

ARTADIA
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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2019 SAN FRANCISCO AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2019 San Francisco Awards: **Mike Henderson, Angela Hennessy, Dionne Lee, Ranu Mukherjee,** and **Sam Vernon.** 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 **Essence Harden**, Independent Curator, Writer, PH.D. Candidate, UC Berkeley, CA; **Amie Siegel**, Artist, New York; and **Diya Vij**, Associate Curator, Public Programs, The High Line, New York.

Vij was impressed with the breadth of ideas explored by every applicant: “It was heartening to witness the rigor in practice and precision in politics from each of the Bay Area finalists. It is clear that these artists have an appetite to push the boundaries of their respective mediums while confronting the seismic impacts, locally and globally, of our political structures - from racism to environmental degradation, and global capitalism. ”

Harden felt similarly of this year’s selection; “The diversity in practice, medium, and locale of the finalist highlight the sustaining and critical efforts artists in the Bay Area are confronting. It is exciting to see how the Bay Area, while in a state of increased economic and social duress, continues to foster conceptual and experimental aesthetics of play and contestation for its practicing artists. ”

This is Artadia’s twelfth Award cycle in San Francisco. The application was open to all visual artists living in the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo 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 San Francisco Artadia Awards are generously supported by The San Francisco Foundation, Artadia San Francisco Council members, and Artadia’s Board of Directors.

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

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Mike Henderson

Mike Henderson's work—from his figurative, politically-charged paintings of the 1960s to the more recent, abstract canvases for which he has become well known—has been shaped by shifting political landscapes and his own ceaseless creative evolution. Crafted with palette knives and brushes, the lush impastos and complex palettes of his recent paintings mine the tension between gestural and geometric abstraction.

Mike Henderson (b. 1944) has been a fixture on the Bay Area art scene since 1965, when he left behind a rural, Midwestern farming community to attend the San Francisco Art Institute (MFA, 1970). Since then, Henderson has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (1973) and two National Endowment for the Arts Grants (1978, 1989), and has exhibited consistently throughout his career at institutions that include the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Berkeley Art Museum, CA; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL. In addition to his work as a painter and filmmaker, Henderson is also a celebrated blues musician.

Angela Hennessy

Angela Hennessy is an Oakland-based artist and Associate Professor at the California College of the Arts where she teaches courses on visual and cultural narratives of death. Through sculpture, installation, and ritual performance, her practice questions assumptions about Death and the Dead themselves. She uses a spectrum of color and light to expose mythologies of black identity. Ephemeral and celestial are forms constructed with every day gestures of domestic labor—washing, wrapping, stitching, weaving, brushing, and braiding.

Her work has been featured in Sculpture Magazine, Surface Design Journal, Textile: The Journal of Cloth and Culture and recently in solo exhibitions at The Museum of the African Diaspora, The Growlery, and Southern Exposure.

Dionne Lee

Dionne Lee works in photography, collage, and video, engaging ideas of power, agency, and racial histories in relation to the American landscape. Using both found and original images, Lee recontextualizes landscape imagery to explore the complications and dual legacies that exist within photographic representations of landscape and the outdoors.

Dionne Lee, (b. 1988, New York, NY) received her MFA from California College of the Arts in 2017. Her work has been exhibited throughout the Bay Area and in New York City, including Aperture Foundation, the school of the International Center of Photography, and the San Francisco Arts

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Commission gallery. In 2016 Lee was awarded the Barclay Simpson Award. In 2019 she was a finalist for the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art SECA award.

Ranu Mukherjee

Ranu Mukherjee makes hybrid forms of painting, animation and installation by layering images, patterns, drawings, fragments and time frames in ways that conjure a displacement or instability of certainty, and create associations between landscape, screen and textile. Her recent work explores shifting senses of ecology and non-human agency, diaspora, migration and transnational feminist experience, as catalysts for building new imaginative capacities.

Ranu Mukherjee received her MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London and her BFA in Painting and Film from Massachusetts College of Art, Boston. She has exhibited widely including solo projects at the de Young Museum; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; and San Jose Museum of Art. She co-created Orphan Drift, a cyber-feminist media collective and avatar, in London in 1994. Mukherjee is an Associate Professor at California College of the Arts and is represented by Gallery Wendi Norris.

Sam Vernon

Sam Vernon integrates everyday objects and two-dimensional media into large-scale installations influenced by found pattern, street art, the human figure and abstraction. In addition, Vernon creates layered Xerox drawings and collages derived from printmaking techniques to construct narrative. The result of an ongoing investigation into her drawn and photographed image repository is subject to re-contextualization within a site-specific work or mixed media object.

Sam Vernon earned her MFA in Painting/Printmaking from Yale University in 2015 and her BFA from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in 2009. Her installations combine xeroxed drawings, photographs, paintings and sculptural components in an exploration of personal narrative and identity. Vernon has most recently exhibited with Ashara Ekundayo Gallery, We Buy Gold, Interstitial Gallery, Coney Art Walls curated by Jeffrey Deitch, Brooklyn Museum, Queens Museum, Fowler Museum at UCLA and Seattle Art Museum. Sam lives in Oakland, CA and teaches printmaking as an Assistant Professor at California College of the Arts.

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