

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue  
45 Main Street Suite 515  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
TEL: (212) 727-2233  
info@artadia.org  
www.artadia.org

### **ARTADIA APPOINTS FOUR NEW DIRECTORS TO ITS BOARD**

New York, NY—Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue is pleased to announce and welcome **Robert Brawner, Nick Cave, Aurele Danoff Pelaia** and **Franklin Sirmans** as members of their Board of Directors.

Artadia's newly appointed **Board President Marie Samuels** notes: "All four appointments have strong connections and have been long-time supporters of Artadia's mission, including Nick who is a 2006 Chicago Artadia Awardee and Franklin who has acted as an Artadia juror and editor of an Artadia publication. Together with Robert and Aurele, they will each bring valuable insight to the organization." Artadia founder **Christopher E. Vroom** said of the appointments: "Artadia has provided more than \$3 million in direct support to artists across the country, while creating a unique network of art world professionals who recognize the fundamental importance of sustaining a vibrant artistic community."

**Robert Brawner** has worked in several sectors of the real estate market in for over 20 years as a contractor and due-diligence professional. Based in Atlanta, Brawner is a passionate collector and supporter of the arts. Brawner is President of the Board of Art Papers, a member of the Board of Directors of Men Stopping Violence, an Advisory Board member of Spelman College Museum of Fine Art and serves as the Business Committee Chair for South Atlanta for the Environment. Brawner is also a Patron Member of the High Museum and Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center.

**Nick Cave** is an artist, educator and foremost a messenger, working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums including sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. Cave is well known for his *Soundsuits*, sculptural forms based on the scale of his body, that camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender, and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment. A solo exhibition of Cave's work *Here Hear* recently opened at the Cranbrook Art Museum (June 2015). Prior to this, Cave had a solo show on view at the St. Louis Art Museum (2014-2015) and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (2014). Cave will have another solo exhibition at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art in 2016. Cave has received several prestigious awards including: the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (2008), the Joyce Award (2006), Creative Capital Grants (2002, 2004 and 2005), the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2001) and the Artadia Award (2006). Cave, who received his MFA at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, is Professor and Chairman of the Fashion Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Based in Los Angeles, **Aurele Danoff Pelaia** is an attorney in Eisner Jaffe's Corporate and Entertainment Media & The Arts Departments, specializing in a broad array of entertainment, intellectual property and general business matters, including representing fine art collectors, artists, galleries, advisors, and dealers in various transaction. She is also the Co-Chair of LACMA's Avant Garde group, a Contemporaries Member of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and resides on the Barristers Committee for the Arts at the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Danoff Pelaia is actively involved with the Anti-Defamation League, the Alliance for Children's Rights, and the Women's Lawyer's Association of Los Angeles. She holds a J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law and B.A. in Art History from Columbia University.

**Franklin Sirmans** lives and works in Los Angeles, where he is the Terri and Michael Smooke Department Head and Curator of Contemporary art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Sirmans recently served as Artistic Director of Prospect.3 in New Orleans, LA. At LACMA, Sirmans has organized *Noah Purifoy: Junk Dada*, *Variations: Conversations in and Around Abstract Painting*, *Fútbol: The Beautiful Game*, *Color and Form*, *Robert Therrien*, *Ends and Exits: Contemporary Art from the Collections of LACMA and the Broad Art Foundation*, and co-organized the exhibition *Human Nature: Contemporary Art from the Collection*. He has also organized the museum's presentations of *Blinky Palermo: Retrospective, 1964–1977*, *Ai Weiwei's Circle of Animals*, and *Glenn Ligon: America*. From 2006 through 2009, he was the curator of modern and contemporary art at the Menil Collection in Houston, where the exhibitions he organized included *NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith*; and before that he was co-curator of *Basquiat* (2005–06: Brooklyn Museum, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston). Sirmans was the 2007 recipient of the David C. Driskell Prize awarded by the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and in 2009 he received one of the first Gold Rush Award given by the Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation. Sirmans has also written essays for several exhibition catalogues, including Artadia's 2010 publication *5 Cities/41 Artists* and articles and reviews in publications such as the New York Times, Time Out New York, Essence, and Grand Street.

### **About Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue**

Artadia: The Fund for Art & Dialogue is a national non-profit organization that supports visual artists with unrestricted, merit-based awards and fosters connections to a network of opportunities. We recognize artistic excellence in cities throughout the United States and introduce local communities to the international art conversation. In the past 15 years, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to more than 300 artists throughout its participating award cities of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Over 20,000 artists have applied for the Artadia Awards program.

By providing artists with significant, unrestricted financial awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000, and ongoing assistance through out their careers, Artadia establishes a strong incentive to support artistic excellence. Additionally, continued support is achieved through close collaborations with its host cities to create exhibition opportunities for artists, arrange studio visits with local as well as national curators, source residency programs, and make introductions in the field.

As one of the few organizations to operate on both a local and national level, Artadia is in a unique position to create sustainable fiscal and social change for artists. In addition to its ongoing award cycles, Artadia activates its unique network of artist services and support through national partnerships, in addition to its own residency program at the International Studio and Curatorial Program in Brooklyn and a national award program with the New Art Dealer's Alliance in New York and Miami. The Artadia/NADA award helps bring recognition to artists who are shown at one of the most visited national art fairs in the world.

For press inquiries and information, contact [info@artadia.org](mailto:info@artadia.org).

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