



For Immediate Release

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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR 2017 CHICAGO AWARDS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2017 Chicago Awards: **Rashayla Marie Brown**, **Alex Chitty**, **Cameron Clayborn**, **Faheem Majeed**, and **Claire Pentecost**. The Finalists will receive studio visits with second round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists as Awardees to receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

The Finalists were selected by jurors **Rashid Johnson**, artist; **Omar Kholeif**, Manilow Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and **Susan Thompson**, Assistant Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

In her reflection on the jurying process, **Thompson** noted that the Finalists are a diverse group of artists with a range of professional experience: "It was highly rewarding to review the work of so many impressive candidates and also quite a challenge to select just five finalists from among the many talented applicants. In selecting the Awards Finalists, we identified artists making compelling work in a variety of modes and mediums whose practices explore formal, material, conceptual, and/or social concerns. The Finalist list includes emerging artists whose work shows great promise and about whom we were eager to learn more, as well as more seasoned practitioners whose applications highlighted a new and intriguing direction in their practice. It was an honor to participate as a juror for the 2017 Chicago Artadia Awards, and I look forward to seeing the results of the next round of review." **Johnson** also remarked on the quality of the applicants: "It was great seeing so much talent coming out of Chicago."

This is Artadia's eighth Award cycle in Chicago. The application was open to all visual artists living in Chicago 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.

In addition to receiving the unrestricted funds, the 2017 Chicago Awardees will have the opportunity to exhibit work at EXPO CHICAGO in September.

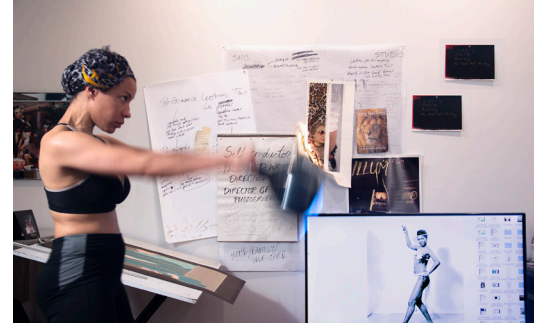
Artadia is a national non-profit organization that supports artists with unrestricted, merit-based Awards followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. Artadia is unique in that it allows any artist to apply, engages nationally recognized artists and curators to review work, and culminates in direct 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 2017 Chicago Awards are generously supported by Artadia's Board of Directors and Council members.

## 2017 Chicago Awards Finalists

### RASHAYLA MARIE BROWN

Artist-scholar Rashayla Marie Brown (RMB) manages a living studio practice across an extensive list of cultural production modes, including photography, performance, writing, drawing, installation, and video art. Encompassing themes of autonomy and self-mastery at the intersections of art history, religion, and popular culture, RMB's work often investigates power dynamics through the emotion and personal vulnerability of lived experience.



Rashayla Marie Brown, *Credibility, Viability, Accuracy/Maya Angelou as a Sex Worker/Can't Knock the Hustle*, 2016 archival pigment print, 24 x 36 inches

### ALEX CHITTY

Alex Chitty's practice is driven by an interest in the abstraction of narrative and a curiosity for the object. Born in Miami, Florida to British parents, Chitty's background as a biologist influenced the development of a hyper observational eye towards anecdotal detail. Within the work is an inherent appreciation of the act of noticing oneself see and a desire to engage viewers with the details of the present.



Alex Chitty, *for another who isn't, but never ceases to be*, 2016, powder coated steel, cork, c-print, xerox print, altered Fanta-can, cast white bronze, chromed steel, rope, maple, glass, cast brass, blush brushes, 65 x 50 x 5 inches

### CAMERON CLAYBORN

"I interrogate the stability of identity as something that is only built by the historical, social, and political constructs of our bodies – specifically the black, brown, and African-American body. I work with participants, sexual content, imagery of death, opposites, weight, and various surface treatments and textures as means to probe these constructs. The primary media of my work is sculpture, performance, video, and installation. I source my materials from physical spaces where public and private interaction collapse in one another such as; bars, night clubs, and bathhouses."



Cameron Clayborn, *Untitled (Vinyl 8)*, 2017, glitter vinyl, steel, upholstery nails, 20 x 72 x 2 inches

**FAHEEM MAJEED**

Faheem Majeed is an artist, educator, curator, and community facilitator. He blends his unique experience as a non-profit administrator, curator, and artist to create works that focus on institutional critique and exhibitions that leverage collaboration to engage his immediate, and the broader community, in meaningful dialogue.



Faheem Majeed, *Socially Engaged Protest*, 2016, vinyl and marker, 10 x 6 x 5 feet

**CLAIRE PENTECOST**

“I feel that our times impose something like a critical juncture on all of us. Among the many urgencies of this moment is the likely repeal of every significant policy and legislation designed to protect the natural environment and the health of all living things, including humans. More than ever I wonder how to leverage my limited influence as an artist toward building a culture of care for life.”



Claire Pentecost, *Amor Fati*, 2016