

**ARTADIA
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For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2019 ATLANTA AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2019 Atlanta Awards: **Danielle Deadwyler, Bojana Ginn, Gerald Kennedy, Courtney McClellan,** and **Sonya Yong James.** 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 **Gabriel de Guzman,** Curator & Director of Exhibitions, Smackmellon, New York; **Ike Onyewuenyi,** Curatorial Assistant, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and **Louise Shaw,** Curator, Atlanta.

Of the process, Guzman noted: "Making a selection from such an exceptionally strong pool of applicants was no easy task for us. In the end, we felt that the group of finalists reflect a diverse range of voices, media, and approaches. The high caliber of creative integrity represented by these finalists speaks to the unique vibrancy of the arts in Atlanta."

Shaw echoed Guzman's sentiments: "As an Atlanta-based curator and cultural worker, I am proud of depth and breadth of work being produced by artists in this region. The 2019 Artadia finalists were selected from a pool of excellent applicants whose diversity in terms of practice and personal histories is reflective of the ever expanding Atlanta arts landscape at large."

This is Artadia's seventh Award cycle in Atlanta. The Atlanta Artadia Awards were open to all visual artists living in Atlanta 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 more than 330 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2019 Atlanta Artadia Awards are generously supported by MailChimp, the Wish Foundation, Artadia's Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, through a contribution by artist Shara Hughes, and individual donors across the country.

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

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About the Finalists

Danielle Deadwyler

Danielle Deadwyler is an interdisciplinary artist, mother of one, and native of Atlanta, GA. With filmmaking and performance as primary media, Danielle Deadwyler blurs the line on labor of the black body. Through experimental and theatrical exhibition structures, she especially bolsters the black female body's work and its range through public/private, domestic/sexual, individual and with community dichotomies, and in documentary and fictive narratives.

Bojana Ginn

Bojana Ginn is an interdisciplinary artist and a former MD and scientist. Since leaving her native Serbia and exchanging her medical profession for a vocation in art in the United States, Ginn has exhibited her work in Atlanta, nationally, and internationally. Finalist and fellow for the World Technology Award in Art, Ginn's work is currently on display at the Museum of Arts and Design in NYC, as well as at the Mary S. Byrd Gallery in Augusta, GA, made possible through the 2018 Ellsworth Kelly Award.

Sonya Yong James

Sonya Yong James lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia. She received a BFA in Printmaking from Georgia State University where she focused on etching and sculpture. James has exhibited nationally and internationally for the past twenty years and has been the recipient of several grants, awards, and residencies. Her work is held in numerous corporate and private collections and has been exhibited in galleries and museums locally such as MOCA GA, Atlanta Contemporary, The Hudgens Center for the Arts, The Albany Museum of Art, and the Zuckerman Museum of Art. She has just completed a four year residency at the Studio Artists Program at Atlanta Contemporary and is represented by Whitespace Gallery.

Gerald Lovell Kennedy

Gerald Lovell is a self taught emerging artist born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He currently lives and works in Atlanta, GA. Lovell works in oil portraiture where he emphasizes the human form using thick paint application. He uses this impasto style to create work that serves as honest depictions of his peers and loved ones while highlighting moments of self affirmation and everyday life.

Courtney McClellan

Courtney McClellan earned her B.A. in Studio Art and Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and her M.F.A. from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. McClellan's practice includes traditional research methods like experimenting with materials, but also reaches to fields like law, theater and journalism. For five years, she has been making art about the relationship between performance and law by studying Mock Trial, an intercollegiate group activity in which students simulate court cases. The resulting multidisciplinary work maps how the adjudication of law is an act of world building.