



For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA IDENTIFIES INAUGURAL HOUSTON FELLOWS

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five inaugural Houston Artadia Fellows: **Abdul Basit**, Pakistan; **Lanre Buraimoh**, Nigeria; **Eduardo Herrera**, Ecuador; **Karen Navarro**, Argentina; and **Sanya Wafeq**, Afghanistan.

The Houston Artadia Fellowship is a pilot program designed to connect Houston's diverse immigrant and refugee artists with other artists, each other, and the international art world through close collaborations with local partners, critical discourse, exhibition opportunities, and studio visits with renowned curators and artists to support and cultivate artistic excellence. Fellows are invited to participate in conversations around art practice, sustainability, and the locality of the city's art scene while simultaneously providing the resources to address needs specific to those communities.

Inaugural Houston Artadia Fellows will receive the following:

A \$2,500 unrestricted honorarium

An introduction to an artist mentor, chosen by Artadia from its pool of Houston-based Artadia Awardees, and the facilitation of a series of meetings catered to the specific needs of each fellow. Meetings will include studio visits, discussion of artwork and practices, and introductions to the Houston art community.

A Presentation of work by fellows and Awardees to the Houston art community, including artists, collectors, dealers, critics, curators and arts professionals will take place Spring 2019.

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 325 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

This pilot program is generously supported by the Houston Endowment.

2019 Houston Fellows

ABDUL BASIT

Abdul Basit (b. 1996, Pakistan) moved to Turkey in 2009 with his family and began his education there. He lived in Turkey for nine years. He is mentored by the Uzbekistan artist Obeydollah Tajiev.

“I think art is the best way to explain our feelings, that’s why I chose to become an artist. (What ideas do you explore in your work?): trying to catch emotions.”

EDUARDO HERRERA

Eduardo Herrera (b. Quito, Ecuador), graduated from the Design Institute with a bachelor’s degree in Multimedia Design. He moved to Houston in 2009. He creates small and large format artworks and works in a variety of mediums, including paintings, photographs, body painting, video, and murals.

“My work has a big focus on abstract calligraphy and hand lettering compositions. Asemic calligraphy, geometric compositions and mostly spontaneous mediataive work... I play around with my body movements while searching for visual balance when I paint big pieces. Lately, I have been incorporating more cultural elements in my work. For example, using faces or elements that reference pre-Hispanic ceramics or symbols from my country and South American regions.”

KAREN NAVARRO

Karen Navarro is a Houston-based Argentine photographer. She creates highly stylized images that are tied to her background in fashion design. She studied at the University of Buenos Aries, the Houston Center of Photography, and was awarded a scholarship to study analog photography at Glassell Art School at the Museum of Fine Art, Houston.

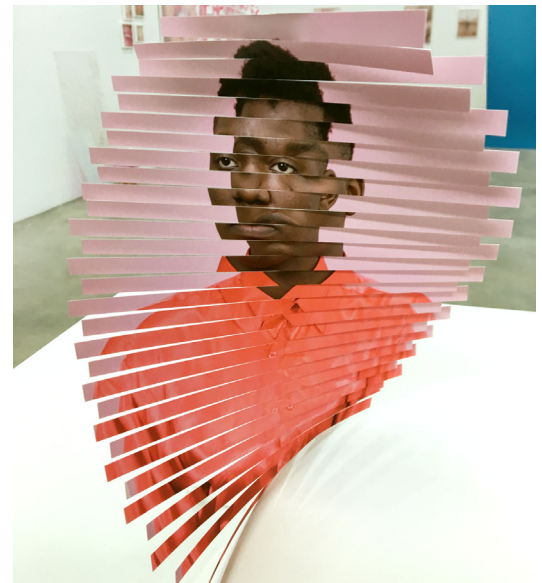
“My fine art, photo-based sculpture and constructed portraits are known for their color theory, surreal scenes and minimalist details. My work approaches contemporary issues related to identity, femininity, and sexuality... I attach preconcieved ideas of female identity and beauty, so in my work I



Abdul Basit, *Hope of Refugee* (detail), 2017. Oil painting on canvas, 70 x 100 inches.



Eduardo Herrera, *Keep Going* (In collaboration with Ben Johnston), 2017. Outdoor acrylic paint and aerosol paint mural, 90 x 21 feet.



Karen Navarro, *Subject #5*, 2018. Laser cut archival inkjet print on laser cut plywood, 11 x 14 x 9 inches.

allow my subjects to operate on a new level where cliches are banned, and absolute truths of identity and form are reconfigured. Usually, subjects take on a surreal and mysterious quality.”

LANRE BURAIMOH

Lanre Buraimoh (b. Osogbo, Nigeria) graduated with a degree in Business Administration from AMBROS Ali University and Osun State Polytechnic, Iree in 2001 and 2005 respectively. Both of Buraimoh’s parents, Chief Jimoh Buraimoh and Alake Buraimoh, are contemporary artists well known amongst their Nigerian peers and abroad.

“My paintings have traces of cubist and symbols which are expressed in unexpected ways. I experimented with traditional glass beads, acrylic and oil paint... the Yoruba people of Nigeria have traditionally incorporated beads into many of their artforms. In particular, the glittering look encouraged their use in decorating the King’s regalia, including crowns, shoes, and walking sticks. My innovation was to adapt this traditional use to the more contemporary art form of painting in beads, acrylic and oil. My interest today is to spread the gospel of bead-painting, especially to a younger generation.



Lanre Buraimoh, *Horus*, 2018. Acrylic on canvas, 45 x 35 inches.

SANYA WAFEQ

Sanya Wafeq (b. 1990, Kabul, Afghanistan) received her bachelor’s degree from Arts-Fine Faculty of Kabul University. She is the middle child of seven children born to a mother and father, both military doctors. She started her career in 2007 by training other young female artists.

“I try to explore ideas of how (to) better in a positive way tell stories of women in my country and other countries. I try to explore how best abstracts are made about women’s life stories... I’m sure there is also that universal wish to connect with other people in some way, to tell them about myself or my experiences.”



Sanya Wafeq, *Street Working Boy*. Charcoal, pencil, and watercolor, 28 x 20 inches.