

**ARTADIA  
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**For Immediate Release**

**November 18, 2019**

**ARTADIA ANNOUNCES AWARDEES FOR THE 2019 ATLANTA AWARDS**

New York, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the Awardees for the 2019 Atlanta Artadia Awards: **Danielle Deadwyler** and **Sonya Yong James**. The 2019 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 seventh 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, Gabriel de Guzman, Curator & Director of Exhibitions, Smackmellon, New York; Ike Onyewuenyi, Curatorial Assistant, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and Louise Shaw, Curator, Atlanta, selected five Finalists. The Finalists included Danielle Deadwyler, Bojana Ginn, Sonya Yong James, Gerald Lovell, and Courtney McClellan. In the second round of evaluations, Gregory Harris, Associate Curator of Photography, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Ph.D, Director, Spelman College Museum of Art, joined Shaw to conduct studio visits with each of the five Finalists to determine the Awardees.

Shaw and Harris praised each artist's practice in a joint statement: "The jurying process this year was quite competitive and we have great admiration for all the finalists who collectively embody the layers and vibrancy of the community here in Atlanta. The two awardees represent distinct practices that demonstrate a commitment to both artistic excellence and rigorous thinking about the creative process. Sonya's installations emphasize the deeply contemplative potential of craft, elevating humble materials to spiritual planes. Danielle's compelling performances and videos connect personal narratives with larger issues of social justice and the lived experience of African American women."

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 \$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.

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## About the Awardees

### 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.

Image: *BustitOpen*, 2017, Performance/Video, 3-4 hour public performance with video

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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.

Image: *I know a song of the colors where I live, does it know a song of me?*, 2019, hand dyed wool yarn, silk, wool felt, cotton thread and rope. gourds, taxidermies red headed parrotfinch, 50" l x 144"w x 12"d