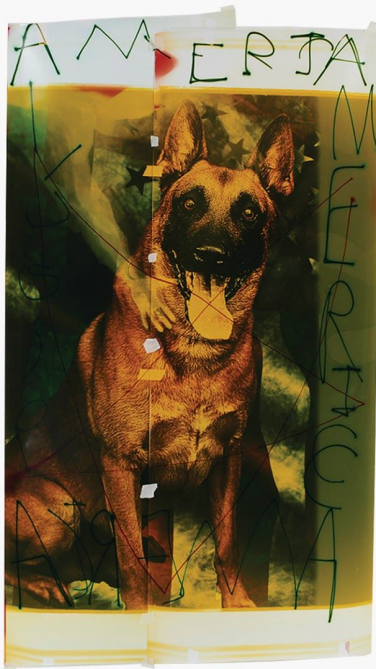


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For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA IDENTIFIES TWO ARTISTS FOR THE 2019 NEW YORK AWARDS



New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the two Awardees for the 2019 New York Awards: **Hadi Fallahpisheh** and **Devin N. Morris**. As the 2019 New York Artadia Awardees, the artists will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. Applications for the Awards were open to any visual artist living in New York City, for over two years, working in any medium and at any stage of their career.

In the first round of jurying, **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 selected five Finalists: Hadi Fallahpisheh, Erick A. Hernandez, Devin N. Morris, Sable Elyse Smith, and Sasha Wortzel. Justine Ludwig, Executive Director, Creative Time, joined Fowle for the second round of evaluations. The jurors conducted studio visits with each of the five Finalists to determine the Awardees.

In a joint statement, Fowle and Ludwig noted:

“With more than 500 artists applying for the award, it was no mean feat to arrive at a collective agreement on five with whom to do studio visits: so many incredible ideas and approaches to discern between.

Devin, Erick, Hadi, Sable Elyse, and Sasha were all inspiring and thought provoking in their practices. Each is honing an approach to art-making that is unfamiliar (in the “I haven’t seen

For more information please contact: Jonathan Gardenhire, jonathan@artadia.org

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anything quite like this” way). The work is socially conscious and intense; personal, resourceful, and generative. They each offer a strong, unique, and uncompromising creative vision, leaving us with the impossible task of having to compare radically different outputs.

After trying (and failing) to negotiate for more money so that all five finalist could be awardees—note to any interested philanthropists out there: Artadia rocks! Support them, so they can support more artists—we agreed that Devin Morris and Hadi Fallahpisheh were each on the verge of something special that really excited us. Maybe, just maybe, to receive this award right now would offer that extra “mile” of encouragement that could ensure both will fly sooner rather than later.”

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 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million to 331 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2019 New York Artadia Awards are generously supported by the Orentreich Family Foundation, First Republic, Artadia’s Board of Directors, Artadia New York Council members, and individual donors across the country.

Hadi Fallahpisheh

Hadi Fallahpisheh (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.

Fallahpisheh 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 Matsumiya, Off Vendome, ICP, and Callicoon Fine Arts, and in Tehran at Delgosha Gallery, Dastan Gallery and Maryam Harandi Gallery, among others.

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.

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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.

Images (Left-Right): **Hadi Fallahpisheh**, America, 2018, photogram on paper, 85 x 50 inches. **Devin N. Morris**, All In, 2018, tempera, acrylic, oil pastel, cinnamon bark, fabric collage, photo collage, charcoal on wood panel, 36 x 24 inches.

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