

**ARTADIA
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For Immediate Release

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2019 CHICAGO AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2019 Chicago Awards: **Bethany Collins, Assaf Evron, Brendan Fernandes, Caroline Kent, and Alice Tippit**. 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 **Ylinka Barotto**, Assistant Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York; **Ian Berry**, Dayton Director of The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; **Grace Deveney**, Assistant Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

“I am always impressed by the tireless, unrelenting work of Artadia as one of the leading organizations in sustaining and bringing to the fore impressive works by contemporary artists across the country. The submissions to the 2019 Chicago award all impressed me with their compelling quality reflected in a broad array of practices. The work of the group of finalists is prescient, innovative, and engaging. Furthermore, each of the finalists in their unique way raises intriguing and pressing questions through a considerate investigation of mediums.”

Deveney felt similarly of this year’s selection; “There were so many incredible artists under consideration and the range of submissions reflects Chicago’s wonderful art networks and communities. The finalists stood out based on the clarity of their visions and their intriguing approaches to material and form.”

This is Artadia’s tenth Award cycle in Chicago. Artadia received more than 500 applications for the Awards, which were open to all visual artists living in Chicago 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 Chicago Artadia Awards are generously supported by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, the artist LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation, Inc., individual donors across the country, Chicago Council members, and Artadia’s Board of Directors.

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

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Bethany Collins

Bethany Collins (American, b. 1984) is a multidisciplinary artist whose conceptually driven work is fueled by a critical exploration of how race and language interact. Collins is interested in the unnerving possibility of multiple meanings, dual perceptions, and limitlessness in the seemingly binary. Collins' practice (drawing, printmaking, sculpture & performance) allows her to define and redefine her own racial landscape. As Holland Cotter noted writing in The New York Times, "language itself, viewed as intrinsically racialized, is Bethany Collins' primary material."

Bethany has had solo exhibitions at the Center for Book Arts, New York; Locust Projects, Miami; Birmingham Museum of Art; and Atlanta Contemporary Art Center; among others. Her work has been shown in group exhibitions at the DePaul Art Museum, Chicago; the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus; the Studio Museum in Harlem; the Drawing Center, New York; and the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, East Lansing; as well as other venues. She has been the recipient of an NEA award, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, and the Hudgens Prize. Collins has been recognized as an artist-in-residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the MacDowell Colony, the Bemis Center, and the Hyde Park Art Center, among others.

Assaf Evron

Assaf Evron is an artist and a photographer based in Chicago. His work investigates the nature of vision and the ways in which it reflects in socially constructed structures, where he applies photographic thinking in various two and three-dimensional media. Looking at moments along the histories of modernism Evron questions the construction of individual and collective identities, immigration (of people, ideas, images) and the representations of democracy.

His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums internationally. Evron holds an MA from The Cohn Institute as well as an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), where he currently teaches. In 2019 he exhibited a special project at the Mies van der Rohe-designed McCormick House at Elmhurst Art Museum in Illinois, as a debut for a series of photographic interventions in Mies van der Rohe's architecture. In Fall 2019 he will have his first US museum solo show at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Brendan Fernandes

Brendan Fernandes (b. 1979, Nairobi, Kenya) is an internationally recognized Canadian artist working at the intersection of dance and visual arts. Currently based out of Chicago, Brendan's projects address issues of race, queer culture, migration, protest and other forms of collective movement. Always looking to create new spaces and new forms of agency, Brendan's projects take on hybrid forms: part Ballet, part queer dance hall, part political protest... always rooted in collaboration and fostering solidarity. Brendan is a graduate of the Whitney Independent Study Program (2007) and a recipient of a Robert Rauschenberg Fellowship (2014). In 2010, he was shortlisted for the Sobey Art Award and is currently the recipient of a

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2017 Canada Council New Chapter grant. His projects have shown at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York); the Museum of Modern Art (New York); The Getty Museum (Los Angeles); the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa); MAC (Montreal); among a great many others. He is currently artist-in-residence and faculty at Northwestern University and represented by Monique Meloche Gallery in Chicago. Upcoming projects in 2019 include performances and solo presentations at the Solomon R. Guggenheim (New York); The Whitney Biennial (New York); the Smithsonian Museum of American Art (Washington); the Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago); and the Noguchi Museum (New York).

Caroline Kent

Caroline Kent, born in Sterling, Illinois is a Chicago based artist who earned her MFA from the University of Minnesota in 2008. Her work has been exhibited nationally at The Flag Art Foundation, NY, The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, The Depaul Art Museum, Chicago, IL, and The Union for Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE. She is the recipient of awards from the Pollock Krasner Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation.

Alice Tippit

Alice Tippit (b. 1975) makes paintings that address her interest in the creation of language and the application of meaning. Her work has been exhibited at venues in the United States and abroad, including Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, Kimmerich, mumok, Anton Kern Gallery, Grice Bench, and Adams and Ollman, among others.

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