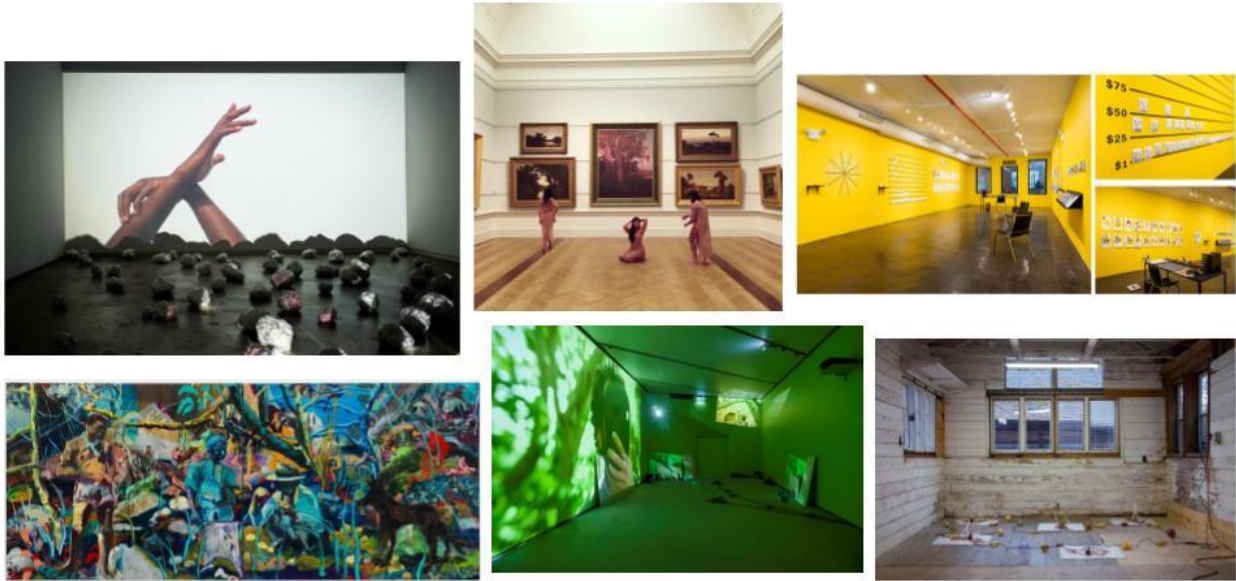


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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2021 NEW YORK FINALISTS



Top Left to Right: Miatta Kawinzi, Lizania Cruz, Caroline Garcia

Bottom Left to Right: Maia Palileo, Basel/Ruanne, Mo Kong

**Embargoed through May 3, 2021 1:00pm ET**

(NEW YORK, NY | May 3, 2021) – **Artadia**, a nonprofit grant making organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is pleased to announce that **Basel and Ruanne (Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme), Lizania Cruz, Caroline Garcia, Miatta Kawinzi, Mo Kong** and **Maia Palileo** have been selected as the 2021 New York Artadia Awards Finalists.

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

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

The 2021 New York 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 the five Boroughs: Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, and Queens for a minimum of two years.

This year's Finalists jurors were **Ndubuisi C. Ezeluomba**, Francois Billion Richardson curator of African Art, New Orleans Museum of Art; and **Marcela Guerrero**, Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and **Kim Nguyen**, Curator, CCA Wattis, San Francisco.

Of the process, **Ndubuisi** “It was an honor to be part of the jury this year, I was amazed at the creative output of the participating artists. The finalist's works are the reflection of their ability to engage, and push the boundary of their art.”

Echoing Ndubuisi’s sentiment, **Marcela** states “As one of the jurors of the first round of the New York Artadia Award, I was humbled by the sheer amount of deserving artists competing for this prestigious award. In the end, my fellow jurors and I selected six finalists whose art practices reflect the perfect combination of innovation and justice that is so necessary in these times.”

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 New York Artadia Awards are generously supported by the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Willem de Kooning Foundation, as well as the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors across the country.

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### **About [Basel/Ruanne](#)**

Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou-Rahme (b.1983) work together across a range of sound, image, text, installation and performance practices. Their practice, largely research based, is engaged in the intersections between performativity, political imaginaries, the body and virtuality. Across their works they probe a contemporary landscape marked by seemingly perpetual crisis and an endless 'present,' one that is shaped by a politics of desire and disaster.

In their projects, they find themselves excavating, activating and inventing incidental narratives, figures, gestures and sites as material for re-imagining the possibilities of the present. Largely their approach has been one of sampling materials both existing and self-authored in the form of sound, image, text, objects and recasting them into altogether new 'scripts.' The result is a practice that investigates the political, visceral, material possibilities of sound, image, text and site, taking on the form of multimedia installations and live sound/image performances.

### **About [Lizania Cruz](#)**

Lizania Cruz (b. 1983) is a participatory artist and designer born in the Dominican Republic and living and working in Brooklyn, NY. Her work has been exhibited at the Arlington Arts Center, BronxArtSpace, Project for Empty Space, Oolite Arts, Jenkins Johnson Project Space, The August Wilson Center, Sharjah's First Design Biennale, Untitled, Art Miami, Centro Cultural Eduardo León Jimenes, A.I.R. Gallery among others. Most recently she is part of ESTAMOS BIEN: LA TRIENAL 20/21 at el Museo del Barrio the first national survey of Latinx artists by the institution.

Her practice uses audience participation to investigate notions of being & belonging within the public sphere. The result of this takes the form of objects such as books, zines, installations, happenings, video and photography. Through research, oral history, and active participants, the projects she develops aim to highlight pluralistic narratives about migration and race.

### **About [Caroline Garcia](#)**

Caroline Garcia is an interdisciplinary artist based in Brooklyn, New York. She is a commissioned OPEN CALL 2021 artist at The Shed and has presented work at Spring/Break Art Fair, Olsen Gruin Gallery, Movement Research at Judson Church, Smack Mellon, Creative Time Summit X, A.I.R. Biennale, The Vera List Center, and Hesse Flatow; as well as internationally at The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Manila Biennale, and Art Central Hong Kong. She has been in residence at the EMPAC, MASS MoCA, ISCP, and is currently a Tech Resident at Pioneer Works.

Caroline works across performance, video, and installation through a hybridized aesthetic of cross-cultural movement, embodied research, and new media. Her practice traverses a highly personalized aggregation of distinct systems that encompass green screening (live and in post production), botany, robotics, poetry, and mixed realities (AR & VR). Through a humorous and playful aesthetic that digitally samples popular culture and colonial imagery, she critically re-appropriate problematic narratives of cultural representation, further complicating them through cultural cannibalism.

### **About [Miatta Kawinzi](#)**

Miatta Kawinzi is a Kenyan-Liberian-American multi-disciplinary artist, writer, and educator raised in the US South and based in Brooklyn, NY. She holds an MFA in Studio Art from Hunter College and BA in Interdisciplinary Art & Cultural Theory from Hampshire College, and has presented work at the Studio Museum in Harlem, MoMA PopRally, Red Bull Arts Detroit, and BRIC. Her solo exhibition *Soft is Strong* recently opened at CUE Art Foundation in NYC.

Kawinzi works with sculptural sound and video installation, the voice and body, and language to explore practices of re-imagining the self, identity, and culture through abstraction & poetics. Her work explores cultural hybridity, queer temporalities, and the illumination of African diasporic connections across time, space, and geography. Tracing a performative and experimental impulse, she experiments with visual, verbal, sonic, and embodied languages in gesturing towards a poetics of liberation.

### **About [Mo Kong](#)**

Mo Kong ( B.1989, Shanxi, China) is a multidisciplinary artist, researcher. They received MFA from Rhode Island School of Design. Their research led process usually takes the form of large scale installations involving science research and multiple journalism perspectives in which they challenges key issues of the day using complex narratives that synthesis the past with the present.

They have been the subject of solo exhibitions at CUE Art Foundation(New York) , Artericambi Gallery(Verona), Gertrude Gallery (Stockbridgeand), Chashama(New York). Their work has been included in Queens Museum, RISD Museum,SFMOMA, Minnesota Street Project, Spring Break, ARTISSIMA, Make Room Gallery and Rubber Factory Gallery. They also received fellowship/residency from Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Triangle art association,Mass Moca Studio,Vermont Studio Center, Gibney Performance Center, Lighthouse Works and AAI.

### **About [Maia Palileo](#)**

Maia Cruz Palileo is a Brooklyn-based artist. She received an MFA in sculpture from Brooklyn College, City University of New York and BA in Studio Art at Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts. Maia has participated in residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, and the Joan Mitchell Center, New Orleans. She is a recipient of the Nancy Graves Grant, Art Matters Grant, Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters & Sculptors Grant, Jerome Foundation Travel and Study Program Grant, Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant, and NYFA Painting Fellowship.

Influenced by the oral history of her family's arrival in the United States from the Philippines, as well as the colonial relationship between the two countries, Maia's paintings infuse these narratives with memory and care. Figures appear and disappear in lush landscapes, domestic interiors, and colonial structures while deep blues and reds suggest dark realms where superstition, myth, and history blur. Evoking a hybrid sense of place, they serve as metaphors for migration and assimilation. While not depicting a specific time or place, they remind us that the land we inhabit is full of mystery, stories, history and ghosts.