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# Artadia

Artadia Announces Finalists for Second Los Angeles Artadia Awards

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five finalists for the 2016 Los Angeles Artadia Awards.

The finalists were selected by jurors **Jarrett Gregory**, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA and **Mark Beasley**, Curator at Performa, New York, NY following a review of 684 applicants in late February.

The five finalists for the 2016 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are: **Rafa Esparza, Dan Finsel, Mariah Garnett, Dylan Mira, Nate Page.**

Of the finalists, **Jarrett Gregory** said, "We were excited by an overwhelming number of the applications but in the end I believe the finalists represent a diverse range of voices and reflect Mark's and my interest in work that expands into video, performance, and other constructed situations. I can't wait to visit the finalists." **Mark Beasley** also spoke to the impressive submission pool: "The number and quality of applicants is testament to Artadia's clear standing in the arts community and the need for the support they provide in terms of exposure for the visual arts in a time where attention of any kind is at a premium."

This is Artadia's second year providing unrestricted Awards to artists in Los Angeles. Applications for the 2016 Los Angeles Artadia Awards were open to visual artists living in Los Angeles County, CA for over two years, working in all media and at any stage of their career. Artadia selects finalists and Artadia Award recipients through a rigorous two-part jury review process. In the first round of review, two renowned curators evaluate the merit of all submissions received and collaboratively determine five finalists. Artadia's selection process is highly recognized and provides all applicants with the opportunity for their work to be viewed by a prominent curator. **Beasley** noted that this process benefits the jurors as well, stating, "It's inspiring to be reminded of the range of art and artists out there, and that places such as Artadia are there to hear the call and support new, illuminating and often difficult thought!"

**Gregory** will be joined by **Kris Kuramitsu**, Deputy Director and Senior Curator, The Mistake Room, Los Angeles, CA to conduct studio visits with the five finalists in early March and select two artists as Awardees. The 2016 Los Angeles Artadia Awardees will each receive up to \$10,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program.

**This Award cycle marks a momentous change for the organization. Beginning in 2017, Artadia will present Awards in Los Angeles and each of its program cities every year.** Annual Awards will offer artists greater opportunities for funds and recognition, and will enable Artadia to strengthen its connections within arts communities across the country.

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 up to \$20,000. 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 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are made possible by Artadia's dedicated Board of Directors, Council members, and many generous individuals throughout the country.

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## 2016 Los Angeles Awards Finalists

### Rafa Esparza

“Through live and site-specific performance, I work through questions that speak to the prevailing affects colonization narratives have on poor, working class communities of color, and the social, political, physical landscapes we navigate.”



### Dan Finsel

Influenced by the subjective exercises and self-mythologizing phenomena within Method acting and the practice of the pseudonym within literature, Dan Finsel performs/deforms himself within a mirror of Performed Identity.



### Mariah Garnett

“My work, primarily film, video and installation, exists somewhere in the intersection between appropriation, documentary and narrative fiction. My interest lies less in the end goal of representation than in its process, which is often fraught with tension, affection and sometimes even violence.”



### Dylan Mira

“My video and writing record how language makes bodies. This practice grew from years of creating community driven documentaries with non-profits and finding that state funded representations of women of color demand to know only the ways we die or how we may survive in order to be defined and governed by law.”



### Nate Page

“I see Architecture, Landscape and Design as a site of exchange, similar to the act of image making and viewing, where conscious and unconscious ideologies and value systems are constructed and interpreted by the absent designer and the community’s inhabitants.”

