

August 21, 2018

## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR 2018 SAN FRANCISCO AWARDS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2017 San Francisco Awards: **Koak, Indira Allegra, Dana Hemenway, K.R.M. Mooney, and Lava Thomas**. The Finalists will receive studio visits with the second round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists as Awardees to receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

The Finalists were selected by jurors **A. Will Brown**, Assistant Curator, MOCA Cleveland, Ohio; **Lauren Schell Dickens**, Curator, San Jose Museum of Art; and **Allison Ferris**, Senior Curator, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Dickens**, inspired by the diversity of the applicants, described the process of selecting the finalists: "As a curator who is rather new to the bay area, this review process has been a wonderful crash course in the high caliber and sheer number of artists working in the area. We saw fantastic diversity among the applications—in terms of the artists' identity, mediums and subjects— and it was challenging to compare such highly developed and particular artistic practices."

**Ferris** added: "There is a liveliness of spirit in all the artwork submitted for the San Francisco Artadia Awards, which indicates a strong, vibrant contemporary art community in the San Francisco Bay community."

**Brown** echoed Dickens' and Ferris's sentiments and highlighted the quality of works from the finalists: "Reviewing such a well formed collection of submissions by the Bay Area's artistic community is a profound reminder of the area's rich cultural heritage and continued creative vibrancy. The process of selection was both a pleasure and an immense challenge due to the consistently strong balance of formal and conceptual quality. The five finalists emerged respectively for their deft use of form and material to command and offer new ways of looking and thinking about challenging and sensitive ideas. Across a range of strategies and materials each finalist was selected most of all for their willingness to take considered risks while demonstrating a depth of knowledge about the contemporary art and artists of our time, and those of the last century. "

This is Artadia's eleventh Award cycle in San Francisco. The application was open to all visual artists living in the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo 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 300 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2018 San Francisco Artadia Awards are generously supported by The San Francisco Foundation, Ascent Wealth Management, Artadia San Francisco Council members, and Artadia's Board of Directors.

## 2018 San Francisco Awards Finalists

### KOAK

Koak is a multidisciplinary artist working in painting, drawing, sculpture, and installation. Her current work portrays the female body in intimate scenes of both vulnerability and strength. Drawing on a lineage of comics and historical fine art, she creates a visual narrative that explores themes of gender, identity, and the sociopolitical through depictions of the body in raw and hyperemotive moments. Koak was born in Lansing, Michigan, and currently lives and works in San Francisco. She received her MFA in Comics at California College of the Arts and her BFA from their Individualized Program. Koak's work has been exhibited by Ghebaly Gallery (Los Angeles), Walden Gallery (Buenos Aires), Union Pacific (London), American Medium (New York), Ratio 3 (San Francisco), and Et al. (San Francisco), among others. Recent publications include Vault Magazine, Cultured Magazine, ArtMaze, Juxtapoz, Vice, and Autre.



Koak, *Kill Your Darlings*, 2018. Graphite, acrylic ink, watercolor, and case in on rag paper.

### INDIRA ALLEGRA

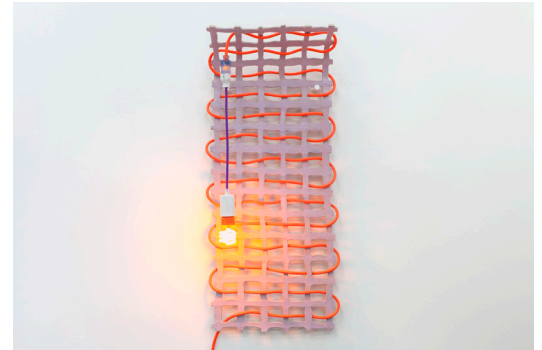
Indira Allegra is active in a range of fields including sculpture, performance, writing and installation. She has performed and exhibited at SFMOMA, de Young Museum, The Arts Incubator in Chicago, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Center for Craft Creativity and Design and Mills College Art Museum among others. Allegra's writing has been widely anthologized and she has contributed works to Foglifter Magazine, Cream City Review, HYSTERIA Magazine, make/shift Magazine, and Yellow Medicine Review: A Journal of Indigenous Literature, Art and Thought among others. Her work has received support from the Mike Kelley Artist Project Grant, MAP Fund, Tosa Studio Award, Windgate Craft Fellowship and Jackson Literary Award. She is an Adjunct at the California Institute for Integral Studies and a Lia Cook Jacquard Artist in Residence at the California College of the Arts.



Indira Allegra. Still from performance of *BODYWARP: Seamstress* at The Alice Gallery (2018). Image courtesy of the artist. Photo credit Alex Boeschstein.

### **DANA HEMENWAY**

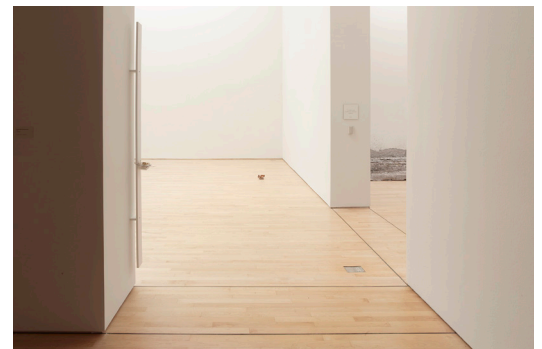
Dana Hemenway is an artist based in San Francisco. She received her MFA from Mills College and her BA from University of California Santa Cruz. She has had residencies at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art (Omaha, NE), SÍM (Reykjavik, Iceland), The Wassaic Project (Upstate New York), Root Division (San Francisco, CA), and is a charter resident of the Minnesota Street Project's Studio Program (San Francisco, CA). Dana is the recipient of The San Francisco Arts Commission Individual Artist Grant, a Southern Exposure Alternative Exposure Grant, and in 2017 she was awarded her first Permanent Public Art Commission for SFO's Terminal 1, which is scheduled for completion in late 2019. Dana has exhibited her artwork locally, nationally, and internationally. From 2015 - 2017, Dana served as a co-director of Royal Nonesuch Gallery, an artist-run project space in Oakland, CA. She is represented by Eleanor Harwood Gallery in San Francisco, CA.



Dana Hemenway. Untitled (Grid No. 5 - Purple), 2016. High fire ceramics, glaze, orange extension cord, custom fixture, compact fluorescent light bulb.

### **K.R.M. MOONEY**

K.R.M. Mooney is an artist based in Oakland, CA. Recent solo exhibitions include Carrier at Kunstverein Braunschweig, SECA Art Award Exhibition at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Near Passerine at Pied-a-terre in Ottscille, PA, and En, Set at the Watts Institute for Contemporary Arts in San Francisco. Recent Group exhibitions include Sculptures at Andrew Kreps in New York and School of Chairs at 500 Capp St. in San Francisco. Mooney directed Doubt It/ Talk Series, a year long experimental lecture platform and affiliated exhibition program that ran throughout 2013 and 2014 and is currently writing for Flash Art's In Residence column.



KRM Mooney, SECA Art Award Exhibition, 2017. SFMOMA, Image courtesy of Altman Siegel and Robert D. Herrick

## LAVA THOMAS

A multi-disciplinary artist and master draftsman, Lava Thomas's work explores the events, figures and movements that inform and shape our individual and collective histories. Through an oeuvre that spans drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and installation, her practice centers around notions of visibility, resilience and empowerment in the face of erasure, trauma and oppression.

Thomas is a native of Los Angeles, CA. She studied at UCLA's School of Art Practice and received a BFA from California College of the Arts. Thomas has been awarded residencies at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Kala Art Institute, and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. She is the recipient of a Getty Foundation Grant, a Peninsula Community Foundation Fellowship and the Joan Mitchell Grant for Painters and Sculptors. Emphasized by her distinctive titles, the artist employs poetics as pneumatics—inflating Minimalism's deliberate remove with a rugged humanity. Semo is represented by Marlborough Contemporary, New York and London; Ribordy Contemporary, Geneva; and CAPITAL, San Francisco.



Lava Thomas. Resistance Reverb: Movements 1 & 2 (detail), 2018. Tambourines, leather, suede, Plexiglas, mirrored acrylic, acrylic paint, monofilament wire, S-hooks, aluminum grid, steel, fans, and lights. Variable Dimensions.