

**ARTADIA
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For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2020 NEW YORK ARTADIA AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2020 New York Awards:

American Artist, Alexandra Bell, Tommy Kha, Joiri Minaya, and Tammy Nguyen. The Finalists will receive studio visits with second-round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists to receive \$10,000 unrestricted funds. The Finalists were selected by jurors **Susan Cross**, Senior Curator of Visual Art, MASS MoCA; **Legacy Russell**, Associate Curator of Exhibitions, The Studio Museum in Harlem; and **Akili Tommasino**, Associate Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Arts Boston.

Of the process, Akili noted, "I am grateful to have had the privilege of serving as a first-round juror for the 2020 Artadia New York Awards, an experience which afforded a riveting glance at the spectrum of contemporary artistic practices throughout ever-prolific New York City and the opportunity to connect with esteemed distant colleagues. Under the present global circumstances, it is especially meaningful to directly support artists with this unrestricted award; I commend the finalists."

Susan echoed Akili's thoughts, and commented, "It has been particularly rewarding to be part of the jurying process for the Artadia Award in the midst of a crisis that is so adversely affecting artists -- and so deeply affecting New York. The support that Artadia is giving artists in need with their partners in the Artist Relief fund is crucial aid for many, and on top of that, the annual Artadia Award feels all the more significant -- and generous-- in its commitment to recognizing the art and artists that we all need more than ever. I was inspired by so many of the applicants -- many whose work I knew and many more whose work I now will seek out. The 5 finalists embody the strength and breadth of artistic talent and rigor in New York -- in an exciting spectrum of mediums and emotions --while powerfully articulating a range of personal and social histories and current day realities that will no doubt help shape a different future."

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that awards artists with unrestricted grants followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. As arts communities are deeply impacted by COVID-19, with many artists losing exhibition opportunities, access to their studios, and having their livelihoods jeopardized, Artadia's mission to support artists is more critical than ever before. 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 338 artists in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

This is Artadia's fifth Award cycle in New York. The application was open to all visual artists living within New York's five boroughs 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 all submissions and collaboratively determined the five Finalists.

The 2020 New York Artadia Awards are generously supported by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia New York Council Members, and individual donors across the country.

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

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About the Finalists

[American Artist](#)



American Artist (b. 1989, Altadena) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work considers black labor and visibility within networked life. Their practice makes use of video, installation, new media, and writing. American Artist's legal name change serves as the basis of an ambivalent practice—insisting on blackness as descriptive of an American artist, and maintaining an identity not recognized as a person's name in virtual space.

Artist is a 2018-2019 recipient of the Queens Museum Jerome Foundation Fellowship. American Artist is a former resident of Abrons Art Center and EYEBEAM and completed the Whitney Independent Study program in 2017. Recent solo exhibitions include *My Blue Window*, Queens Museum, Corona, NY, 2019; *Dignity Images: Bayview-Hunters Point*, Museum of African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA, 2019; and *I'm Blue (If I Was _____ I Would Die)*, Koenig & Clinton, Brooklyn, NY, 2019. Their work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Artforum*, *ARTnews*, and *Huffington Post*.

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Alexandra Bell



Alexandra Bell (b. 1983, Chicago) is a multidisciplinary artist who investigates the complexities of narrative, information consumption, and perception. Utilizing various media, she deconstructs language and imagery to explore the tension between marginal experiences and dominant histories. Through investigative research, she considers the ways media frameworks construct memory and inform discursive practices around race, politics, and culture.

Bell's work has been exhibited at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Charlie James Gallery, MoMA PS1, We Buy Gold, Koenig & Clinton Gallery, The Nathan Cummings Foundation, Atlanta Contemporary, Pomona College Museum of Art, Spencer Museum of Art, and Usdan Gallery at Bennington College. She received the 2018 International Center of Photography Infinity Award in the applied category and is a 2018 Soros Equality Fellow. She is a 2020 Pioneer Works resident.

Bell holds a B.A. in interdisciplinary studies in the humanities from the University of Chicago and an M.S. journalism from Columbia University. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

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Tommy Kha



Tommy Kha (b. 1988, Memphis) uses the family album and his body as sites of conflicting narratives. Through half self-portraits, photographs of his mother, Kha is interested in using self-portrait to reconcile his queerness. In *Facades*, “cut-up pictures” take the form of cardboard cutouts, jigsaw puzzles, paper masks, 3-D printed masks, temporary tattoos of his eyes, photo-backdrops, as well as his mother’s image. He notes that, “I am a cutout of my mother.”

Kha received his MFA from Yale University. He is a Hyères Photography Grand Prix Finalist and former resident at Light Work and Camera Club of New York. He has exhibited at PS122 Gallery, LMAKgallery, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, and Teen Party, his publication includes CR Photography Annual, McSweeney’s Quarterly, Dazed, Interview, and Foam Magazine. He is based in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

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Joiri Minaya



Joiri Minaya (b. 1990, New York) is a Dominican-United Statesian multi-disciplinary artist whose work investigates the female body within constructions of identity, multicultural social spaces and hierarchies. Minaya's work is a reassertion of Self, an exercise of unlearning, decolonizing and exorcizing imposed histories, cultures and ideas. Reconciling the experience of having grown up in the Dominican Republic with living and navigating the U.S. / global North, Minaya uses gaps, disconnections and misinterpretations as ground for creativity.

Minaya has exhibited internationally across the Caribbean and the U.S. She attended the ENAV (Santo Domingo), the Altos de Chavon School and Parsons/New School. Minaya is a grantee from the Nancy Graves Foundation, the Rema Hort Mann Foundation (Emerging Artist Grant), the Joan Mitchell Foundation (Emerging Artist and Painters and Sculptors Grants), the Great prize and the Audience Award XXV Concurso de Arte Eduardo León Jimenes, among others.

[Tammy Nguyen](#)



Tammy Nguyen (b. 1984, San Francisco) is a multimedia artist whose work spans painting, drawing, printmaking and book making. Intersecting geopolitical realities with fiction, her practice addresses lesser-known histories through a blend of myth and visual narrative. She is the founder of Passenger Pigeon Press, an independent press that joins the work of scientists, journalists, creative writers, and artists to create politically nuanced and cross-disciplinary projects. Nguyen is interested in confusion as a tense space for either radical thinking or complacency. Using painterly effects in combinations with precise and swift mark-making, Nguyen depicts characters and environments that represent subjects that she does not deeply understand. Recently these subjects have included yellow Cyclops in tropical jungles and torrid landscapes overwhelmed by weather on yellow-skinned land.

Nguyen received a BFA from Cooper Union in 2007 and an MFA from Yale in 2013. She is also a Fulbright Fellow and her work is included in the collections of Yale University, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, MIT Library, the Seattle Art Museum, the Walker Art Center Library, and the Museum of Modern Art Library.