

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

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2020

ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2020 SAN FRANCISCO AWARDEES



Marcelo Pardo Ariza



Lava Thomas

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the recipients of the thirteenth annual San Francisco Artadia Awards: **Marcela Pardo Ariza** and **Lava Thomas**. As the 2020 San Francisco Artadia Awardees, Ariza and Thomas will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds, as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. The 2020 San Francisco Artadia Awards application was open to all visual artists living in the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo for over two years, working in any media, and at any stage of their career.

The decision followed an extensive jury process, culminating in a virtual studio visit between shortlisted finalists and jurors **Anthony Huberman**, Director & Chief Curator, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts; and **Lucy Mensah**, Clinical Visiting Assistant Professor, MUSE Program, School of Art & Art History at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Upon receiving the 2020 San Francisco Artadia Award, **Marcela** states “I was extremely honored to share space as a Finalist with incredible artists I respect and admire. It is so heartwarming to be an Awardee at this moment in time, it's definitely one big highlight in the midst of 2020. I'm stoked to join the intergenerational web of artists and curators around the country that are part of Artadia.” **Lava** notes, “I am absolutely thrilled to be a recipient of the 2020 San Francisco Artadia Award. I was an Artadia Finalist in 2018, so receiving the award this year is especially gratifying; it comes at a critical juncture in my practice. I am so grateful for Artadia's recognition and support and honored to join the stellar roster of Artadia Awardees.”

Of the Awardees, **Anthony** notes “as a Bay Area local, it gives me great pleasure to know that two of our community's most inspiring artistic voices, Marcela Pardo Ariza and Lava Thomas, are receiving not only an important and well-deserved recognition on a national scale, but an award that might help them overcome some of the countless obstacles they are surely facing in this extraordinarily challenging moment.”

Additionally, **Lucy** states, “Lava Thomas' recent body of work, a series of portrait drawings showing subjects wearing face masks, demonstrates the artist's remarkable ability to provoke contemplation and reflection through art. I was similarly impressed by Marcela Pardo Ariza's public art projects that are

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

bringing attention to the history of the LGBTQIA+ community in San Francisco and situate the city's gay bar scene as a critical space for kinship and solidarity.”

Awardees were selected from a shortlist of five finalists: **Zeina Barakeh, Sofía Córdova, Marcela Pardo Ariza, Chanell Stone, Lava Thomas**. The Finalists were selected by jurors **Allison Glenn**, Associate Curator, Contemporary Art, Crystal Bridges; **Anthony Huberman**, Director & Chief Curator of CCA Wattis Institute; and **Xiaoyu Weng**, Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Associate Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. San Francisco Finalists, and ultimately Awardees, were selected solely by the four participating jurors.

The 2020 San Francisco Artadia Awards are generously supported by Facebook Art Department, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, Artadia's Board of Directors, Artadia San Francisco Council members, and individual donors across the country.

About the Artadia Awards:

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that awards artists with unrestricted grants followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. This is Artadia's thirteenth Award cycle in San Francisco. Applications were open to any visual artist living within the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo for over two years, working in any medium 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. 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 344 artists across Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

For more information please contact: Misri Patel, misri@artadia.org

Artwork credit:

Marcela Pardo Ariza, *Bruno & Marcus, (1975~, 2018)*, 2018

Lava Thomas, *Lottie Green Varner*, 2018

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

About the Awardees:

[Marcela Pardo Ariza](#)



Left: Photo Courtesy of Artist

Right: Marcela Pardo Ariza, Spillage documentation at Guerrero Gallery, 2019

Marcela Pardo Ariza (b. Bogotá, Colombia) is a queer Latinx visual artist and curator that explores the relationship of representation, intergenerational kinship and queerness through constructed photographs and site-specific installations. Through staging varied subjects and anthropomorphic objects, Ariza deploys sets as a resource to the possibility of (re)building a story, while materializing potential yet attainable narratives fundamental to envisioning present and future prospects. Ariza's work illustrates her commitment to celebrating the erroneous, navigating intergenerational connection and questioning arbitrary paradigms while playing with the rigidity that is often present in the photographic medium.

Ariza is the recipient of the Tosa Studio Award, Alternative Exposure award, and a Murphy & Cadogan Contemporary Art Award. Ariza has worked and exhibited at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Palm Springs Art Museum, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Berkeley Art Museum, SFMOMA, Southern Exposure, SOMArts, San José Institute of Contemporary Art, San Francisco Arts Commission Galleries, among others. She holds an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and is a co-founder of Art Handlrxs.

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

[Lava Thomas](#)



Left: Photo of Artist by Justine Danielle Marasigan
Right: Lava Thomas, Lottie Green Varne, 2018

Lava Thomas (b. Los Angeles, CA) tackles issues of race, gender, representation, and memorialization through a multidisciplinary practice that spans drawing, painting, sculpture, and site-specific installations. Drawing from her family's Southern roots, current and historical socio-political events, intersectional feminism and African American protest and devotional traditions, Thomas's practice centers ideas that amplify visibility, healing, and empowerment in the face of erasure, trauma, and oppression.

Thomas is a 2019-2021 recipient of the Lucas Artists Fellowship Award at the Montalvo Arts Center and received the Joan Mitchell Grant for Painters and Sculptors in 2015. She has participated in artist residencies at Facebook Los Angeles (2020), Headlands Center for the Arts (2018) and the Djerassi Resident Artist Program. Her work has been exhibited in various institutions including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; the National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; the International Print Center, New York, NY; the Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA; the Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA; and the California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA. Thomas's work is held in the permanent collections of the United States Consulate General in Johannesburg, South Africa; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; the San Francisco Museum Of Modern Art; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA; the de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA; and the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Her work has been written about in Artforum, Hyperallergic, SF Chronicle, The Guardian, KQED Arts, The Art Newspaper, and LA Weekly.