

For Immediate Release

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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2020 SAN FRANCISCO ARTADIA AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2020 San Francisco Awards: **Zeina Barakeh, Sofía Córdova, Marcela Pardo Ariza, Chanell Stone, Lava Thomas**. The Finalists will receive virtual studio visits with second-round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists to receive \$10,000 unrestricted funds. 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.

This is Artadia's thirteenth Award cycle in San Francisco. 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.

Speaking to the Finalist selection, Anthony commented, "I have always felt that artists make up the heart, soul, imagination, and bite of any community, and reviewing applications from such a diverse range of voices in the Bay Area was a truly encouraging and up-lifting experience for me. I was reminded that my own local community is home to so many artists with such a rich range of perspectives, and that it is by supporting them, learning from them, and following their lead that our community will find its way through what can seem like endless challenges. Each of the five finalists, I think, gives the rest of the world a clear and distinct (but far from comprehensive) sense of some of the questions that Bay Area-based artists are working through right now."

Of the process, both Allison and Xiaoyu highlighted the necessity of supporting artists, particularly during this time of urgent need. Allison stated, "The urgency of this moment is a reminder of the importance of directly supporting artists with unrestricted funds—a responsibility that Artadia has been at the helm of for over two decades," while Xiaoyu noted, "It has been a great honor and responsibility to be on the jury panel for this year's Artadia Award San Francisco. In this critical moment of rupture and radical change, it is evermore urgent for us to highlight and support practices that challenge conventional aesthetics and the status quo, and make visible repressed histories and experiences."

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that awards artists with unrestricted grants followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million to more than 342 artists in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. 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.

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

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## About the Finalists

### [Zeina Barakeh](#)



Left: Photo of Artist by Allan deSouza

Right: Zeina Barakeh, *Homeland Insecurity & Slam Bang Blue Remix: Animation on jumbotron LED billboard*, Times Squares, 2020.

Zeina Barakeh (b. Beirut) is a Bay Area multimedia artist. Her work deconstructs war and polarization and is rooted in her experiences of growing up in Beirut. She created the Third Half—a constellation of artistic explorations—to tackle complexly connected aspects of conflict. The Third Half includes serialized animations, installations based on archival materials, and collaborations to depict the space of encounter between antagonistic forces, and to act as a disrupting mechanism to reconfigure the present and generate reparative narratives.

Her work has been exhibited on ZAZ Corner's billboard, Times Square; MOCA Yinchuan, China; Newport Art Museum, RI; San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University; Princeton University; San Francisco Arts Commission Galleries; The Center for Book Arts, NY; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts; the Harlem International Film Festival (11th); Another Hole in the Head (15th), SF; and the International Film Awards Berlin. She received a Residency Award at the Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions. Her work will be featured in CAA's online journal Art Journal Open in August 2020.

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Sofía Córdova



Left: Photo Courtesy of Artist

Right: Sofía Córdova, *Dame la mano paloma, para subir a tu nido (Give me your hand, dove, so that I may climb into your nest)*, 2017

Sofía Córdova (b. 1985, Carolina, Puerto Rico) makes work that considers sci-fi as alternative history, dance music's liberatory potential, the internet, colonial contamination, mystical objects, and extinction and mutation as evolution within the matrix of class, gender, race, late capitalism and its technologies. Recent works have included sculpture, taxidermy, installation, drawing, performance, video, and music. She is one half of the music duo, XUXA SANTAMARIA. In addition to discrete projects, performances, and albums the duo collectively scores all of her video and performance work.

Córdova 's recent solo exhibitions include: *A las mil maravillas/ In the Thousand Wonders*, Kate Werble Gallery, New York; *Where Thieves Go After Death*, ASU Museum Project Space, Phoenix; *The Gentle Voice That Talks To You Won't Talk Forever*, City Limits Gallery, Oakland. She has participated in residencies at the Headlands Center for The Arts, Sausalito, Mills Museum, Oakland, and Eyebeam, New York. Currently, she is developing new work through a Creative Work Fund Grant. She received her MFA at California College of the Arts in San Francisco in 2010 and her BFA in Photography at Simon's Rock College of Bard in Great Barrington, MA and St. John's University, Queens, NY in 2006.

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Marcela Pardo Ariza



Left: Photo Courtesy of Artist

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

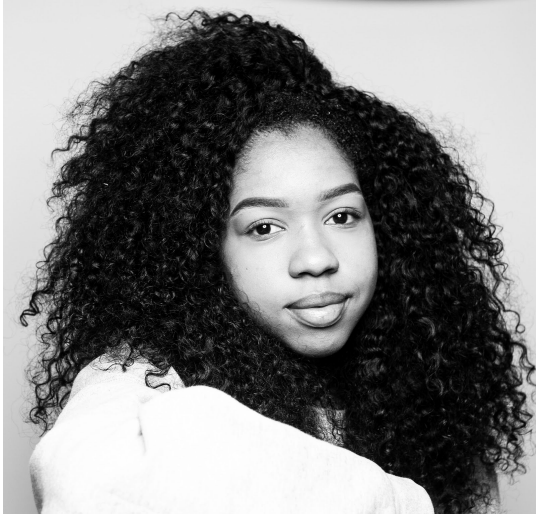
Marcela Pardo Ariza (b. Bogotá, Colombia) is a queer Latinx visual artist and curator that explores the relationship of representation, intergenerational kinship and queerness through constructed photographs and site-specific installations. Through staging varied subjects and anthropomorphic objects, 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.



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Chanell Stone

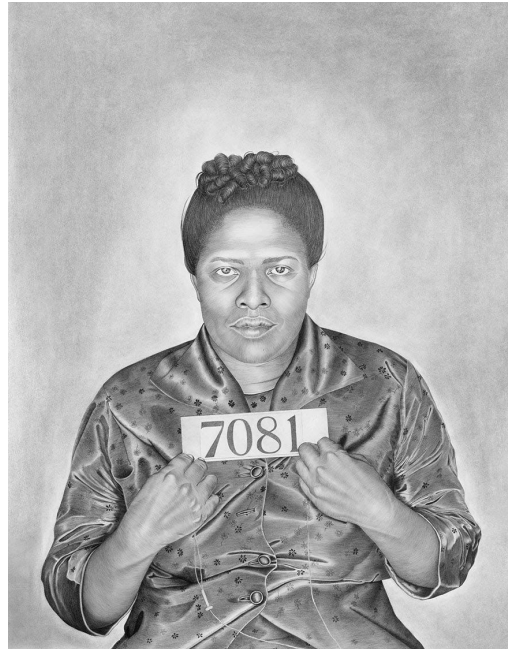


Left: Photo of Artist by Katerry Kieng  
Right: Chanell Stone, *In search of a certain Eden*, 2019

Chanell Stone (b. 1992) is an Oakland based photographer. Stone earned her BFA in Photography from the California College of the Arts in 2019. Selected as W Magazine's "8 Young Photographers to follow in 2020" Stone's notable accomplishments include her 2019-2020 solo exhibition "Natura Negra" at the Museum of the African Diaspora San Francisco and her inclusion in the 2019 Aperture Summer Open at the Aperture Foundation. Stone has exhibited at Casemore Kirkeby, San Francisco, SF Camerawork, San Francisco Arts Commission, Berkeley Art Center, and the Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York in which her work has been permanently collected.

Stone's practice explores the Black body's relationship to the American landscape with emphasis on urban inner city environments. Evidencing her familial lineage from the American South, Stone investigates the migratory patterns of her great grandparents to California and the disconnect from nature that inherently followed. Through environmental self-portraiture she asserts herself within verdant scenes of urban greenery depicting both personal and collective narratives of reconciliation and re-naturing.

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.