

**ARTADIA
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For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2019 HOUSTON AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2019 Houston Awards: **Adriana Corral, Allison Hunter, Lovie Olivia, Vincent Valdez**, and **Sarah Welch**. 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 Stephanie Baptist, Independent Curator and publisher, curator, Facebook AIR Program; Rachel Cook, Artistic Director, On the Boards; and Irene Mei Zi Shum, Curator, The Menil Collection.

Of the process, Shum noted: "Artadia is one of only a few national organizations to award direct, unrestricted funds to individual artists, so it was an honor to serve on the Round 1 panel to select this year's finalists. My fellow jurors and I engaged in a rigorous, methodical review process, and we were unafraid of the ensuing lively debate. From this, we arrived at five finalists, who reflect Houston's rich diversity and its robust creative community. I truly look forward to Round 2 when I will have the opportunity to meet each artist in person at their studios. While most of my comments have thus far focused on the finalists, I would like to take a moment to thank all the applicants who applied this year, as they are the ones who make Houston a vibrant city. Artists give shape and add edge and dimension to the life of a city, so it is amazing that Artadia recognizes their value. I encourage every artist to apply next year."

This is Artadia's tenth Award cycle in Houston. The application was open to all visual artists living in Houston 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 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 Houston Artadia Awards are generously supported by The Brown Foundation, the Houston Endowment, Artadia Houston Council members, and Artadia's Board of Directors, and individual donors across the country.

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

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About the Finalists

Adriana Corral

Adriana Corral's subjects are framed by human rights abuses, memory and erased historical narratives. Corral's work is rooted by her experiences from her birthplace of El Paso, Texas in which she examines the nuances of immigration, citizenship, economic trade, labor, public health, and policies from a local to national and international level.

Allison Hunter

Allison Hunter is a multimedia artist who blends video installation, photography, sound, and performance to help uncover the beauty and vulnerability of the unseen world and of the marginalized subjects living within it. She focuses on environmental issues, animal rights, and marginalized people to express personal and communal suffering.

Hunter's work has been shown at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, California; the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Florida; the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Wisconsin; Project 304, Bangkok; Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt; and in solo exhibitions at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh; Women & Their Work, Austin; DiverseWorks, Houston; and at 511 Gallery, New York, among others. She has won three Individual Artist Grants from the Houston Arts Alliance and recently participated in the art residency at the NARS Foundation, New York. Hunter is Humanities Artist-in-Residence and faculty (2012-present) in the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts at Rice University.

Lovie Olivia

Lovie Olivia creates works that involve Gender, Race and Sexuality and the historical and cultural nuances surrounding these intersections. She employs painting, printmaking, sculpture and installation to arrive at her coup. Throughout her career she has chosen an intentional autodidactic approach to a vigorous multi-disciplined practice believing that it is an organic, concise and genuine addition challenging the canonized narrative of art history. Olivia's work hangs in numerous private and public collections including Project Row Houses, ACRE Residency Chicago and the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institute. She is a recipient of three Individual Artist Awards, which are funded by the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance.

Vincent Valdez

Valdez was born in 1977 in San Antonio, Texas. He received a full scholarship to study at the Rhode Island School of Design, and earned his BFA in 2000. He was the recipient of the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant for Painters and Sculptors (2016), as well as residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting (2005), the Vermont Studio Center (2011) and the Künstlerhaus Bethanien Berlin Residency (2014). His work has been exhibited at The Ford Foundation, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, MassMOca, The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, The Smithsonian Museum of American Art, and The National Portrait Gallery, among others. Valdez currently lives and works in Houston.

Sarah Welch

Sarah Welch is an artist, illustrator, and comics-maker in Houston, Texas. She is a regular collaborator with letterpress & risograph print service, Mystic Multiples and a co-organizer with Zine Fest Houston. Welch participated in the 2019 Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture program and has completed

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residencies at The MacDowell Colony, Wesleyan University, Lawndale Art Center, and UT Dallas Centraltrak. She is a recipient of funding from the Houston Arts Alliance, the Arch and Anne Giles Kimbrough Fund Award (Dallas Museum of Art), and The Idea Fund (Andy Warhol Foundation).