

## \$10,000 Artadia Houston Awards Go to Francis Almendarez and Dana Frankfort

BY *Shirley Nwangwa* POSTED 06/19/18 4:51 PM

Francis Almendarez and Dana Frankfort are the winners of Artadia's 2018 Houston awards and will each receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds from the Brooklyn-based nonprofit.

Almendarez is known for work that showcases historical trauma through the lens of marginalized communities, blending the personal and the political in a variety of mediums. Including video installations and performance. "Voices of Our Mothers: Transcending Time and Distance," a solo show by the artist, is on view at the Houston Center for Photography through July 8.

Frankfort, a 2006 Guggenheim fellow and an assistant professor at the University of Houston, is known for her text paintings in which words, such as "Believe," "Kiss," and "Edna Mayer," float in a field of heavy brushstrokes of intense colors, which at times obscures the writing. Her most recent exhibition, "there was a stone," which featured many such text paintings, closed at the Inman Gallery in Houston in February.

The jurors for the prize—artist Huma Bhabha, Houston Contemporary Arts Museum curator Dean Daderko, and Art in Embassies curator Claire D'Alba—said in a collective statement, "Dana Frankfort's dedication to process, formal experimentation, and the depths and pleasures of color animate a body of paintings in which she explores legibility, visual potency and dissolution of written words."

The statement continued, "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."



Dana Frankfort, *Edna Mayer*, 2017.  
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A video installation by Francis Almendarez.  
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