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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2021 LOS ANGELES AWARDEES



Adee Roberson



Paul Sepuya



Sichong Xie

Embargoed through March 18, 2021 2:00pm ET

(LOS ANGELES, CA | March 18, 2021) – **Artadia**, a nonprofit grant making organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is pleased to announce that **Adee Roberson**, **Paul Sepuya** and **Sichong Xie** have been selected as the recipients of the 2021 Los Angeles Awards.

Adee Roberson will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds supported by Capital Group Private Client Services; Paul Sepuya was selected as the recipient of the Angeles Art Fund Artadia Award and will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds; and Sichong Xie was selected as the Marciano Art Foundation Artadia Awardee and will receive \$25,000 in unrestricted funds. In addition to the financial Awards, all Awardees have access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. Applications for the Awards were open to any visual artist living in Los Angeles County for over two years, working in any medium and at any stage of their career.

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

The decision followed an extensive jury process, culminating in a virtual studio visit with Jurors **Taylor Renee Aldridge**, Visual Arts Curator, California African American Museum in Los Angeles, and **Beth Malone**, Independent Curator and Executive Director of Dashboard in Atlanta.

On being an Artadia juror, **Taylor** notes, “As a newcomer to California, it was a great pleasure jurying the 2021 Los Angeles Artadia awards. Throughout the process, I was exposed to an impressive group of artists in the city who are working in a variety of mediums and ideas.”

Of the Awardees, **Beth** states, “I was awe-struck by Sichong. Her collaborative spirit, workmanship and storytelling were incredibly moving to me. Her projects weave narratives that are, at once, poignantly singular and wholly universal -- a seemingly impossible feat.”

Regarding Adee’s work **Taylor** notes, “Roberson's eye for composition is distinct and strong. The fact that she pairs music, painting, and printing making with punk impulses and familial lore makes the work even more enjoyable and fun. I'm excited to see her continue to play and stumble into various forms of artmaking and the personal and cultural histories that guide her work,” and of Paul’s work she states, “Sepuya's consideration of the subject in photography, and his desire to trouble the site of authorship in this canon of capture, is very interesting and necessary, as we continue to rely more and more on tropes of representation. His technical expertise helps to trouble the ruse of visibility, and he is asking questions about portraiture that we should all be considering in this moment.”

In addition to Roberson, Sepuya and Xie, this year’s finalists for the award included Jasmine Orpilla, Pamela J. Peters and Yoshie Sakai, selected by Taylor Renee Aldridge, Visual Arts Curator, California African American Museum, Los Angeles; Erika Umali, Assistant Curator of Collections, Brooklyn Museum, New York; and Yao Wu, Jane Chance Carroll Curator of Asian Art, Smith College Museum, Northampton, MA

Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million in unrestricted funds to over 350 artists. Celebrating visual artists and the foundational role they play in shaping society, the Artadia Award benefits three 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 2021 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are generously supported by the Angeles Art Fund, Capital Group, Marciano Art Foundation, Artadia’s Board of Directors, Artadia Los Angeles Council members, and individual donors across the country.

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About [Adee Roberson](#)

Adee Roberson (b.1981, West Palm Beach, Florida) is an interdisciplinary artist whose work is a meditation on symbolism and texture. Synthesizing performance and installation, her work melds

vibration and technicolor visions through paintings, video, and melodic compositions. These works offer a refracted timeline of black diasporic movement, weaving sonic and familial archives, with landscape, rhythm, and spirit. Color, shape, and rhythm become constellations, locating a call and response with ancestral memory. This visual language is a way to process the viscosity of grief, celebration, trauma, and healing.

She has exhibited and performed at numerous venues including, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Antenna Gallery, Project Row Houses, Palm Springs Art Museum, Human Resources, Charlie James Gallery, Contemporary Art Center New Orleans, MOCA Los Angeles, and Art Gallery of Ontario. She is a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts Cutting Edge Grant, and has been an Artist-In-Residence at Echo Park Film Center, Treehouse Lagos, and ACRE. She is based in Los Angeles, California.

About [Paul Sepuya](#)

Paul Mpagi Sepuya (b. 1982, San Bernardino, CA) is a Los Angeles-based artist working in photography and an Acting Associate Professor at UC San Diego. Recent exhibitions include a solo at Vielmetter Los Angeles, a survey of work at CAM St. Louis, and a project for the 2019 Whitney Biennial.

Paul's photography foregrounds an entangled relationship between artist, subject and viewer moving across traditional portraiture, staging, and abstraction. With a self-conscious play of presentation and concealing, his pictures complicate queer and Black subject positions within surface and reflection, the presence of lens and mirror, and in rendering visible touch and trace. They often question pictorial space but are made strictly in-camera, inspired by what Brian O'Doherty calls the "collage of compressed tenses [within] studio time."

About [Sichong Xie](#)

Sichong Xie is an interdisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles, CA. Her practice combines movement and material in body-based sculptural forms, including masks, costumes, and other objects. By placing traditional sculptural forms within new sites, materials, and social constructs, she investigates these forms and movements within global communities to reconsider and re-envision shared spaces and performative practices. She raises questions about identity, politics, cross-culturalism, and the surreal characteristics of her body in the ever-changing environment.

Xie received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts, CA. Her most recent multi-media multi-channel installation "Do Donkeys Know Politics, Scaffold Series I" is currently on view at USC Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena, CA. She was a fellowship artist at The Studios at MASS MoCA, Yaddo, and Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture. In 2017, Xie was chosen to participate at Hauser & Wirth Somerset exchange residency in Bruton, UK where she created a four-hour durational performance/installation "Walking With The Disappeared".