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Art's New Vanguard

If art is like a bucket of fresh milk, then all one has to do is wait a little while for the cream to rise. Over the past year a triad of young gay artists have emerged to signal the arrival of a new vanguard: **Scott Hug**, **Paul Mpagi Sepuya**, and **Paul Lee**. These three New Yorkers (Lee is originally from London) have made waves internationally with their particular brand of smart work underpinned with crosscurrents of sexuality. Hug, a multimedia artist, curator, and publisher of the haute hipster art magazine *K48*, pokes fun at the ludicrousness of pop culture in pieces like a picture of Paris Hilton above the words "Praise the lord." Sepuya's minimalist photographs of his friends, unclothed and in his bed, explore his closeness to them and their bodies. Lee's work, assemblages of string, washcloths, and aluminum cans printed with figures of men, reference the backroom, bathroom culture of pre-AIDS bacchanalia; an elegy and yearning for a time gone by. **NICHOLAS WEIST**

From left: Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Scott Hug, and Paul Lee. Photographed by Danielle St. Laurent at the National Arts Club in New York City. Styling by Tai Chi Alfonso.