

## Artadia Announces Finalists for Seventh Houston Artadia Awards

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the ten finalists for the 2015 Houston Artadia Awards. The finalists were selected by first round jurors **Claudia Schmuckli**, Director and Chief Curator at Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, **Rujeko Hockley**, Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum, and artist **David Altmejd**, following a panel review of 225 applicants in late October.

The ten finalists for the 2015 Houston Artadia Awards are: **Deborah Bay, JooYoung Choi, Lily Cox-Richard, Bill Daniel, Autumn Knight, El Franco Lee II, Angel Oloshove, Stephanie Saint Sanchez, Nestor Topchy, and Charisse Weston.**

Of the finalists, **Claudia Schmuckli** said, "I am thrilled that the final selection offers an exciting cross-section of artistic practice across gender, race, age, and access to education that is truly representative of the diversity that makes Houston such a unique and special place to live and work in."

This is Artadia's seventh year providing unrestricted Awards to artists in Houston. Applications for the 2015 Houston Artadia Awards were open to visual artists living in Harris County, TX for over two years and working in all media and at any stage of their career. The first round of finalist selection asks two curators — one from the Award city, another from New York — and an artist to engage in discussion about the quality of the submissions received. Of the process, **David Altmejd** commented that, "it was a great opportunity to see so much art I don't get to see here in New York. There were a few applications that were really visionary. "

"As the 'local' juror," **Schmuckli** remarked, "I was excited to see if I would make new discoveries in the process of reviewing the applications. I am happy to say that I did, and even if not all of those artists made it onto our list of finalists, I look forward to seeking them out later on."

Schmuckli will be joined by **Lanka Tattersall**, Assistant Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, to conduct studio visits with the finalists in late November. The 2015 Houston Artadia Awardees will receive up to \$20,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the lifetime benefits of the Artadia Award program.

Since 1999, Artadia has recognized artistic excellence in cities across the United States with unrestricted, merit-based Awards to contemporary artists chosen through a rigorous jury process involving a panel of internationally recognized curators. In addition to Houston, Artadia currently funds Awards on a rotating cycle in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles New York, and San Francisco.

The Houston Artadia Awards and Artadia's programs in Houston are made possible thanks to the generosity of The Brown Foundation, Houston Arts Alliance, The Houston Endowment, Artadia's Board of Directors and Council members, and many individuals throughout the country.

# Artadia

The Fund for Art and Dialogue

## 2015 Houston Artadia Finalists



Deborah Bay

“The Big Bang,’ involved a visual exploration of the impact of projectiles fired into bullet-proof plexiglas. The images hint at the creation of new galaxies and stars in the nether reaches of the universe. The work clearly depicts the immense energy released on impact, requiring little imagination to realize their effect on muscle and bone.”



JooYoung Choi

“As a paracosmic multi-disciplinary artist my work documents the interconnecting narratives of a highly-structured, expansive fictional land called the Cosmic Womb. Inspired by American TV and comic book illustration, I create art that’s open to multiple levels of interpretation, ranging from sheer delight to cultural critique.”



Lily Cox-Richard

“By digging into cultural and material histories of things like lightning rods, neoclassical sculpture, and sweetgrass baskets, I foreground their infrastructure, trace their legacies, and test their potency, to see how these histories reveal idealized notions of an earlier national identity that persist in contemporary American culture.”



Bill Daniel

Bill Daniel is a self-taught photographer and filmmaker who has worked in the margins between the art world and various underground cultures for 30 years. Daniel’s pioneering film “Who is Bozo Texino?” has the rare distinction of having an authentic place in the current underground and being in the permanent collection of MOMA.



Autumn Knight

“My work draws from Southern U.S. history and culture and various specific experiences that I use as critical lens through which to perform humor, compassion, multiple realities, sickness, and spectacle. Experimentation with movement is integral; I use it to maintain a sense of play and to rehearse liveliness.”

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El Franco Lee II

“My art brings an illustrator’s technique of realism and surrealism to the fine arts arena. The intent is to set my work apart from ‘Pop Art’ and ‘Folk-Art’ by depicting real life events consequentially, addressing the needs of fine art audiences who demand cultural and innovative renderings of the unexpected.”



Angel Oloshove

“I’m interested in connecting to the viewer in an ethereal way. I draw from my travels through temples and shrines throughout Asia where I absorbed abstract religious iconography juxtaposed with supersaturated pop culture. The pairing of sacred and esoteric spirituality with ultra-modernity fascinates me.”



Stephanie Saint Sanchez

“Under the clever guise of La Chicana Laundry Pictures I, along with a small rag-tag team of unlikely heros have been making genre-bending shorts based on the images, sounds and psychosis’s in my surroundings both real and imagined. I love humor, the kind that disarms you so you don’t see that left hook that gets you.”



Nestor Topchy

“I attempt to balance time and action between large scale collaborative situational environments and intimate work done solo. Larger projects involve inspiring the community to join me in creating a village as a working art from 500 shipping containers, while the other is a process of regeneration via studio work.”



Charisse Weston

“My practice interrogates interactions between people, places, and objects that facilitate redaction. Using text, printmaking, installation and photography, I question the means and tools used in the erasure of personal, social, and historical narratives from the public sphere with the intent to bring what is omitted to the surface.”