

ARTADIA
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For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2019 NEW YORK AWARDS



New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2019 New York Awards: **Hadi Fallahpisheh, Erick A. Hernandez, Devin N. Morris, Sable Elyse Smith, and Sasha Wortzel**. The Finalists will receive studio visits with second round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists as Awardees to receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds. The Finalists were selected by jurors **Kate Fowle**, chief curator, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow; director-at-large, Independent Curators International (ICI), New York; **Mickalene Thomas**, artist, New York; and **Sohrab Mohebbi**, curator, SculptureCenter, New York.

Of the process of selecting Finalists, Mohebbi noted: "The pool of candidates was exceptionally strong and making the selection was no easy feat. Artists are grappling with very pressing issues and find incredibly complex and elegant ways to address the aesthetic questions of the moment. The jury deliberation was particularly informative given the quality of the applications. These five finalists exemplify just a portion of the best new voices creating in New York City in this moment."

This is Artadia's fourth Award cycle in New York. Artadia received more than 500 applications for the Awards, which were open to all visual artists living in New York City 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

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1999, Artadia has awarded over \$3 million to more than 300 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

Hadi Fallahpishneh

Hadi Fallahpishneh (b. 1987, Tehran, Iran) works primarily with photography, as well as performance and installation to destabilize visions of a stable and singular subject. Often commenting on conditions of displacement, his work questions the ability of representation to convey truths, revealing the gaps between public perception and personal experience.

Fallahpishneh moved to New York in 2014, and received an MFA in Photography from Bard College in 2016. He is also a graduate of the Creative Practices Program in Photography at the ICP, New York. He has presented work at venues including Simone Subal, Mosaic Rooms, PAGE Gallery, Kai Matsumaiya, Off Vendome, ICP, and Callicoon Fine Arts, and in Tehran at Delgosha Gallery, Dastan Gallery and Maryam Harandi Gallery, among others.

Erick A. Hernandez

Erick Hernandez (b. 1994, Cuba)'s work is sometimes organized around a shared event—a car crash, a punch on a sidewalk, or a sudden death. His paintings express the irreconcilability of shared experiences with individual experience. They present a collision of memory, history, and emotion, and all become fragments of larger narratives that the viewer may or may not be able to access. Often large and immersive, the works' explorations into personal traumas encompasses broader themes of exile, immigration, mental health, romance, heritage, and the experience of loss.

Hernandez's mother, a psychologist, and his father, a poet and architect, were forced to leave Cuba due to existential duress when he was young. After a few years in Peru, his family moved to Miami, FL where he attended New World School of Art. He later received a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design in 2017 and have participated in several residencies including Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Oxbow School of Art, and is currently a resident of The Sharpe Walentas Studio Program.

Devin N. Morris

Through his mixed media paintings, photographs, writings, and videos, Baltimore-born, Brooklyn-based artist Devin N. Morris (b. 1986, Baltimore, Maryland) collapses personal experience, memory, and space to delicately envision new realms. The artist considers his upbringing in Baltimore and navigating the world as a black queer man in his depictions of real and imagined characters engaged in acts of kindness and care. Through this work and his annual publication 3 Dot Zine, Morris reimagines the physical and social boundaries of marginalized communities, radically reimagining queer existence.

Employing various digital, physical, and immersive strategies, Morris's multimedia practice focuses on collage and dissonance as a means to engage societal conventions and expectations. The works are emotionally charged and sumptuous, as subjects appear simultaneously familiar and out of reach. In these interactions between person and place, both intimate and imagined, the artist looks to breakdown and reconfigure what one assumes of the spaces we occupy, both within and outside of ourselves.

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Sable Elyse Smith

Sable Elyse Smith (b.1986) is an interdisciplinary artist and writer. Using video, sculpture, photography, and text, her work points to the carceral, the personal, the political, and the quotidian to speak about a violence that is largely unseen, and potentially imperceptible. Smith draws particular attention to language and the other structures and systems that shape our lives.

She has received awards from Creative Capital, Fine Arts Work Center, the Queens Museum, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Rema Hort Mann Foundation, the Franklin Furnace Fund, and Art Matters. Her work has been featured at MoMA Ps1, New Museum, The Studio Museum in Harlem, JTT, Birkbeck Cinema in collaboration with the Serpentine Galleries, London.

Sasha Wortzel

Working in film, installation, and performance, Sasha Wortzel explores spaces and bodies evicted from the official record, and interrogates the processes by which they are erased. Wortzel mines archives for their traces and produces new material to create imagined historical documents. Blending documentary techniques and narrative storytelling, Wortzel looks to the past in order to dream a new way forward

Sasha Wortzel is a New York-based artist and filmmaker originally from Florida. Wortzel's work has been presented and exhibited at MoMA, New Museum, Brooklyn Museum, The Kitchen, BAMcinémathèque, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Berlin International Film Festival, and ICA London. Her work has been supported by the Sundance Documentary Film Program, Art Matters, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace program, NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship, and the Abrons Arts Center's AIRspace Residency for Visual Artists.

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