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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR 2016 ATLANTA AWARDS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2016 Atlanta Awards: **Kelly Kristin Jones**, **T. Lang**, **Jiha Moon**, **Zipporah Thompson**, and **Cosmo Whyte**.

The Finalists were selected by jurors **Sofía Hernández Chong Cuy**, Curator of Contemporary Art, Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, **Jamillah James**, Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and **Katherine Jentleson**, Merrie and Dan Boone Curator of Folk and Self-Taught Art, High Museum of Art.

Artadia's jurying process provided nationally recognized curators a unique opportunity to discover nearly 200 artists living and working in Atlanta, giving each applicant crucial exposure to leading voices in the field. Of the Atlanta applicants, **Jentleson** noted: "It has been a privilege and an inspiration to get to know the work of Atlanta's amazing artists. I feel incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such talent and look forward to many more encounters." **Hernández Chong Cuy** also spoke to the quality of the submissions: "The selection process was difficult—simply because there were a great number of artists with strong work to consider, an indication, too, of a lively arts community in Atlanta."

James highlighted the ways in which the process forges professional connections between curators and artists: "It's always exciting to learn about the work being made in other parts of the country. I was quite impressed by the breadth and rigor of the work I reviewed for the Atlanta jury, and plan to keep an eye on these artists, and see how their work continues to develop."

This is Artadia's fourth time presenting curator-driven, unrestricted Awards to Atlanta artists. Artadia received 188 applications for the 2016 Atlanta Artadia Awards, which were open to all visual artists living in Greater Atlanta (the 23 eligible counties of Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton) for over two years, working in any media and at any stage of their career. Finalists and Artadia Award recipients are selected through Artadia's rigorous, two-tier jury review process. In the first round of review, jurors evaluated the merit of all submissions and collaboratively determined the five Finalists.

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that supports artists with unrestricted, merit-based Awards followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. Artadia is unique in that it allows any artist to apply, engages nationally recognized curators to review work, and culminates in direct grants. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to more than 300 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2016 Atlanta Artadia Awards are made possible thanks to MailChimp, Artadia's Board of Directors, Council members, and many generous individual donors in Atlanta and throughout the United States.

2016 Atlanta Awards Finalists

KELLY KRISTIN JONES

Kelly Kristin Jones is an interdisciplinary artist. Her work explores the self-proclaimed “New South,” specifically cityscapes and how these spaces affect our psyche.



Kelly Kristin Jones, *Headquarters*, 2016, archival pigment print

T. LANG

T. Lang Dance delves deeply into American history and its avoided complexities - investigating and excavating untold truths of identity and community. Envisioning choreography in which dance and technology are interdependent, Lang collaborates with forward thinking composers, visual artists and engineers to create interactive and responsive virtual environments like no other.



T. Lang, *LIT Variations #4*, 2015, performed at a private studio performance at the home of visual artist Radcliffe Baily

Jiha Moon

“My recent painting, ceramic sculpture and ceramic installation explore the idea of something foreign. What I make might appear foreign and exotic, or might look familiar and comforting, but you have to look carefully to understand what you’re really experiencing. Ultimately, everyone except ourselves is foreign. Examining misunderstanding is part of the necessary process of understanding others. I want to share that experience.”



Jiha Moon, *Anang*, 2015, earthenware, underglaze, glaze, wire, synthetic hair, plastic barrette, 14.5 x 12 x 4.5 inches

ZIPPORAH THOMPSON

Artifacts of the arcane fuse lived, rural traditions and histories, with contemporary experiences of Blackness. Reimagining land, space, and place, ongoing is the complex search for self through a visual format extracted from various landforms, natural disasters, catastrophes, lunar studies, and unknown phenomena.



Zipporah Thompson, *midnight passage*, 2016, mixed media collection, 48 x 42 inches, variable

COSMO WHYTE

“I am a trans-disciplinary artist who employs drawing, performance, and sculpture to create conceptual work that explores how notions of identity are disrupted by migration—particularly migration as an unfinished arc of motion whose final resting point remains an open-ended question. My creative process begins through the interrogation of my own (racialized as black, gendered as man) body, and the personal memories that are embedded within it. I use this archive as my entry point into collective political interrogations.”



Cosmo Whyte, *Stranger than the Village*, 2015, 35 x 26 inches