



For Immediate Release

June 18, 2020

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2020 CHICAGO ARTADIA AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2020 Chicago Awards: **Yvette Dostatni, Azadeh Gholizadeh, Caroline Kent, Yvette Mayorga, and Eliza Myrie**. 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 **Jennifer Carty**, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, The Smart Museum at University of Chicago; **Daonne Huff**, Director, Public Programs & Community Engagement, The Studio Museum in Harlem; and **Laura Mott**, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art and Design, Cranbrook Art Museum.

Of the process, Daonne states, "This was such a refreshing, affirming and inspiring experience, especially in the midst of isolation and societal upheavals and ruptures, where we had the opportunity to affirm the role of art and artists in society for today and for the future. To have exposure to artists at all stages of their careers and across the spectrum of mediums, who are witnessing, investigating, navigating and challenging their relationships with themselves, their communities, their streets, their city and their country."

Speaking to the Finalist selection, Laura commented "At this moment, as we radically reimagine our society, the support of artists is paramount. The five artists selected by the jury were chosen based on urgent questions: Who is making artwork that needs to be seen right now? Who is taking risks? Through visual art, these artists bear witness and give an aesthetic language to the complexities of our contemporary condition."

Jennifer notes "I am so honored to be a part of the jurying process for the 2020 Chicago Artadia Awards. Throughout the first-round selection I have been deeply inspired by the incredibly impactful and pertinent work being created by artists in Chicago in this moment. Now more than ever artists need direct support, and I am grateful for Artadia for providing unrestricted awards during these uncertain times for many. Congratulations to the five outstanding finalists."

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that awards artists with unrestricted grants followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. As arts communities continue to be 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 340 artists in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

This is Artadia's eleventh Award cycle in Chicago. The application was open to all visual artists living in Cook County, IL 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 Chicago Artadia Awards are generously supported by the LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation, Liberty Mutual insurance, the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors across the country.

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

About the Finalists

Yvette Dostatni



Left: Yvette Marie Dostatni, *Medieval Times*, 2017

Right: Photo of artist by Karl Knize

In 2015, Yvette Marie Dostatni was nominated by Time Magazine as one of only 28 “Unsung Female Photographers of the Past Century.” Her portfolio is part of The Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Photography Midwest Photographer’s Collection. She uses the camera as a passport to explore the lives of neighbors, friends, and strangers. Her subjects range from personal memories of growing up in small towns throughout the Midwest to more complex matters while living in Chicago. These visual narratives include Ladies Bingo Night at the Whiting, Indiana Moose Club, to the depiction of a man smoking a wax paper cigarette inside his car, which doubled as his life-long home on the infamous Maxwell Street in Chicago before the onslaught of mass gentrification.

As a photographer of more than 29 years, her work has evolved from documenting the daily dream-like narratives of small-town aesthetics to a broader palate probing deeper for more intricate answers on American cultural identity. Therefore, her current body of work assembles a collection of surreal images that hint or suggest to the viewer the paradox of ordinary individualism in Americans. Dostatni’s goal is to present this land of visual contradictions subtly struggling to be a reality. This is not done in judgment but rather as a respectful presentation of a plethora of personal mutual truths through images.

ARTADIA
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
501(c)(3)
EST 1999

[Azadeh Gholizadeh](#)



Left: Azadah Gholizadeh, *Twelve12views*, 2019
Right: Photo courtesy of the artist

Azadeh Gholizadeh, born in Tehran, Iran, is an interdisciplinary artist. Currently, based in Chicago Azadeh received her MA in architecture from Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST) in 2009, and her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012.

In her current practice, she explores the body, landscape, and fragmentation of memory by examining her emotional connection to belonging. She is interested in the relationship between landscape and crafts as platforms that carry personal and emotional meanings. In a world with increasing barriers to her body due to its geographical identity, sexuality, and gender, these voyages to lands both remembered and imagined remind her not only who she is but who she can be, a journey toward home. Inspired by the experience of looking out the window, she makes tapestries combing her observation with the echoes of memories.

ARTADIA
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
501(c)(3)
EST 1999

Caroline Kent



Left: Caroline Kent, *A slow turning of events*, 2020
Right: Photo courtesy of the artist

Caroline Kent is a Chicago based visual artist that explores the relationship between language, translation and abstraction through her expanded painting practice. Kent speculates in both the potential and the limitations of language, and ultimately questions the modernist canon of abstraction.

Caroline Kent earned a BS in Art at Illinois State University (1998) and an MFA at the University of Minnesota (2008). Kent has exhibited nationally at The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, The DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, The California African American Museum, LA, and Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Kent has received grants from The Pollock Krasner Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, and The Jerome Foundation. She is currently represented by Kohn Gallery in Los Angeles.

Yvette Mayorga



Left: Yvette Mayorga, *A Vase of the Century 1 (After Century Vase c. 1876.)*, 2019

Right: Photo of artist by Kevin Penczak

Yvette Mayorga is a multimedia installation artist. Mayorga holds an MFA in Fiber and Material Studies from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Mayorga has exhibited at The Vincent Price Art Museum, EXPO Chicago, Art Design Chicago, LACMA's Pacific Standard Time, the Chicago Artists Coalition, The National Museum of Mexican Art, GEARY Contemporary. In 2020 the DePaul Art Museum announced their acquisition of Mayorga's "A Vase of the Century 1 (After Century Vase c. 1876,)" into their permanent collection.

Mayorga's multi media practice engages viewers in socio-political dialogue centered on the immigrant experience by fusing confectionary aesthetics with images of contemporary violence. Informed by the US/Mexico border and its broad effects across generations and geography she draws inspiration from her parents' experience as immigrants in the 1970s to examine how uncertainty is covered with a veneer of celebration. The confection and industrial materials piped across media address the generations of gendered familial labor in baking, construction, candy and craft.

Eliza Myrie



Left: Eliza Myrie, *ring*, 2018
Right: Photo of artist by Elizabeth Haynes

Eliza Myrie received her MFA from Northwestern University and was a participant at The Skowhegan School and The Whitney Independent Study Program. Myrie is a lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is a co-founder of The Black Artists Retreat [B.A.R.]. Exhibitions include Arts Club Chicago; Gallery 400; Vox Populi; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; New Museum of Contemporary Art.

Myrie's work explores site and labor through generational inheritance, gender, and authorship. As a sculptor and printmaker, dimension, volume, and examination of how representation and subjectivity are lost/gained via physical and conceptual processes are central to her work.