

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue
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DISTINGUISHED NATIONAL PANEL SELECTS FIVE ARTISTS FOR ARTADIA AWARDS 2012 HOUSTON

New York, NY—Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue is pleased to announce the Artadia Awards 2012 Houston. For two consecutive days (October 16–17, 2012), three nationally known jurors— **Michelle White**, Curator, The Menil Collection, Houston; **Patrick Charpenel**, Director, Jumex Foundation/Collection, Mexico City, MX; and **Naima Keith**, Assistant Curator, The Studio Museum Harlem, New York—conducted 45-minute studio visits with each of the 10 short-listed artists. The Finalists were chosen from approximately 200 visual-art applicants living and working in Harris County.

The two recipients of Artadia Awards 2012 Houston at the \$15,000 level are: **Jillian Conrad** and **Carl Suddath**. The three recipients of the \$5,000 awards are: **Francesca Fuchs**, **Seth Mittag**, and **Jang soon Im**. (See attachment for images and descriptions of the awardees' work.)

Local juror **Michelle White** said of the process: "It was such a pleasure to serve as a juror for this year's Artadia award. As a critical funding source for artists in the community, Artadia serves a vital role in sustaining the health of our art economy and I am honored to have been a part of the process. I am evermore in awe of the incredible talent of Houston artists."

"One of Houston's greatest strengths is its large number of cultural offerings and opportunities. A recent study indicates the Houston area's 'creative economy' sector as having over 146,000 jobs and generating \$9.1 billion in creative goods and services," said **Annise D. Parker**, Mayor, City of Houston. "Artadia's selection of Houston as one of only five cities in which to hold an artist competition with generous financial awards reaffirms Houston's role as a leader in the arts. We thank Artadia for its efforts to enhance our artists' opportunities and for its commitment to upholding Houston as a cultural destination and center."

Artadia Founder and President **Chris Vroom** added, "This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Artadia Houston awards. We're proud to be part of this vibrant cultural community and to help showcase the diversity of artistic practice to our global audience. Houston's museums, nonprofits, cultural and educational institutions, galleries, and artists make this one of the most exciting art centers in the world."

"The economical support offered through the platform of Artadia has opened possibilities of growth for artists and communication between artists of many regions of the US. The jury experience in this structure has allowed me to map the rich cultural terrain of Houston and communicate with its artistic production," said national Juror **Patrick Charpenel**.

Applications for the Artadia Awards were open to visual artists in all media, at any stage of their career, who work and live in Harris County, TX. The application was available online for two months from August 1 to September 24, 2012. The three first-round jurors— **Michelle White**; **Margot Norton**, Curatorial

Associate, the New Museum, New York; and **N. Dash**, artist, New York—named the 10 Finalists in New York earlier this month. This is the sixth cycle of Artadia Awards in Houston.

National Juror **Naima Keith** was, “Delighted and honored to serve on the Artadia jury with colleagues Patrick and Michelle. It was an interesting array of artists and an interesting challenge to come to this final list of awardees. I really appreciated having the opportunity to visit artists in their studios versus seeing work on slides and seeing a range of artists working in different medias.”

Artadia is pleased to partner with Texas Contemporary art fair for this awards cycle: In conjunction with the final round, works by the Finalists will be on view at the Artadia booth SP19 at Texas Contemporary October 19–23, 2012. The Artadia booth is being curated by **Dennis Nance**, Exhibitions and Programming Director, Lawndale Art Center, Houston.

Visionary support for Artadia in Houston is provided by Houston Endowment, Inc., The Brown Foundation, Inc., and many generous individuals in Houston who share a deep commitment to supporting the arts.

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 cosponsors 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 national network of lifetime support.

In 2009, Artadia launched a New York Artist Residency program, which brings Artadia Awardees from each of its program cities to New York for a three-month residency at the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) in Brooklyn. This groundbreaking addition to Artadia’s commitment to individual artists is the first of its kind in New York City for US-based visual artists and is supported by the National Endowment for Arts (NEA). In 2010, Artadia launched a publications program and an Exhibitions Exchange program that shows Awardees from one partner city in another, offering Awardees crucial exposure outside of their local communities. 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. Most recently, Artadia inaugurated an exhibitions space in New York to provide a platform for awardees to present their work in New York.

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

For information on becoming a member or joining the National Council, Contemporary Council, or City Councils at Artadia, contact: Cara Benedetto, Program Director, cara@artadia.org; 212-727-2233 X 204.

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Artadia Awardees 2012 Houston

\$15,000 Awardees



When creating her sculptures, structures, and installations, **Jillian Conrad** employs a variety of media—wood, Plexiglas, rocks, sheets of foam, and carpet remnants. Conrad’s work points to the failure of language, imperfect translations, and a multiplicity of meanings. A Rhode Island School of Design 2004 MFA graduate, Conrad’s work has been exhibited nationally, with her most recent solo show “Splits” at Devin Borden Gallery, Houston, TX. Conrad has been the recipient of several grants, including the Eliza Grant, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 2008–10, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant in 2007. *Relative Distant: small rock*, 2011, Aluminum, steel, foam, 72 x 34 x 1 inches



Using wood and plastic, lacquer and ink, **Carl Suddath**’s sculptural works are outwardly modest, undemanding, and elegant. Of his work Suddath states, “NEAR TO SOMETHING AND NOTHING AND SOMETHING.” A School of The Art Institute of Chicago 2004 MFA graduate, Suddath attended the Core Residency Program at the Glassell School of Art, Houston, TX. Suddath’s work has been shown at a variety of venues, including Inman Gallery and Lawndale Art Center, Houston, TX. Reviews of Suddath’s work have appeared in *Glasstire* and *Artforum*. *b.h.b.k.*, 2009, Cast bronze (unique) , 13 x 5 x 6 inches

\$5,000 Awardees



Working on a series of paintings of framed paintings, prints, and photos that hang in her house, **Francesca Fuchs** begins with personal history, focusing on an individual experience, rather than an art historical system of worth. Fuchs’s work has been exhibited at the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX, with her most recent solo show, “Paintings of Paintings,” at Talley Dunn Gallery, Dallas, TX. Fuchs was the recipient to the Hunting Art Prize in 2006. Fuchs’s work has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Artforum*, and *Art in America*. *Framed Painting: Bull*, 2012, Acrylic on canvas, 19 x 34.5 inches

Artadia Awardees 2012 Houston



Interested in presenting battles between ancient armies from past eras as unattainable fantasy, **Jang soon Im** creates mixed-media paintings, drawings, collages, and videos of war scenes. Im states, "The lightness of my copied and pasted source images, and the artificiality of Styrofoam and cardboard, play to the fictional nature of my source material." Im received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010. Im's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including a solo show at the Gallery La Mer in Seoul, South Korea. Im was a resident at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, Omaha, NE. *Dong-tak burns Nakyang transferring the capital to Zang-An (from the novel "Three Kingdoms of China")*, 2011, Digital print, 20 x 12 inches



Skillfully handcrafted sculptures populate animations with broken narratives by **Seth Mittag**, who combines sculptural expertise with his experience working as a professional puppet maker and his love of storytelling. Having received a MFA from the University of Houston in 2003, Mittag's work has been exhibited nationally and was included in the 2005 Texas Biennial. Mittag was the recipient of a Lawndale Art Center Studio Residency, Houston, TX in 2011, and a Cultural Arts Council Houston Individual Artist Grant, Houston, TX in 2005. *Film Still*, 2012, Metallic light jet, 24 x 36 inches

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