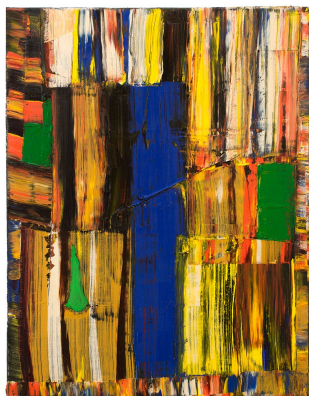


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**For Immediate Release**

**September 12, 2019**

**ARTADIA ANNOUNCES THE 2019 SAN FRANCISCO AWARDEES**



**NEW YORK, NY** - Artadia is pleased to announce the Awardees for the 2019 San Francisco Artadia Awards: **Mike Henderson** and **Angela Hennessy**. **The San Francisco Foundation Visual Arts Award is presented to Hennessy**. As the 2019 San Francisco Artadia Awardees, Henderson and Hennessy will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds, as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. This is Artadia's eleventh Award cycle in San Francisco. The application for the Awards was open to any visual artist living in the Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo, for over two years, working in all media, and at any stage of their career.

In the first round of jurying, **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, selected five Finalists: Mike Henderson, Angela Hennessy, Ranu Mukherjee, Dionne Lee, and Sam Vernon. **Aleesa Pitchamarn Alexander**, Assistant Curator of American Art, Cantor Arts Center joined Harden for the second round of evaluations. The jurors conducted studio visits with the five Finalists to determine the Awardees.

Of the Awardees, Harden and Pitchamarn Alexander noted: "**Mike Henderson's** striking nonrepresentational paintings belong to a long history of Bay Area abstraction. His thickly layered and boldly expressive works are undeniably arresting, often evoking a visceral response in the viewer. Though his practice is rooted in embracing chance and improvisation, the final products of his process are so elegant and fully realized they belie such unplanned origins. This award is meant to offer well-deserved recognition of his impressive thirty-year career."

"**Angela Hennessy's** materially diverse practice elegantly investigates subjects like mourning, ritual, and womanhood. By using hair as her primary material, Hennessy is able to explore its metaphorical and political relationship to blackness in compelling and original ways. Her sculptures are a powerful representation of an artist working at the intersection of total technical expertise and conceptual clarity."

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.

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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.

Images: Angela Hennessy, *The Setting of a Black Sun*, 2018, synthetic and human hair, artist's hair, twist tie wire, 2019, 9 x 8 feet; Mike Henderson, *In Long of the Way*, 2019, Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 inches, Courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery.

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