



**For Immediate Release**

**May 21, 2018**

**ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR 2018 HOUSTON AWARDS**

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2018 Houston Awards: **Francis Almendarez, Rabea Ballin, Natasha Bowdoin, Dana Frankfort, and Angel Oloshove**. The Finalists will receive studio visits with second round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists as Awardees to receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

The Finalists were selected by jurors **Huma Bhabha**, Artist; **Dean Daderko**, Curator, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and **Claire D'Alba**, Curator, Art in Embassies (personal capacity).

Local juror **Daderko** noted: "It's an honor to have been involved in this jurying process alongside Huma Bhabha and Claire D'Alba, and I look forward to seeing how Artadia's generous support will enable these Houston-based artists to advance their compelling practices."

The review piqued **D'Alba's** interest in the Houston arts community: "The Artadia Houston submissions were incredibly diverse. The range of artists' backgrounds and cultural identities was notable, but the variety of media and practice was also striking. It was a pleasure to spend time considering the work of so many hard-working artists, and I'm inspired by how much vibrant and compelling art is being made in Houston."

This is Artadia's ninth Award cycle in Houston. The application was open to all visual artists living in Houston for over two years, working in any media, and at any stage of their career. Finalists and Artadia Award recipients are selected through Artadia's rigorous, two-tier jury review process. In the first round of review, jurors evaluated the merit of all submissions and collaboratively determined the five Finalists.

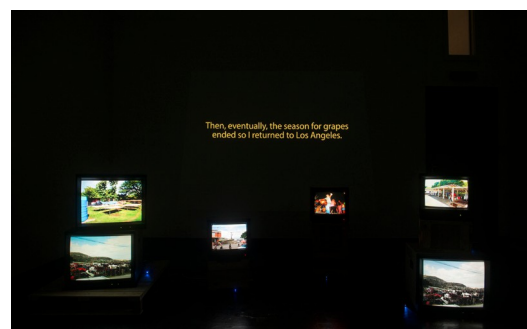
Artadia is a national non-profit organization that supports artists with unrestricted, merit-based Awards followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. Artadia is unique in that it allows any artist to apply, engages nationally recognized artists and curators to review work, and culminates in direct grants. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to more than 310 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2018 Houston Artadia Awards are generously supported by The Brown Foundation, the Houston Endowment, Artadia Houston Council members, and Artadia's Board of Directors.

## 2018 Houston Awards Finalists

### FRANCIS ALMENDAREZ

Francis Almendárez is an interdisciplinary artist who traverses the intersections of history, ethnography and the arts, using them as tools to address memory and trauma, specifically of migrant and queer bodies of Caribbean and Central American diasporas, in attempt to make sense of and re-construct identity. Being the product of a family of intergenerational migrants and having to frequently re-locate due to financial instability, he attempts to transform spatiotemporal dislocation and intersectionality into agency, resistance and autonomy by vocalizing the experiences of the marginalized, disenfranchised, or liminal Other. His work, ranging from video installation to performance and text, incorporates music and storytelling, and brings to the foreground time, labor and rhythm.



Francis Almendarez, Video Installation

### RABEA BALLIN

Houston-based artist Rabea Ballin's work explores the unique power of self-identity and the cultural dimension of beautification practices involving hair. Influenced early on by Nigerian photographer J.D. 'Okjai Ojeikere, Ballin continues to explore the complexities of hair as sculpture and its often lost cultural meanings. She documents these themes through digital photography, drawing and various printmaking techniques. Ballin lives and works in Houston's historical Third Ward community. She is a Professor of Fine arts and exhibits her work nationally, both as an independent artist and as a member of the all-female ROUX printmaking collective.



Rabea Ballin  
*Unthought-of Dimensions*, 2017  
Digital Print on metal  
18 x 24 inches

### **NATASHA BOWDOIN**

Natasha Bowdoin, born and raised in Maine, earned her MFA in Painting and Drawing from Tyler School of Art, and a BA from Brandeis University in Studio Art and Classics. She has been awarded residencies at the Core Program in Houston, Texas; the Roswell Artist- in-Residence program in New Mexico; and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, Nebraska as well as a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant. Bowdoin's work has been included in solo and group exhibitions across the United States and throughout Europe. Her most recent solo installation *Maneater* opened at MASS MoCA (North Adams, MA) this past spring and will be on view through 2019.



Natasha Bowdoin  
*Maneater*, 2018  
Acrylic and cut paper on  
wall and vinyl on floor

### **DANA FRANKFORT**

Dana Frankfort received her BA from Brandeis University and an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale School of Art. She has had numerous shows both nationally and internationally, including solo shows in New York, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles, Brussels, Turin, and London. Her work has been reviewed in periodicals such as *Art Forum*, *Art in America* and *The New York Times*. Dana has been awarded residencies including Yaddo, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and the Core Fellowship at the MFA, Houston. Dana was a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006. Dana returned to her hometown of Houston in 2016.



Dana Frankfort  
*Edna Mayer*, 2017  
Oil on canvas on panel, 26"x30"

### ANGEL OLOSHOVE

Angel Oloshove studied painting at California College of the Arts. She worked in graphic design and toy development in Tokyo, for six years. Her work often experiments with painterly glazes to express feelings of transcendental experiences through form and color. Her exhibition *Floating Worlds* was selected as a Critic's Pick for the April 2015 issue of *ArtForum*. Her ceramic designs and artworks were shown at the inaugural *Texas Design Now* at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston. In 2017, she was invited to have a solo exhibition at the Elizabet Ney Museum (Austin, TX). She recently completed an artist residency at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft.



Angel Oloshove

*She Blushed from the Heat of It*, 2017

Ceramic, glaze