

Artadia Announces Awardees for Seventh Chicago Artadia Awards and Feature at EXPO CHICAGO.

Chicago, IL - Artadia is pleased to announce the 2015 Chicago Artadia Awardees. **LaMont Hamilton** and **Cauleen Smith** will each receive \$12,000 in unrestricted funds. **Laura Davis** and **Irena Haiduk** will each be awarded \$5,000 in unrestricted funds. Each artist will receive the lifetime benefits of the Artadia Award program including access to our New York residency, Awardee exhibitions, connections with curators and participation in Artadia projects at art fairs across the country. Artadia is thrilled to be partnering with **EXPO CHICAGO** to present work by the Chicago Artadia Awardees at this year's fair.

"Congratulations to LaMont Hamilton, Cauleen Smith, Irena Haiduk, Laura Davis—and all ten finalists for the 2015 Chicago Artadia Awards," said **Michelle T. Boone**, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. "And congratulations to Artadia for continuing to recognize artistic excellence in cities throughout the U.S. and introduce local communities to the international art conversation. The important work of this organization—and the work of these talented Awardees—helps to enrich Chicago's artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy."

Applications for the Chicago Artadia Awards were open to visual artists living in Cook County, IL for over two years and working in all media and at any stage of their career. In the first round of jury review, **Naomi Beckwith**, Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, joined by **Lumi Tan**, Curator at The Kitchen, and artist **Sara Greenberger Rafferty** selected ten finalists from an applicant pool of 450 Chicago-based artists. A voice of local expertise during both rounds of the Chicago Award deliberations, **Beckwith** noted that, "it was a pleasure to serve on an Artadia jury in New York. The encouragement, attention and, of course funds they bring to artists are key in making sure important contemporary artists are given a platform. I'm especially thrilled to serve in a capacity that brings further support to artists in the Chicago community."

Beckwith was joined by second round jurors **Dominic Molon**, Richard Brown Baker Curator of Contemporary Art, RISD Museum, and **Ruth Estévez**, Gallery Director and Curator, REDCAT, to conduct studio visits with the ten finalists in late August. **Estévez** noted "Chicago's Artadia finalists all came from very different disciplines and working subjects, moreover all of them share an incredible curiosity for experimentation, trying to find new ways to move forward with their own practices, breaking grounds with an amazing energy. These artists gave me a little taste as to what Chicago represents today, an incredible creative and prolific art scene." **Molon** further emphasized the strength of the finalist pool making the jurors' "task even more difficult in selecting those individuals who are making work of incredible insight, significance and urgency. The overall group emphasizes the remarkable strides that Chicago has made in the past few decades in having the ability to sustain a strong, vibrant, and diverse art scene."

Since 1999, Artadia has recognized artistic excellence in cities across the United States with unrestricted, merit-based Awards and connections to a network of opportunities. In addition to Chicago, Artadia currently funds Awards on a rotating cycle in Atlanta, Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2015 Chicago Artadia Awards were made possible thanks to the generosity of The Joyce Foundation, Artadia's Board of Directors, members, and individuals across the country. Special thanks to EXPO CHICAGO.

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The Fund for Art and Dialogue

2015

Chicago

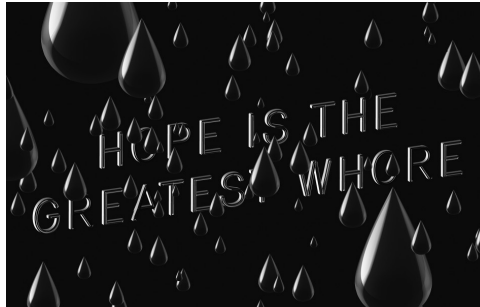
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Awardees



Laura Davis

“My interest in the decorative arts stems from their direct relationship to people & especially to women. These things are underdogs, the embarrassing little sisters of the art world: objects where art, design and craft intersect. Through modes of presentation, I give them the props of a higher cultural strata only to have them fail more sweetly.”



Irena Haiduk

The question Irena Haiduk asks is not how might artists grasp and articulate the current disquiet of our historical moment, but more fundamentally, what does it take to make history or reckon with it from within, surrounded by the shrapnel of the storm? It's a question that need not be posed only to the powerful. She seeks out the complications and shared complicities that underlie the (shifting) desires at work in both art and political operations. Haiduk looks for such blind spots and sets up camp, in a sunny place where every soul suffers infinite injustice.



LaMont Hamilton

“Dapline! takes an abstract translation of the dap to root it in something ephemeral, heady (as the work has been called). What's at play is a feeling, feelings. What's being attempted is to elicit that space in between, where the dap moves (intergenerationally) and moves (the stirring sensation of love, brotherhood, solidarity).”



Cauleen Smith

Cauleen Smith is an interdisciplinary artist whose work reflects upon the everyday possibilities of the imagination. Though operating in multiple materials and arenas, Smith roots her work firmly within the discourse of mid-twentieth century experimental film. Drawing from structuralism, third world cinema, and science fiction, Smith makes things that deploy the tactics of these disciplines while offering a phenomenological experience for spectators and participants.