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SHORT-LIST OF 10 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR ARTADIA AWARDS 2012 HOUSTON

New York, NY—The exceptional range of artists living and working in Houston was evident as three prominent panelists selected the 10 finalists for the Artadia Awards 2012 Houston. Panelists **Michelle White**, Curator, The Menil Collection, Houston; **Margot Norton**, Curatorial Associate, the New Museum, New York; and **N. Dash**, artist, New York named the finalists out of over 200 applications received for the sixth cycle of Artadia Awards in Houston.

The 10 Finalists for the Artadia Awards 2012 Houston are: **Michael Bise, Jillian Conrad, Bill Davenport, Francesca Fuchs, Jang soon Im, Rosine Kouamen, Seth Mittag, Linda Post, Kaneem Smith, and Carl Suddath**. (See attachment for images and descriptions of the Finalists' work.)

First-round panelist **Margot Norton** said of the process, "I was inspired by the impressive range of work by the Houston applicants and appreciated the chance to come in contact with excellent and thought-provoking work I would not easily gain access to in New York. I felt privileged to participate in this program, which embodies Artadia's mission to foster the development of artists on both a local and a national level. The sensitivity and foresight of Artadia in providing valuable opportunities for emerging artists in Houston and across the US is to be commended."

Applications for the Artadia Awards were open to visual artists in all media and at any stage of their career working and living in Harris County. The application was available online for two months from August 1 to September 24, 2012.

Fellow juror **N. Dash** added, "As an artist working in the United States, I have a full understanding of the absolute importance of unrestricted grants. Artadia's mission is both valuable and pressing—especially—at a time when artists receive such scarce funding. Personally, it was a rewarding experience to become acquainted with the Houston art community. I discovered engaging and dynamic projects by artists whose work I look forward to seeing again. I am very happy that this diverse group will receive Artadia's support."

Later this month **Michelle White** will be joined by **Patrick Charpenel**, Director, Jumex Foundation/Collection, Mexico City, MX; and **Naima Keith**, Assistant Curator, The Studio Museum, New York in Houston for the final-jury studio visits with the 10 finalists Tuesday, October 16th and Wednesday, October 17th. The jury will then select five Artadia Awardees for two awards of \$15,000 and three awards of \$5,000.

Additionally, 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.

Artadia will announce the awardees at the fair on Friday, October 19th at 1 pm.

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 Finalists 2012 Houston



Lyricaly disturbing, the large-scale, highly detailed graphite drawings of **Michael Bise** are derived from both a lived experience and an inability to fully engage in that experience. Bise's narratives move from personal to universal with humor and honesty. A 2005 University of Houston MFA graduate, Bise's works have been exhibited throughout Texas and Oregon, including recent solo exhibitions at Moody Gallery, Houston, TX and Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, Dallas, TX. Bise is the winner of the Hunting Art Prize for 2012. *Lori's Baby*, 2011, Graphite on paper, 41 3/4 x 41 1/4 inches



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 12 inches



With a long history of working against art conventions, **Bill Davenport** opened *Bill's Junk* in 2008, a working store that democratically merges high and low art objects, crafts, natural curiosities, and salvage. Davenport claims that the store's popularity pushed him to invent more event-based art pieces in public contexts like craft fairs, flea markets, school picnics, and trade shows. Davenport's work was included in the 2009 Texas Biennial and has been exhibited widely, including the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX, and Fort Worth Contemporary Arts, TX. *Mystery Object Stand*, 2012, Yarn, objects, performance, 120 x 120 x 120 inches



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

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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



Utilizing photography, installation, video, and fabric, **Rosine Kouamen's** work explores the intimate narratives of particular subjects, and then expresses them as cultural iconography. Kouamen questions issues around collective memories, customs, and the origins of the manifestations of cultural identity. In 2012, Kouamen received her MFA from the University of Houston and is an adjunct professor at Lone Star College-North Harris, Houston, TX. Kouamen's work has been in several group shows in California, Texas, and Virginia. *Celia Echeke, from Equatorial Guinea, entered the US in 2010, 2012*, Photography, 14 x 14 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



Linda Post explores how perception and individual position is examined in experiential video installations, sound works, media, sculpture, and photography. Within the individual works, a choreography of the everyday emerges as simple, common actions are performed and systematized. Post has exhibited her work at MoMA PS1 and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC. Post's work has been reviewed in the *New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *Time Out London*. *LOW IMPACT/RESISTANCE TO FLOW (thisisbobblyantome) SUBJECT TO CHANGE*, 2012, Performance documentation

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Kaneem Smith creates fiber-based sculptural installations that draw inspiration from a familial and historical standpoint, personal experience, and the human condition. An active artist and teacher since the mid-1990s, Smith has exhibited widely, including solo exhibitions at Project Row Houses and the Rudolph Projects/ArtScan Gallery, Houston, TX; and the Dallas Museum of Contemporary Art. Smith's awards include an Edward F. Albee Foundation Fellowship, and a Hungarian Multicultural Center Research Fellowship. *Compulsory Matriarch*, 2010, Barkcloth, cotton, wax, wire, 36 x 18 x 18 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

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