

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL PANEL SELECTS SEVEN ARTISTS FOR ARTADIA AWARDS 2012 CHICAGO

New York, NY—Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue is pleased to announce the Artadia Awards 2012 Chicago. For three consecutive days (September 16–18, 2012), three nationally known jurors—**Evelyn Hankins**, Associate Curator, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; **Jill Dawsey**, Associate Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; and **Shannon Stratton**, Executive & Creative Director, threewalls, Chicago—conducted 45-minute studio visits with each of the 15 short-listed artists. The Finalists were chosen from almost 500 visual art applicants living and working in Cook County, IL.

The two recipients of Artadia Awards 2012 Chicago at the \$15,000 level are: **Tirtza Even** and **Deb Sokolow**. The five recipients of the \$3,000 awards are: **Samantha Bittman**, **David Hartt**, **Lisa Lindvay**, **Heather Mekkelson**, and **Ian Weaver**. (See attachment for images and descriptions of the awardees' work.)

"Chicago is home to an innovative creative community and I congratulate the artists selected by Artadia as this year's awardees," said **Michelle T. Boone**, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, City of Chicago. "It's organizations such as Artadia and their network of support that allows the individual artist to thrive. With the upcoming Chicago Cultural Plan 2012, Chicago is committed to supporting arts and culture and celebrating the artists who enrich our city with their passion."

Artadia Founder and President **Chris Vroom** added, "Chicago's artistic community is among the most vibrant in the nation. Artadia is proud to help promote the visibility of this great community of artists through this, our sixth year of Artadia Chicago awards. These artists, through their innovative practice and community involvement, exemplify why it is so critical to support artists directly."

Applications for the Artadia Awards were open to visual artists in all media and at any stage of their career working and living in Cook County, IL. The application was available online for two months from June 20–August 20, 2012. The three first-round jurors—**Shannon Stratton**; **Kelly Kivland**, Curatorial Associate, Dia Art Foundation, New York; and **Clifford Owens**, artist, New York—named the 15 Finalists in New York earlier this month. This is the sixth cycle of Artadia Awards in Chicago.

Local juror **Shannon Stratton** said of the process: "As someone closely invested in Chicago artists, it was a real honor—and deeply gratifying—to be the local Chicago juror for the 2012 Artadia Awards. The applications affirmed the great strength, intelligence, and diversity of artistic practice in the city, and, at the same time, the need to sustain those practices and ensure their futures. By working to confirm those futures, Artadia's dedication to supporting artists in cities throughout the US with real resources is enlarging cultural perspectives and celebrating the wealth of talent throughout the country."

Artadia is pleased to partner with EXPO CHICAGO for this awards cycle: In conjunction with the final round, works by the Finalists are on view at Booth 314 at EXPO CHICAGO September 19–23, 2012. The Artadia booth was curated by Steven Bridges, Curatorial Assistant, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Artadia announced the awardees at the fair on Friday, September 21 at 12:15 pm at the Dialogues stage.

Lead funding for the Chicago Artadia Awards is generously provided by Larry and Marilyn Fields. Additional support provided by Sally and Jon Kovler, Artadia's National Council members Barbara Fosco, Jack and Sandra Guthman, and Anne Van Wart and Mike Keable; as well donations by Karen and Steve Berkowitz, Eszter Borvendeg and Mark Wight, Curt Conklin, Dirk Denison, Brian Herbstritt, Gael Neeson and Stefan Edlis, Pamela and Art Sanders, and Linda Warren. All contributions to Artadia Chicago directly support the awards and program. Program operations and overhead are underwritten by Artadia's Board and special donor groups. Artadia has long-standing, close relationships with local foundations and private patrons of the arts who recognize the importance of providing unrestricted funding to visual artists at the local level.

About Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue

Artadia supports visual artists with unrestricted awards and connections to a network of opportunities, while providing local communities with national exposure. By awarding significant financial awards to artists, Artadia establishes a strong new incentive to support artistic excellence. We embrace the local to become an integral part of communities, and we then help connect these communities to the national stage. Artadia was founded as The ArtCouncil in 1997 by investment banker and art collector Christopher E. Vroom. The first awards were given in San Francisco, where Vroom was living at the time. Chicago was added as a program city in 2001. In 2003, Artadia added Houston to its roster, Boston in 2007, and Atlanta in 2009. Once Artadia commits to a community, it runs the awards program and co-sponsors public programs with a local institution. Started as an individual's vision, Artadia's base of support now includes private foundations, a national Board of Directors, a National Council, a Junior Council, and members who are active in supporting the core of creative culture: the individual artist.

Artadia Awards are determined through a rigorous jury process that employs nationally prominent curators, artists, and critics. Artadia partners with local foundations and individuals in the host cities to raise funds that go directly to artists in that community. Artadia matches those contributions by providing the funds that administer the program. Once an artist receives an Artadia Award, he or she becomes part of a lifetime national network of support.

In addition to the core awards program of unrestricted grants to visual artists, Artadia administers an artist-in-residence program based in New York City, a professional services program for awardees that involves one-on-one meetings and true mentorship, a national exhibition exchange with partner institutions around the country, and a publication program. These complementary programs have been strategically developed to benefit working artists to the greatest extent possible, providing them with critical validation, financial support, and access to the individuals who can make a difference in their careers.

Artadia also presents events in New York and Miami, which intend to not only demonstrate the tremendous creativity in partner communities, but also facilitate exchange and dialogue nationwide.

For press inquiries and information on Artadia, contact news@artadia.org.

For information on becoming a member or joining the National Council, Junior Council, or Junior Council WEST at Artadia, contact: Ute Zimmermann, Program Director, utezimmermann@artadia.org; 212-727-2233 x204.

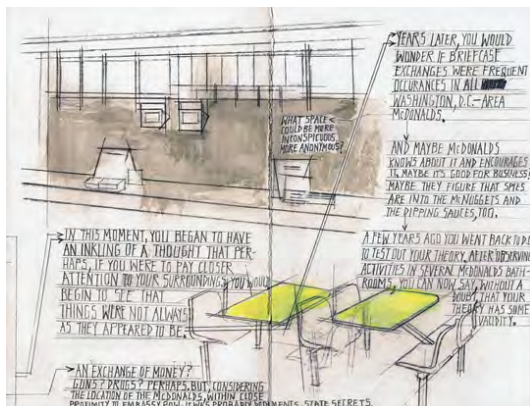
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Artadia Awardees 2012 Chicago

\$15,000 Awardees



Tirtza Even is a filmmaker whose interest lies in working against the narrative impulse. She's developed a filmic language through almost imperceptible digital manipulation and careful sequencing to depict human social and political realities, like the juvenile justice system or a ten-year project in Palestine. Her subversion of coherency actively works against her need to control, to hold, to know. Even has won many film-festival honors, including the 2010 Experimental Award of Merit, Los Angeles Cinema Festival of Hollywood. She has two upcoming screenings in Chicago. *Natural Life* (work in progress), 2012, Experimental video



Compelled by intrigue and conspiracy theories, **Deb Sokolow** composes and revises elaborate narrative drawings—some mural-sized, others small or in book form. In describing the shady situations in an art studio building or the Denver International Airport, Sokolow connects the practices of a writer with that of a draftsman, then implicates the viewer in the action with the use of the second-person pronoun. Doubt, subjectivity, marginalia, and the search for an elusive truth all contribute to the film-noir atmosphere of her works. Sokolow will have a solo show at the Moore College of Art & Design, Philadelphia, PA, in October. *Briefcase Exchange, Men's Bathroom, McDonalds, Washington, D.C.*, 1986 (detail), 2010, Mixed media, paper, book board, 9 x 6 inches

\$3,000 Awardees



In her painted geometric abstractions on hand-woven textiles, **Samantha Bittman** explores the ways in which perception is in constant flux. Her careful, painstaking process of making these small-sized objects demands engaged attention from the viewer with an Op-Art-like payoff. The grids and mazelike painted lines interrupt yet closely align with the patterns of the textile base, and reveal the imperfection of her hand while matching the warmth of the underlying materials. Bittman attended an Ox-Box residency, Saugatuck, MI, in 2010, exhibits with Thomas Robertello Gallery, Chicago, IL, and throughout the US. *For Roy and Yayoi*, 2012, Acrylic on hand-woven textile, 15 x 12 inches



Photographer, sculptor, and filmmaker **David Hartt** investigates the landscapes of vernacular utopias, or places where actuality has forced compromise from idealism. Hartt's work is not documentary in nature, instead it details the artist's own take on the range of aesthetic, philosophical, political, and economic issues at stake in a particular site. His most recent film depicts the interior of the Johnson Publishing Company in Chicago, publisher of African-American magazines like *Jet*. Hartt has several upcoming exhibitions: Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, WA and The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY. In 2001, he received a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation award. *Awards Room at The Johnson Publishing Company Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois*, 2011, Framed archival pigment print, 48 x 64 inches

Artadia Awardees 2012 Chicago



Lisa Lindvay photographs her father, half-sister, and two half-brothers in a house that is influenced by her mother's deteriorating mental state. Amidst an abundance of daily-life detritus, Lindvay's subjects portray "a visual representation of the internal dilemmas associated with this entropic state. This is an exploration of how individual identity is shaped and altered within our familial relationship." Intimate, vulnerable, and unsparing, the images underscore the realities of a modern family. Lindvay is a recipient of a 2011 3Arts Artist Award, and is featured in the travelling exhibition "The Kids Are Alright." *Dinner*, 2008, Archival pigment print, 32 x 40 inches



In response to images of natural disasters, **Heather Mekkelson** makes sculptures and installations that index the debris left in the aftermath. Using new materials to construct replicas, Mekkelson constructs fictions from these realities, influenced by catastrophe recovery techniques, Romantic paintings, and her tragedy-image-soaked imagination. Mekkelson's most recent work captures the indescribable aspects of confronting the ruins of modern life. She is currently in an exhibition at Roots & Culture and the Hyde Park Arts Center, Chicago, IL, and her work was included in Performa 11. *The Final Glorious World*, 2012, Plastic, linen, paint, 22 x 36 x 30 inches



Ian Weaver constructs the narrative of a lost Chicago African-American community from the last century by fabricating artifacts, maps, and objects, and by using faux ethnographic, anthropologic, and museological elements as guiding forms. Surprising distortions and appropriations remind us that all maps are reflective of bias and all histories are narratives of desire. Weaver examines notions of alterity, power, and culture through its proper subjective lens. A solo show of Weaver's work opens at the Chicago Cultural Center next year; he's been a resident at Ragdale and Yaddo, and received a Joan Mitchell Foundation grant in 2008. *Black Power Helmet*, 2009, Cast aluminum, 18 x 9 x 12 inches

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