

Artadia

PRESS RELEASE

November 20, 2018

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES AWARDEES FOR SIXTH ATLANTA AWARDS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the Awardees for the 2018 Atlanta Artadia Awards: **Krista Clark** and **William Downs**. The 2018 Atlanta Artadia Awardees will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. This is Artadia's sixth year providing unrestricted Awards to artists in Atlanta. Applications for the Awards were open to any visual artist living in the Greater Atlanta area, including the counties of Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton, for over two years, working in all media, and at any stage of their career.

In the first round of evaluations, **Wassan Al-Khudhairi**, Chief Curator, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis; **Nathaniel Hitchcock**, Independent Curator, Chicago, and **Jonathan Odden**, former Curatorial Assistant, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, selected five Finalists from nearly 200 applicants. The Finalists included Krista Clark, Ariel Dannielle, Danielle Deadwyler, William Downs, and Erin Jane Nelson. In the second round of evaluations, **Andrea Barnwell Brownlee**, Ph.D, Director, Spelman College Museum of Art, and **Sarah Higgins**, Curator, Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw State University conducted studio visits with each of the five Finalists to determine the Awardees.

Brownlee and Higgins praised each artist's practice: "We were inspired by the rigor and sheer talent of artists Krista Clark and William Downs. The sophistication of their practice, ambition for their future plans and intentionality behind their decision making punctuate why they are 2018 Atlanta Artadia Awardees. We are excited to watch how this recognition propels these two deserving artists into the next stage of their career and 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 nationally recognized 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 Atlanta Artadia Awards are generously supported by MailChimp, the Tim & Lauren Schragger Family Foundation, Artadia's Board of Directors, Atlanta Council members, and many generous individual donors in Atlanta.

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Krista Clark

Krista Clark grew up in Burlington, VT and holds a BFA from Atlanta College of Art in printmaking, an MA from New York University and an MFA from Georgia State University. She lives and works in Atlanta, GA. Her work is included in the permanent collection of the High Museum and is part of an ongoing exhibition in Bratislava, Slovakia through Art in Embassies. Clark's work was featured in Fictions at the Studio Museum in Harlem. She is a 2018-19 MOCA GA Working Artist Project recipient. Clark is represented by Sandler Hudson Gallery in Atlanta.

William Downs

William Downs is a contemporary artist who focuses mainly on painting, drawing and printmaking. Born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina, William lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia. He studied at the Atlanta College of Art and Design where he received his BFA in Painting and Printmaking in 1996. He received his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in 2003. He has had exhibitions in the United States and abroad including the Nexus Biennial at the Nexus Contemporary Art Center in Atlanta, GA; Century Gallery in London, England; and Hammonds House Gallery in Atlanta, GA. He has had solo exhibitions at the Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum in La Grange, Georgia and at Mission Space in Baltimore, MD.

Images (left-right) Krista Clark, *Stopped, Westviews Through Ontario*, 2017. tarp, wood, insulation, tape, 144 x 180 inches; William Downs, *The bathers, bathing*, 2018, Ink wash and spray paint on drywall, 96 X 180 inches. Courtesy of the artists.