



For Immediate Release

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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2020 ATLANTA ARTADIA AWARDS

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the five Finalists for the 2020 Atlanta Awards: **Artemus Jenkins, Grace Kisa & Maurice Evans NU AFRICANS Project, Yanique Norman, Zipporah Camille Thompson, Jamele Wright, Sr.** 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 **Carla Acevedo Yates**, Marilyn and Larry Fields Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; **Jared Steffensen**, Curator of Exhibitions, Utah Museum of Contemporary Art; and **Lauren Tate Baeza**, Fred and Rita Richman Curator of African Art, High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

Of the process, both Lauren and Jared mentioned the vibrancy of the Atlanta arts community, and the urgency to support them, especially now. Lauren stated, "This year's finalists are an exciting group of artists working on projects that inspire a strong desire to see their well grounded concepts built upon and further developed. It is important that the work is not only compelling, but that it possesses the capacity for ongoing exploration." Echoing her sentiment, Jared noted, "I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the jurying process for the 2020 Artadia Atlanta Awards. In a time when things feel disconnected and uneasy, I appreciated the thoughtful and insightful conversations I was able to have with the fellow jurors about the work of the talented artists who applied for the award. The Atlanta area clearly has a strong and vibrant art community. I look forward to seeing more from the five finalists and the many talented artists I was introduced to through the process."

Of the Atlanta submissions, Carla particularly noted, "During these difficult times, it is all the more important to support artists through unrestricted awards that further their artistic practice as well as their livelihoods. In reviewing applications, I was particularly impressed with the diversity of media as well as the social acuteness that artists in Atlanta are currently engaging with. The five artists selected for studio visits with second round jurors have a rigorous artistic practice anchored in a deep understanding of their chosen medium and materials."

Founded in 1999, Artadia is a nonprofit grantmaker of unrestricted funds, and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons. Artadia believes that by working collaboratively to improve the conditions necessary for artists from all backgrounds to thrive and succeed, we can strengthen their communities and foster economic justice in the arts. Since its founding, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million to 344 artists in Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. Artadia's programs elevate the careers of these artists through recognition, grantmaking, community support, and advocacy. As arts communities continue to be deeply impacted by COVID-19, with many artists losing exhibition opportunities and having their livelihoods jeopardized, Artadia's mission to support artists is more critical than ever before.

This is Artadia's eighth Award cycle in Atlanta, the application was open to all visual artists living and working within the counties of: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton for over two years, working in any visual arts media, and at any stage of their career. Finalists and Artadia Award recipients are selected through Artadia's two-tier jury review process. In the first round of review, jurors evaluated all submissions and collaboratively determined the five Finalists.

The 2020 Atlanta Artadia Awards are generously supported by Mailchimp, Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Atlanta Council members, and individual donors from across the country.

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

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About the Finalists

[Artemus Jenkins](#)



Left: Photo courtesy of Artist
Right: Artemus Jenkins, *untitled photo essay*, digital image, 2020

Artemus Jenkins (B. 1982, Baltimore, MD) is an award winning filmmaker, who has used the documentary format to innovatively capture the raw and beautiful aspects black culture. Artemus Jenkins has lived in Atlanta for over 13 years as a participant observer, documenting how artists from marginalized communities use creativity to craft a better reality for everyone. He is currently preparing for a group exhibition at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Museum which will open in February of 2021.

Jenkins uses ethnographic film and experimental ethnography to capture the raw and beautiful aspects of Diasporic life globally. His work focuses on how artists from marginalized communities use creativity to create a better reality for themselves and everyone they touch.

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Grace Kisa & Maurice Evans NU AFRICANS Project



Left and Center: Photos courtesy of Artists
Right: Grace Kisa & Maurice Evans NU AFRICANS Project, *Apparatus*, 2019

The Nu Africans, a collaborative project between Grace Kisa and Maurice Evans, address the notion that Africans of the diaspora through their particular set of circumstances have evolved into their own tribe, which they call the “Nu Africans.” Inspired by the legendary warriors and queens from the African continent, each model was styled and photographed as a warrior and as a queen. Their intention with this project is to celebrate and honor these women, to highlight their obvious beauty and celebrate their strength. With Maurice being African American and Grace born in Kenya and raised on both sides of the Atlantic, this collaborative is a conversation between Africa and her Diaspora, a dialogue at the intersection of cultures.

Grace Kisa (B. Nairobi, Kenya), a self described "Third Culture Kid," was raised in Kenya, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Gaborone, Botswana, McLean, Virginia before coming to Atlanta, Georgia to study at The Art Institute of Atlanta.

Maurice Evans (B. Smyrna, Tennessee) is a US Airforce "Military Brat" raised in Columbus, Ohio, Valdosta, Georgia, Montgomery, Alabama Griffin, Georgia before coming to Atlanta, Georgia to study at the Art Institute of Atlanta. Both Grace and Maurice live and work in Atlanta.

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Yanique Norman



Left: Photo of Artist by Terrell Clark
Right: Yanique Norman, *Blue Suppurations III*, 2020

Yanique Norman (B. 1981, Spanish Town, Jamaica) earned a BFA at Georgia State University (2014) and an MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2018). Norman is a grantee from the National Museum of Women in the Arts Georgia grant, Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency grant and the Susan Antinori Visual Artist grant. Her work is also included in the collections of the High Museum, Hammonds House Museum and Clark Atlanta University Art Museum.

Norman's multimedia practice nestles work within the confines of a fantastical mycology and Black Fungibility, so as to better understand how the physiognomy of the black psychological body changes and adapts itself when placed in extreme whitened conditions. Her work interrogates certain nationalistic ideologies by defacing the historical portraits of US first Ladies. Here, their infamous monarchical heads are zombified and infected crowns are subsequently blackened with the mugshots of incarcerated women of color.

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[Zipporah Camille Thompson](#)



Left: Photo of artist by Patrick Heagney
Right: Zipporah Camille Thompson, *Varas, "wands,"* 2020

Zipporah Camille Thompson is a visual artist and sculptor based in Atlanta, Georgia. Her work explores the body, otherness, and identity via hybrid landscapes. Sculpted shapeshifters symbolize bodies in crisis – namely Black, Brown, womxn, queer, and cosmic bodies as well as bodies of land and water. Ceramics and textiles bind alchemically with found objects, embracing chance, chaos, and fluidity.

Thompson received her MFA from the University of Georgia and her BFA from the University of North Carolina Charlotte. She has shown at the Zuckerman Museum of Art, Albany Art Museum, Trestle Gallery, Rogue Space, Gallery 400 UIC, and a variety of other venues and spaces. Thompson is most recently a recipient of the Zenobia Scholarship Award at the Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts, the NCECA Multicultural Fellowship, the Idea Capital Grant, as well as grants from the Judith Alexander Foundation and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Thompson is represented by Whitespace Gallery in Atlanta, GA.

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Jamele Wright, Sr.



Left: Photo courtesy of Artist
Right: Jamele Wright, Sr., *ReBorn #1*, 2020

Jamele Wright, Sr. is concerned with the Black American vernacular experience. The work entails collecting found materials, Georgia red clay, and Dutch Wax cloth. With his work, he creates a conversation between family, tradition, the spiritual and material relationship between Africa and the South. Wright's process is influenced by the way Hip Hop gathers different cultures through sampling and is charged with an energy channel and passed through the Pan African lineage. The "In Transit" Series and his textile work is inspired by the Great Migration of Black Americans, who left the familiar in the hope of something better.

Born and raised in Ohio, at the age of 22 Jamele Wright, Sr. moved with his family to Atlanta, Georgia. He received a B.A. in Art History from Georgia State University and graduated with Masters of Fine Art from the School of Visual Arts in New York. Wright returned to Atlanta where he now lives and maintains his practice.