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Artadia

The Fund for Art and Dialogue

The 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award Winners



Caption: Robbie Land, *Matters of Bioluminescence*, 2013, 16mm, 7 minutes. Courtesy the artist.

New York, NY- [Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue](#) is pleased to announce the 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award winners. The recipient of the 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award at the \$20,000 level is [Robbie Land](#). [Paul Stephen Benjamin](#), [Bethany Collins](#) and [Lauri Stallings](#) will receive Artadia Awards at the \$8,000 level. Artadia awards artists of outstanding merit with substantial, unrestricted funds and connects them to a network of opportunities. For more information about the artists and their work, please see descriptions below.

Applications for the Artadia Atlanta Awards were

JURORS



Michael Rooks, Wieland Family Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, [The High Museum of Art](#), Atlanta, Georgia



Carter Foster, Curator of Drawings, [The Whitney Museum of American Art](#), New York, New York

open to visual artists working in all mediums at any stage of their career currently living in Atlanta's 23-county area. The application was accessible online for three months (December 15, 2013 - March 23, 2014). In March 2014, three jurors—**Michael Rooks**, Curator, [The High Museum, Atlanta](#); **Carter Foster**, Curator of Drawings, [The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York](#), and **Christopher Y. Lew**, Assistant Curator, [MoMA PS1, New York](#)—selected ten finalists from over 241 applications submitted by Atlanta's talented visual artists. The ten finalists were: [Paul Stephen Benjamin](#), [Sheila Pree Bright](#), [Bethany Collins](#), [Ruth Dusseault](#), [Jody Fausett](#), [Robbie Land](#), [Pam Longobardi](#), [Tommy Nease](#), [Lauri Stallings](#) and [P. Seth Thompson](#).

Through the Artadia process, all applicants had the opportunity to have their work reviewed by three internationally-renowned curators. Juror **Christopher Y. Lew** emphasized the importance of Artadia's unique process: "Participating in the process to select the Atlanta finalists was a great way to learn more about the city's impressive artistic community. This year's Awards will continue to foster the diverse and energetic practices that are well rooted in Atlanta."

Artadia's second round panel took place for two consecutive days (April 15-16) in Atlanta. **Michael Rooks** was joined by **Gabriel Ritter**, Assistant Curator, [The Dallas Museum of Art](#) and **Xaviera Simmons**, [artist](#), New York, to conduct studio visits with the finalists. Jurors **Rooks**, **Ritter** and **Simmons** selected **Paul Stephen Benjamin**, **Bethany Collins**, **Robbie Land** and **Lauri Stallings** from the finalist pool based on the outstanding merit of their work and the rigor of their artistic practices.



Christopher Lew, Assistant Curator, [MoMA PS1](#), New York, New York



Gabriel Ritter, The Nancy and Tim Hanley Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, the [Dallas Museum of Art](#)



Atlanta-based curator **Michael Rooks** served on both the first and second rounds of the Artadia jury to give continuity and context to the process. **Rooks** experienced new insight into Atlanta's artistic community through his participation in the Artadia's Award program, saying: "The experience of serving on both rounds of the jury for this year's Artadia Awards in Atlanta has revealed to me the remarkable depth of artistic accomplishment in Atlanta. It was a delight to revisit the work of so many artists I've known and admired, and to introduce them to Xaviera and Gabriel. All the finalists deserve congratulations and thanks for their contributions to the fabric of the artistic community in the city."

Artist and juror **Xaviera Simmons** remarked on the finalists, "I am completely inspired by the rigor and experimentation of Atlanta's practitioners. As a working artist, I appreciate the opportunity to talk with and view the creative endeavors of the finalists who shine a bright light on the entire art community." Continuing, **Simmons** said of the 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award Winners, "Ranging from experimental film (**Land**) to experimental video (**Benjamin**) to experimental works on paper (**Collins**) to experimental methods surrounding dance and performance (**Stallings**), each of the Awardees exemplifies a commitment to practice, process, language and form."

Curator and juror **Gabriel Ritter** elaborated on the merit of the 2014 Artadia Atlanta Awardees: "**Robbie Land's** work engages with a wide range of issues and contexts including memory, experimental film and land art in the most exciting and thought-provoking ways. He has an endlessly expansive practice that I look forward to following for years to come. **Paul Stephan Benjamin, Bethany Collins** and **Lauri Stalling's** work represents the future of Atlanta's

Xaviera Simmons, [artist](#),
New York, New York

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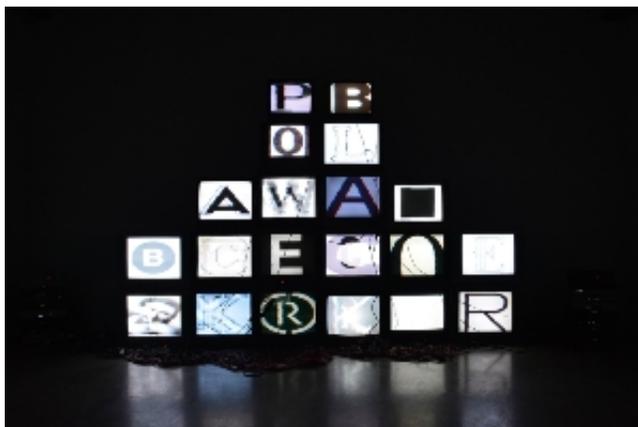
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art scene. These artists all move Atlanta forward."

Atlanta Mayor **Kasim Reed** said of Artadia's investment in Atlanta, "We are proud that an important national arts organization like Artadia has returned to Atlanta for its third Awards cycle. Artadia's demonstrates a commitment to the city of Atlanta and recognizes the immense talent and potential of its artists. The prestige of this unrestricted award will allow the chosen artists the freedom to pursue their artistic careers and Artadia's unique model of support will position Atlanta's artists on the national stage. All Atlanta artists benefited from having their work reviewed by internationally-renowned curators through Artadia's selection process."

The 2014 Atlanta Awards are Artadia's third award cycle in Atlanta. Since 1997, Artadia has recognized artistic excellence in cities across the United States with unrestricted, merit-based awards to contemporary artists chosen through a rigorous two-tiered jury process involving a panel of internationally-renowned curators and artists. In addition to Atlanta, Artadia currently funds awards on a rotating basis in Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area.



Paul Stephen Benjamin is a conceptual artist

working in the mediums of painting, sculpture, installation and video to investigate the multiple meanings and complex nature of the color black. Black becomes an entry point for Benjamin to discuss identity, race and masculinity as described in history, text and popular culture.

To see more of Paul Stephen Benjamin's work, visit: <http://paulstephenbenjamin.tumblr.com/>

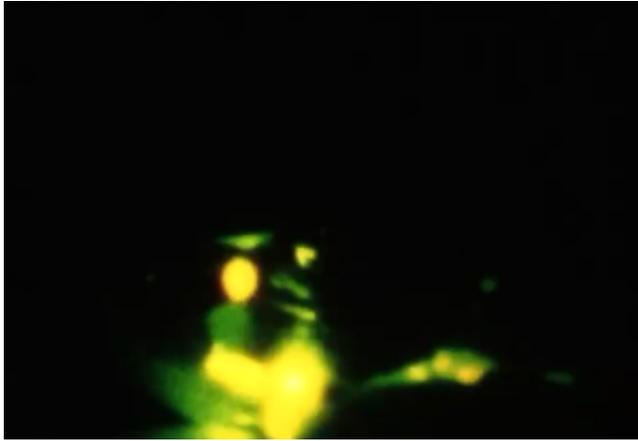
Caption: Paul Stephen Benjamin, *ABCKLx*, 2014, Video Installation, B/W, no sound, 04:52 minutes, (variable). Courtesy the Artist.
Installation View at The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center January-March 2014.



Bethany Collins' work is deeply rooted in the American South, investigating themes of race, identity and language. Collins' ongoing series *White Noise* is a language-based series that begins with unsettling statements and probing questions and ends with unsettled compositions of chalk on chalkboard. Her work evokes a longing for what author Rebecca Walker refers to as "a memory that can remind me at all times of who I definitely am...the black outline around my body that everyone else seems to have."

To see more of Bethany Collin's work, visit: <http://bethanyjoycollins.com/home.html>

Caption: Bethany Collins, *Do People Ever Think You're White? III*, 2012, *White Noise* series, Chalk and charcoal on chalkboard panel, 48" x 72" x 2". Courtesy the artist.



Robbie Land combines visual and auditory representations to convey traces of physicality, ambiance and textural existence in his photography, video, films and performance. His current project is a subjective documentation of natural elements in North America. Utilizing a variety of methods and tools including microscope objectives, photographic time exposure, hydrophones and pinhole cinematography, Land provides a personal perspective and poetic science on subjects ranging from bioluminescent organisms found in the Southeast to the visual and aural effects of the Earth's rotation and the ebb and flow of saltmarsh tidal creeks.

To see more of Robbie Land's work, visit: <http://vimeo.com/user5153299>

Caption: Robbie Land, *Matters of Bioluminescence*, 2013, 16mm, 7 minutes. Courtesy the artist.



Lauri Stallings explores perceptions of self, both alone and in group relations, by experimenting with the structure of performance and dance. Stallings explores alternative frequencies and spaces of communication by transposing conversations onto living bodies in movement. Conceptualizing place as a body, Stallings creates choreographed *tableaux vivants* and movement choirs that ask: What does it mean to be part of a community?

To see more of Lauri Stallings' work, visit: <http://www.lauristallings.org/>

Caption: Lauri Stallings, in collaboration with 2011 Artadia Atlanta Awardee [Micah Stansell](#), *Search for the Exceptional: Cycle II*, 2012, Historic Maddox Pool, Atlanta, GA. Courtesy the artist.

Artadia supports visual artists with unrestricted financial awards and fosters connections to a network of opportunities. We recognize artistic excellence in cities throughout the United States and introduce local communities to the international art conversation.

Artadia was founded as The ArtCouncil in 1997. In the past 15 years, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to over 275 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles and the San

Francisco Bay area. Artadia partners with local foundations and individuals in the host cities to raise funds that go directly to artists in that community. Artadia Awards are determined through a rigorous jury process that employs nationally prominent curators, artists, and critics. Once an artist receives an Artadia Award, they become part of a national network and receive lifetime support from Artadia.



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