

ARTADIA
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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2020 HOUSTON FINALISTS



Top Left to Right: Anna Mavromatis, Bria Lauren, Cindee Travis Klement
Bottom Left to Right: Phillips Pyle II Pyle II, Valentina Jager

Embargoed through December 14, 2020 2:00pm ET

(HOUSTON, TX | December 14, 2020) – **Artadia**, the nonprofit grantmaker and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is pleased to announce that **Valentina Jager, Cindee Travis Klement, Bria Lauren, Anna Mavromatis** and **Phillip Pyle II** have been selected as the 2020 Houston Finalists.

The Finalists will receive virtual studio visits with second-round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists to receive \$10,000 unrestricted funds.

Press-approved images of each artist's work are available [here](#).

The 2020 Houston Artadia Award application was open to visual artists working in any visual media, at any stage in their career, who have been living and working within Harris County for a minimum of two years.

This year's Finalists jurors were **Ashley DeHoyos**, Curator, DiverseWorks; **Judy Ditner**, Curator of Photography and Digital Media, Yale University Art Gallery; and **Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi**,

Steven and Lisa Tananbaum Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Of the process, Judy notes, “It was particularly inspiring to be involved this year, in this time of socially distancing; to get to know and feel connected to such a strong and diverse group of artists working in Houston.”

Speaking on the Finalists, Ashley states, “Not only do these artists address timely and relevant topics but they also take interesting approaches in their artistic practice that exhibit a range of creative choices that highlights an artistic knowledge of the history of the field, and an understanding of materials.”

Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million in unrestricted funds to almost 350 artists. Celebrating visual artists and the foundational role they play in shaping society, the Artadia Award benefits two artists annually in each of six major US cities with high concentrations of creative workers—Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York. Beyond the grant, the Award includes lifelong access to a community of fellow artists and patrons. The Artadia Award is designed to provide essential funding and recognition to artists at pivotal points in their careers, strengthen their communities, and spur new levels of career achievement.

The 2020 Houston Artadia Award is generously supported by John R. Eckel Jr. Foundation, The Brown Foundation, the Houston Endowment, Artadia Board of Directors, and individual donors from across the country.

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About [Valentina Jager](#)

Valentina Jager (B. 1985, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico) moved from Mexico to Houston in 2018 to pursue a PhD in Creative Writing in Spanish when the influence of writing and literature started to take a focal point in her work. She had formerly participated in residency programs such as Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Fieldworks Marfa, and the Syros Institute. Her work has been featured in several exhibitions at galleries and museums internationally such as the Orange County Museum of Art, Paul Kasmin Gallery New York, and the Kunstverein Göttingen. Jager's practice unfolds in the area between writing, book and sculpture making, and performance. Her work explores expanded notions of translation, ephemerality, the life cycles of materials and the material conditions that allow art and literature to exist.

About [Cindee Travis Klement](#) (she/her)

Cindee Travis Klement (B.1957 Dell City/El Paso, Texas) is a Houston-based visual artist who works in sculpture, mixed media, and printmaking. Her recent work addresses conservation issues, looking specifically at wind erosion, native bees, and recovery from Hurricane Harvey. She is currently working on Endangered Knowledge: The Soul of Humus, for Sculpture Month Houston 2020/2021 that researches and represents the deep environmental interrelationships between bison and grass, and Symbiosis, a living piece of site-specific art activism that reimagines the Lawndale Art Center Sculpture garden's traditional urban landscape and answers the question: How do we holistically restore an ecological balance in Houston? Klement completed the BLOCK Program at The Glassell School of The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, in 2018.

About [Bria Lauren](#)

Bria Lauren (B. Houston, TX) is a Texas native, born and raised in Third Ward, Houston. The south is a sacred and integral part of her work as a visual storyteller, healer, and queer Black woman utilizing ancestral healing as a tool to navigate intersectionality as an act of resistance. Analog photography is a catalyst for Lauren to translate her own unspoken vulnerability, visually and to hold space for marginalized voices to be seen, honored, cared for, and respected. The heartbeat and intention of Lauren's work intersects race, gender, vulnerability, motherhood, and Black feminism. She travels through time using 35mm, medium format, and motion picture film to bridge social and political gaps within her community – to communicate the true essence of one's identity and truth without censorship. She is currently developing an ongoing body of work, 'Gold Was Made Fa' Her' that will be exhibited in Houston Fall of 2021.

About [Anna Mavromatis](#) (she/her)

Anna Mavromatis (B. Athens, Greece) studied Architecture at the University of Naples, Italy, holds a BA (Hons), from London College of Fashion - University of the Arts London, and learned and practiced Printmaking at Glassell School of Art, MFA Houston. Mavromatis' work showcases a variety of printmaking techniques, historic and contemporary photographic processes and methods of traditional surface decoration. She uses textile materials, vintage repurposed surfaces, reclaimed books. Her studies in Architecture and work in Fashion Design permeate her creative process, evident in the resulting forms, transformations, choice of materials with special

interest in their recycling status. Mavromatis' works are found in private and public collections in the US and abroad

About [Phillips Pyle II](#) (he/him)

Phillip Pyle, II is a visual artist, graphic designer, and photographer based in Houston, Texas whose primary interests are race, humor, advertising, sports and popular culture. Mining imagery from sources diverse as mass consumer culture, contemporary advertising, to ephemera, historical imagery, and hip-hop, Pyle introduces a complex vision that derives from a robust comedic foundation while also looking at the abstraction and transience of our values, and beliefs