



Dana Frankfort, *Edna Mayer*, 2017.

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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES THE 2018 HOUSTON AWARDEES

Artadia announced today that Francis Almendárez and Dana Frankfort are the winners of this year's Houston Awards. They will each receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds. Applications were open to visual artists who had lived in Houston for over two years, worked in any media, and were at any stage of their career.

Almendárez is an interdisciplinary artist known for making works that explore the intersections of history, ethnography, and the arts, using them as tools to address memory and trauma, specifically of migrant and queer bodies of the Caribbean and Central American diasporas.

Frankfort's work often engages with the history of abstract art and features bright colors, gestural brushwork, and text. In 2006, she received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Her paintings can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Jewish Museum in New York, among other institutions.

In the first round of jurying, artist Huma Bhabha; Dean Daderko, a curator at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; and Claire D'Alba, a curator for the Art in Embassies program, selected five finalists. Kanitra Fletcher, the curatorial assistant in the department of modern and contemporary art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, joined Daderko for studio visits in the second round of evaluations.

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," they said in a statement.

"In Almendárez'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." They added, "We look forward to following the development of their promising practices."

Since 1999, the nonprofit organization has awarded over \$3 million to more than 310 artists in the cities of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.