

## Leonard Suryajaya and Derrick Woods-Morrow Bag Chicago Artadia Awards

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Left: Leonard Suryajaya, *Two Bodies*, 2017. Right: Derrick Woods-Morrow, *Untitled* (from the Bags series and the FIAR archives), 2018 (Courtesy: Artadia)

Artadia announced the awardees for the 2018 Chicago Artadia Awards: Leonard Suryajaya and Derrick Woods-Morrow.

“As the 2018 Chicago Artadia Awardees, Suryajaya and Woods-Morrow will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. Additionally, Artadia’s booth at EXPO CHICAGO will feature original artwork by the two Awardees,” Artadia says.

In the first round of jurying, Darby English, University of Chicago professor and adjunct curator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York; Courtenay Finn, curator at the Aspen Art Museum; and artist Jamie Isenstein selected the finalists, which included artists Bethany Collins, Daniel Eisenberg, and Brendan Fernandes. Jordan Carter, assistant curator of contemporary art at the Art Institute of Chicago, assisted English in conducting studio visits for the second round of evaluations.

About the winning works, Carter said, “Derrick Woods-Morrow poetically gives form to childhood memories, fleeting sexual encounters, and transitory leisure spaces such as beaches and coastlines. Most recently, Woods-Morrow salvaged hundreds of discarded bricks that once formed the foundation of the Washington Memorial in Chicago and began displaying them in stacks and piles in the lineage of Minimalism and Postminimalism. But as in much of his work, a highly personal and intimate dimension was also infused into the project, as the bricks are coated and fired with ‘stolen’ sand from Fire Island, a site of gay tourism where the artist has openly engaged in noncommittal sexual activity — imbuing the brick and mortar foundations of a monument steeped in colonialism with the transitory materiality of sand and the moment of climax.”

Leonard Suryajaya blends photography and interior decor to investigate issues of personal identity, sexuality, and cultural belonging and displacement. His photographic portraiture casts his subjects — often relatives — in performative scenes of the everyday, often among vibrantly patterned wallpapers and commercial props with indiscernible cultural origins. The use of kitsch and pattern-obliterated interiors, both in his photographs and related installations, treats decor as a form of distributed critique. Suryajaya employs decorative strategies to connect the worlds in and outside of his photographs and stage mise-en-scenes, in which the viewer becomes a protagonist in an unfolding drama where the boundaries between the private and the public, the frivolous and the political, the authentic and the imitation, and the celebrated and the abject are continuously renegotiated.

This is Artadia’s ninth award cycle in Chicago providing unrestricted awards to artists in the city. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to more than 320 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco.