIS

DAVID PAGLIARULO

As a teen in Tampa, David Pagliarulo spent many an afternoon giving feedback to a painter friend. “We were kind of doing studio visits,” he recalls. When asked what might have sparked this proto-gallerist behavior in his adolescent self, Pagliarulo reckons that he’s “always been the person willing to get on the train regardless of where it’s going. Like, *Tell me the crazy, weird idea. I just want to talk through it.*”

Less than a decade later, that big-hearted nonchalance has earned him the trust of quite a few artists. After earning a master’s in visual and material culture at the American University of Paris, Pagliarulo hopped on a plane to New York in 2018 to interview for an internship with

Fort Gansevoort. He got it on the spot. The chance to see a gallery come to life arose when Clara Ha, a former partner of Paul Kasmin, opened Chart and tapped Pagliarulo as her second-in-command. Later, a director position at Marinaro—which had already built up a solid roster of artists—completed the arc of his gallery education.

An artist at the Tribeca gallery had “the crazy, weird idea” that would land Pagliarulo in an East Broadway space with *his* name on the lease. In October 2021, he was Ubering to a post-opening dinner with embroidery doyenne Elaine Reichel, “and she just grabbed my hand and said, ‘You know, you could do this yourself one day.’”

“A lot of goddamn emails” later, David Peter Francis has two openings under his belt. What’s already clear is that Pagliarulo is drawn to peripheral viewpoints and category-allergic artists. The 28-year-old gallerist attributes this penchant for soft-power risk to the same urge that pushed him to strike out on his own. “There’s not a lot of history behind me,” he says. “Maybe in a couple of years I would have been more afraid to take the jump, [but] I’m walking into this less encumbered.” Of course, the temerity of youth comes with a price. “It’s easy to dismiss someone younger,” he acknowledges with a laugh. “I guess aging is the natural solution to that problem.”