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Houston Artadia Awards Go to Regina Agu and Kaneem Smith

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Artadia has announced the winners of its 2017 Houston Artadia awards: Regina Agu and Kaneem Smith. The artists, both of them based in Houston, will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

Agu and Smith were selected from five finalists also including Catherine Colangelo, Gabriel Martinez, and Sarah Welch. The pair were chosen by a jury comprising Ryan N. Dennis, the public art director of Houston's Project Row Houses; Claire Gilman, a senior curator at the Drawing Center in New York; and Los Angeles-based artist Ryan Trecartin.

Agu typically uses text and images to produce collaborative installations that explore narratives related to history and representations of race. Smith employs sculpture to produce installation-based work that tackles themes of anthropology, archeology, and American history.

In a statement, Dennis said, "Regina Agu and Kaneem Smith represent two dynamic women working in different mediums, but both are very focused and articulated the vision of their work with grace and passion. I could not be more thrilled to award these two artists and look forward to seeing what they accomplish with this support."

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Regina Agu, *Sea Change* (installation view at Project Row Houses), 2016, vinyl print.

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