



For Immediate Release

June 19, 2018

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES THE 2018 HOUSTON AWARDEES

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the Awardees for the **2018 Houston Artadia Awards: Francis Almendarez and Dana Frankfort**. As the 2018 Houston Artadia Awardees, Almendarez and Frankfort will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program.

In the first round of jurying, **Huma Bhabha**, Artist; **Dean Daderko**, Curator, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, and **Claire D’Alba**, Curator, Art in Embassies (personal capacity) selected five Finalists: Francis Almendarez, Rabea Ballin, Natasha Bowdoin, Dana Frankfort, and Angel Oloshove. **Kanitra Fletcher**, Curatorial Assistant, Modern and Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, joined Daderko for the second round of evaluations. The jurors conducted studio visits with the five Finalists to determine the Awardees.

This is Artadia’s ninth year providing unrestricted Awards to artists in Houston. Applications for the Awards were open to any visual artist living in Houston for over two years working in all media, and at any stage of their career.

Of the jurying process, Daderko and Fletcher noted: “It’s been an honor to work with our colleagues at Artadia on this jurying process. Through their support and guidance, we were able to offer two generous, merit-based, and unrestricted awards to the Houston-based artists Francis Almendarez and Dana Frankfort. We shared similar enthusiasms about their individual commitments and clarity-of-vision.”

The jurors praised the practice and commitment of each Awardee: “Dana Frankfort’s dedication to process, formal experimentation, and the depths and pleasures of color animate a body of paintings in which she explores the legibility, visual potency, and dissolution of written words.”

“In Almendarez’s inspired and ambitious multi-channel video installation works, we were moved by investigations of memory and history evident in thoughtful manipulations of mood, and temporal and physical distance. We look forward to following the development of their promising practices.”

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that supports visual 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 internationally recognized 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.



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. Their has exhibited in the USA and abroad in the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Germany and Portugal. Almendarez's solo exhibition, *Voices of Our Mothers: Transcending Time and Distance* is currently on view until July 8, 2018.

Francis Almendarez, Installation view, *Voices of Our Mothers: Transcending Time and Distance*. Courtesy of the artist.



Dana Frankfort's work often engages with the history of abstract art and features bright colors, gestural brushwork, and text. Her solo exhibitions include: Southwest School of Art, San Antonio (2018); Inman Gallery (2012, 2010, 2007); and *Sorry We're Closed*, Brussels (2008). Her paintings were included in the group exhibition *Abstract America: New Painting from the U.S.*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2009-10). Frankfort received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in 2006. Her paintings are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Rice University, Houston, TX, and The Jewish Museum, New York, NY, among others. She was represented by Bellwether Gallery in New York and Kantor/Feuer (now defunct) in Los Angeles. Frankfort is now represented by Inman Gallery in Houston, TX.

Dana Frankfort, *Edna Mayer*, 2017, oil on canvas on panel, 26"x30". Courtesy of the artist and Inman Gallery, Houston, TX