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## Artadia Announces 2016 San Francisco Award Winners

Artadia announced today that Josh Faught and Ruth Laskey have been selected as the 2016 San Francisco Artadia awardees. The artists will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds and are eligible for the inaugural National Artadia award that will be presented at the end of 2016.

From a pool of 490 submissions, five finalists were selected by a jury consisting of Jenny Gheith, assistant curator of sculpture and painting at SFMoMA; Lauren Haynes, associate curator of the permanent collection at the Studio Museum in Harlem; and Brian Sholis, curator of photography at the Cincinnati Art Museum. Ceci Moss, an independent curator, joined the jury for the second round of evaluations to help determine the award winners.



"For a place like San Francisco that has a rich history in craft and textiles, it's perhaps not surprising that both Artadia awardees use a loom, albeit for very different purposes and results," Gheith said.

When discussing the artists' practices Gheith noted, "For Laskey, who approaches weaving as a painter, it has allowed her to integrate both the figure and ground, support and composition, into one seamless structure. It was terrific to see the complexity by which she embeds geometric forms through a distinctive use of the twill weave. The possibilities for her are endless."

Commenting on Faught, Moss said he "is a singular artist, whose work isn't easily categorizable. Combining handmade textiles, archival research, pop cultural detritus, and sculptural concerns, he addresses how language establishes community and connection." She added, "Attentive to the importance of signal and disguise in queer history, his quirky, clever and impressive tapestries play with what we know, or assume we know."

Applications for the San Francisco Artadia Award were open to any visual artist who has been based in the Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo for more than two years.

Artadia is a national nonprofit organization that supports artists at any stage of their careers. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded more than \$3 million to three hundred artists working in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.