

ARTADIA
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EST 1999

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2020

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF HOUSTON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce **Betirri Bengtson, Gao Hang, Veronica Ibargüengoitia, Valentina Jager** and **Ling-lin Ku** as the recipients of our second annual Houston Artadia Fellowship for Immigrant Artists. The Fellows will receive \$2,500 in unrestricted funds, as well as access to a multitude of benefits and support provided through our Houston based Fellowship Program.

The Houston Artadia Fellowship was introduced in 2018 as a response to Houston's massively diverse immigrant artist communities. The Fellowship was designed to be an extension of the Artadia's mission to connect artists with each other and the international art world through close collaborations with local partners, critical discourse, exhibition opportunities, and studio visits with renowned curators and artists to support and cultivate artistic excellence. This program increases the organization's efforts to expand access and promote representation in the art world by inviting immigrant and refugee artists to participate in the conversation while simultaneously providing the resources to advance their artistic careers in Houston and beyond.

In addition to the honorarium, Fellows are paired with an artist Advisor, chosen by Artadia from its pool of Houston-based Artadia Awardees. Fellows and their artist Advisors will have a series of meetings catered to each Fellow's specific needs. Meetings will include studio visits, portfolio reviews, guided discussions, and an immersion into the Houston art community. The Fellowship will conclude with an exhibition of work by the Fellows hosted by Lawndale for Houston's art community, including artists, collectors, dealers, critics, curators and arts professionals.

The Fellowship application is open to any visual artist living in the Greater Houston area (Harris County and Contiguous Counties of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller), who was born outside of the United States, working in all media, and at any stage of their career. Artadia works with Lawndale as its cultural partner for the program to identify Fellows and provide meeting spaces and exhibition opportunities.

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 335 artists in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The Artadia Fellowship for immigrant artists is made possible with lead funding by the Houston Endowment with the support of the Brown Foundation and Artadia's Board of Directors.

For more information please contact: April Swanson, april@artadia.org

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About the Awardees:

Betirri Bengtson

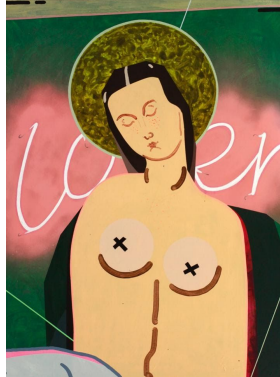


Born in Puebla, Mexico, Bengtson is internationally recognized primarily by his signature 'Futbol Series' paintings depicting bodiless sport figures in motion. His work ranges from figurative to conceptual always expressing the essence of an idea or subject. In Houston, Betirri continued his lifelong passion for art and architecture and obtained his Bachelors of Arts in Architecture from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and his Bachelors of Fine Arts at the University of Houston. He also studied abroad in Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy where he had the opportunity to experience and embrace the grandeur of some of the world's greatest artists and their culture.

Betirri has exhibited his work globally including New York (2013), Rio de Janeiro (2014), Milan (2015), Vancouver (2015), Puebla, Mexico (2016). Betirri has been commissioned to work on projects with Reebok-Brazil, Major League Soccer, and the NFL. His work has been in numerous publications such as ESPN, Yahoo Deportes, Fox Sports Italia, What's On magazine in Dubai and Hedge magazine from England.

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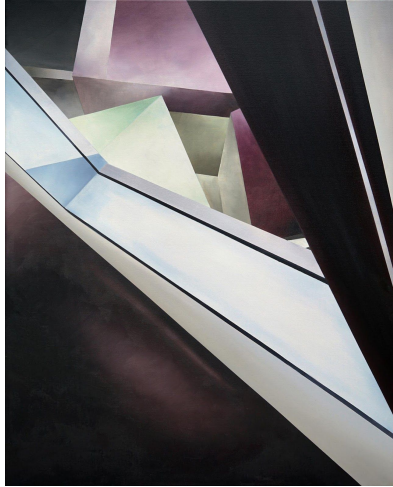
Gao Hang



Born in China, Hang is currently a Painting/Drawing Instructor at the University of Houston, represented artist by both Anya Tish Gallery (Houston) and The Secondbedroom gallery (San Francisco). Hang holds a Master of Fine Art degree in Painting/Drawing from University of Houston, and Bachelor of Art degree in Oil Painting from Capital Normal University. Hang's works have been shown in different major cities in China, US and Korea among galleries and museums.

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Veronica Ibargüengoitia



Born in Mexico City, Ibargüengoitia works in oil on canvas in different formats, creating images of architectural spaces. Her large-format paintings unfold in layers, which she imagines the viewer entering, step by step, finding pleasure in the conundrum behind each geometric form. Ibargüengoitia is currently in the Block Program of the Glassell School of Arts at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH). She is finishing her Certificate in Sculpture at the MFAH, and recently completed her Certificate in Painting at the MFAH. She has studied with many artists in different disciplines in the U.S. and in Mexico, and her work has been shown in national and international juried shows. She is a member of the Visual Arts Alliance, Houston Arts Alliance and Sociedad Mexicana de Autores de las Artistas Plasticas, Mexico. She holds a BA in Industrial Design from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.

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Valentina Jager



Born in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, Jager moved to Houston to study Creative Writing in Spanish. Jager seeks to nourish a visual practice that unfolds in the borders between writing, sculpture making and performance. More than working around a fixed subject, her work explores her interests on the perception of time and space, the ephemeral, and seeking an economy of materials and the use of imagination. Jager works with old technology, ephemeral matter, rumors, dirt or light sensitive materials, wordplay, lyrics, oral narration, and storytelling. Jager's work has been featured in several exhibitions at key galleries and museums internationally including amongst others the Paul Kasmin Gallery, 515 West 27th Street, and the Lodos Gallery.

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Ling-lin Ku



Born in Taiwan, Ku received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin in 2019 and BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2016. Ling-lin Ku's studio practice plays between digital data and tangible materials through digital fabrication, using materials such as food, body parts, and products, yet through proximity, scale, texture, display structures, and material, Ling-lin upends our relationship to the known. The work slips in and out of categorization, creating a new way in which we come to understand object-hood.

In addition to being an artist Ling-lin has a background in music and law. She has a degree in Law in Taiwan. Ling-lin has been exhibited in cities ranging from New York to Austin and LA, and selected into residencies including International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) in Brooklyn and Haystack Open Studio, Maine. In 2019, Ling-lin is one of the four recipients of Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts awarded by the American Austrian Foundation.