



Filmmaker Robbie Land wins \$20,000 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award

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BY HOWARD POUSNER / AJC

Robbie Land has been selected for 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award prize of \$20,000, the New York-based foundation Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue announced Thursday.

Top three finalists Paul Stephen Benjamin, Bethany Collins and Lauri Stallings each will receive a \$8,000 award.

Independent filmmaker Land was a finalist for the \$50,000 Hudgens Prize last year that went to Georgia State University art professor Pam Longobardi.

Longobardi was one of 10 finalists for the Artadia Atlanta Award, selected from more than 240 applicants. The others (in addition to Land, Benjamin, Collins and Stallings) were Sheila Pree Bright, Ruth Dusseault, Jody Fausett, Tommy Nease and P. Seth Thompson.

Jurors for the Atlanta prize were High Museum of Art curator Michael Rooks; Carter Foster, a curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; and Christopher Y. Lew, an assistant curator, MoMA PS1 in New York.

Here is some background from Artadia's release:

Rooks experienced new insight into Atlanta's artistic community through his participation in the Artadia's Award program, saying: "The experience of serving on both rounds of the jury for this year's Artadia Awards in Atlanta has revealed to me the remarkable depth of artistic accomplishment in Atlanta. It was a delight to revisit the work of so many artists I've known and admired, and to introduce them to Xaviera and Gabriel. All the finalists deserve congratulations and thanks for their contributions to the fabric of the artistic community in the city."

Artist and juror Xaviera Simmons remarked on the finalists, "I am completely inspired by the rigor and experimentation of Atlanta's practitioners. As a working artist, I appreciate the opportunity to talk with and view the creative endeavors of the finalists who shine a bright light on the entire art community." Continuing, Simmons said of the 2014 Artadia Atlanta Award Winners, "Ranging from experimental film (Land) to experimental video (Benjamin) to experimental works on paper (Collins) to experimental methods surrounding dance and performance (Stallings), each of the Awardees exemplifies a commitment to practice, process, language and form."

Curator and juror Gabriel Ritter elaborated on the merit of the 2014 Artadia Atlanta Awardees: "Robbie Land's work engages with a wide range of issues and contexts including memory,

experimental film and land art in the most exciting and thought-provoking ways. He has an endlessly expansive practice that I look forward to following for years to come. Paul Stephan Benjamin, Bethany Collins and Lauri Stalling's work represents the future of Atlanta's art scene. These artists all move Atlanta forward."

The 2014 Atlanta Awards are Artadia's third award cycle in the city. The non-profit has recognized artistic achievement in select U.S. city with unrestricted, merit-based awards totaling more than \$3 million since 1997. In addition to Atlanta, Artadia currently funds awards on a rotating basis in Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area.

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