

March 28, 2018

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES AWARDEES FOR THIRD LOS ANGELES AWARDS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the Awardees for the 2018 Los Angeles Artadia Awards: **EJ Hill** and **Clarissa Tossin**. As the 2018 Los Angeles Artadia Awardees, **Hill** and **Tossin** will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. Applications for the Awards were open to any visual artist living in Los Angeles County, for over two years, working in any medium and at any stage of their career. This is Artadia's fourth year providing unrestricted Awards to artists in Los Angeles.

In the first round of jurying, **Derrick Adams**, artist, Brooklyn, NY; **Zoe Larkins**, Assistant Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO; and **Selene Preciado**, Independent Curator, Los Angeles, CA., selected five Finalists: **Susu Attar**, **EJ Hill**, **Andy Robert**, **Analia Saban**, and **Clarissa Tossin**. Curator, **Alma Ruiz**, Senior Fellow, Sotheby's Institute of Art - Los Angeles, joined **Preciado** for the second round of evaluations. The jurors conducted studio visits with each of the five Finalists to determine the Awardees.

Of the process, **Ruiz** exclaimed, "Visiting with the finalists provided me an exceptional opportunity to learn about their work and to connect more directly with them. I feel confident that the award comes at a time in Hill and Tossin's careers where it can play an essential role in their artistic development."

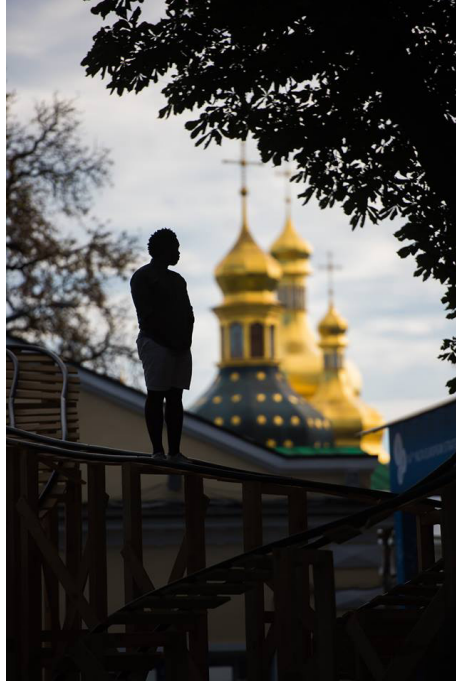
Preciado extolled the depth of each artist's practice: "Departing from the utopian modernist project of Brasilia as a central topic, Clarissa Tossin has been producing poignantly critical work around modern architectural projects in Brazil and the rest of Latin America, and the historically complex relationship of these countries with the United States. Recently, she has been exploring a stronger and more direct dialogue with local modern architecture, more specifically in Los Angeles, weaving together her concerns on progress and utopia, language and translation, flow of economic powers, and representation and mis-representation.

EJ Hill continues to evolve at a rate that is not only deeply rooted in intellectual concerns and in dialogue with history and art history, but also with ongoing social concerns. His most current body of work brings in the specificity of his personal experience underlining, for example, problems in our public school and higher education systems, imagining alternative histories and modes of knowledge transmission to question the shortcomings in our cultural makeup as a nation." **Ruiz** continued, "Coincidentally, in the work we were exposed to, both artists use performance as a detonator of ideas that relate to either individual or ancient histories expressed in a clear voice through the form of idea, sculpture, and installation."

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that supports artists with unrestricted, merit-based Awards followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. Artadia is unique in that it allows any artist to apply, engages nationally recognized curators to review work, and culminates in direct grants. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to more than 300 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2018 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are made possible thanks to the generosity of GRoW @ Annenberg, Allison and Larry Berg, Artadia's Board of Directors, Council members, and many individual donors in Los Angeles and throughout the United States.

2018 LOS ANGELES ARTADIA AWARDEES



EJ HILL

“My work is centered on the intersection of text and image and in the writing or enacting of poetry through disparate forms of articulating sensation. Working fluidly across video, photography, sculpture, sound and performance, I am interested in the narrative of the everyday and how we function within various power structures.”



CLARISSA TOSSIN

“I am concerned with how cultural differences resist, or are transformed, through exchanges at a local and global level. Tracing history through gesture and displacement, my sculptures often carry the performatic presence of the body; my videos excavate unacknowledged narratives contained in the buildings of Oscar Niemeyer and Frank Lloyd Wright.”

Image, left to right: EJ Hill, *Pillar*, 2017, wood and PVC, dimensions variable. Yalta European Strategy, Kyiv, Ukraine. Courtesy the artist and Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles. Performer: Jamaal H. Tolbert. Photo: Sergey Illin / PinchukArtCentre; Clarissa Tossin, *A two-headed serpent held in the arms of human beings, or, Ticket Window*, 2017, courtesy of the artist.