



For Immediate Release

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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR 2017 NEW YORK AWARDS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2017 New York Awards: **Dawn Kasper, Michael Portnoy, Mika Tajima, Patricia Treib, and Jessica Vaughn.** 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 **Kimberly Drew**, Social Media Manager, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; **Jonah Freeman**, artist, New York, NY; and **Matthew Lyons**, Curator, The Kitchen, New York, NY.

**Drew** said of the Finalists: “I am deeply excited to advance applications from **Dawn Kasper, Michael Portnoy, Mika Tajima, Patricia Treib, and Jessica Vaughn.** I believe that they are five artists—working through a wide range of medium—that truly capture New York’s art scene right now. Their intelligence as creators and their acute awareness of color, shape, and form encapsulate the New York scene’s interest in deconstruction and experimentation.”

**Lyons** lauded the diversity of the group: “The impressive pool of applicants included artists working across a broad range of practices within visual art, and I am happy that the Finalists reflect this range. I look forward to visiting with them.”

This is Artadia’s second Award cycle in New York. Artadia received 683 applications for the Awards, which were open to all visual artists living in New York City 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 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 New York Artadia Awards are made possible thanks to the generosity of UOVO and The May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation.

## 2017 New York Awards Finalists

### DAWN KASPER

"I am an interdisciplinary nomadic performance artist working in installation, sculpture, drawing, photography, video, and sound. Creating sculptural installation environments within which to perform, I work serially, beginning with a hypothesis, conducting actions to prove or disprove my thesis. I write proposals for each performance explaining exactly what will occur."



Dawn Kasper, *On Desire or The Method*, 2016, 240 x 240 inches

### MICHAEL PORTNOY

"My performance-based practice arose from a background in dance, writing, and "experimental comedy." I make participatory installations, sculpture, painting, writing, theater, choreography, video, music and curation. I'm a maximalist who manipulates language, behavior, and movement into energetic compounds as a tool for world-bending—either in my "Relational Stalinist" game structures in which confusion, complication, and ambiguity are used to stretch and abstract participants' speech and movement in the service of riotous invention; or "improving" existing breeds of art through re-engineering, equal parts satire and futurology. I aim to create a radical intimacy through higher forms of irrationality."



Michael Portnoy, *27 Gnosis*, 2012, 12 meter circumference, 4 meter tall

### MIKA TAJIMA

"I employ sculpture, painting, video, and performance, drawing on contradictions in design and architecture to consider how the performing subject is constructed (e. g., speaker, dancer, worker, musician, filmmaker). My recent work examines how technologies that were developed to control and affect the body now integrate our senses to coproduce our lived space. These works address the sensorial space of appearances and speculates what part of life escapes capture by machinic imperatives."



Mika Tajima, *Meridian Gold*, 2016, 20 x 144 x 144 inches

### **PATRICIA TREIB**

Patricia Treib's paintings are composed around sensuous details, absences, and shifts in perspective. While her work draws on far-ranging references—a hand glimpsed in an early 15th Century Russian icon, the outline of a sleeve in a Piero della Francesca fresco, the contours of a 35 mm camera or a glass clock—Treib's true subject is the process of looking, through which she discovers new relationships while dismantling what is merely recognizable. Treib focuses on the space between forms, making in-betweenness a primary motif. She frequently removes, adjusts and repeats precise configurations and flourishes. Peripheral elements become central presences, suggesting icons or calligraphic gestures in flux, riding on an assured, almost giddy sense of movement. A particular energy derives from Treib's distinctive use of color, which can seem at once delicate and dynamic, measured and dancelike.



Patricia Treib, *Ensemble*, 2016, 66 x 50 inches

### **JESSICA VAUGHN**

Jessica Vaughn (b. 1983, Chicago, IL) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She received her BFA in 2006 from Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA and her MFA in 2011 from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Vaughn studied at the Whitney Independent Study Program, 2012-13; the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 2015; and was an artist-in-residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Program, 2015-16.



Jessica Vaughn, *Surplus* (detail), 2016, 60 x 40 x 1/4 inches (each)