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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2021 NEW YORK AWARDEES



Left to Right: Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou- Rahme (Basel and Ruanne), Caroline Garcia, and Miatta Kawinzi

Embargoed through June 7, 2021 12:00pm ET

(New York, NY | June 7, 2021) – **Artadia**, a nonprofit grant making organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 New York Artadia Awards: **Basel Abbas and Ruanne Abou- Rahme (Basel and Ruanne)**, **Caroline Garcia**, and **Miatta Kawinzi**.

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

This cycle’s jurors were **Marcela Guerrero**, Jennifer Rubio Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and **Makeda Best**, Curator of Photography, Harvard Art Museums.

Of the process, **Marcela** notes, “Miatta, Caroline and Basel and Ruanne were ultimately selected as the New York Artadia Awardees as they showed rigor while also making space for experimentality. If the art practice of these three is an indication of where the field of contemporary art is going, I feel both at ease and excited.”

Of the Awardees, **Makeda** states, “Overall, I was impressed by the deep and ethical commitments to new forms of collaboration and engagements with audiences. The destabilized notions of identity, language, and space that is proposed, embodied, politicized, and empowered

by the work Basel and Ruanne is captivating and prophetic. Through spare means, Miatta Kawinzi captivantly evokes the sound- and textscapes of the black experience that span time and geography. I was moved by the aesthetics of Caroline Garcia's work – which draws on her nuanced sense of timing, eye for cultural details, understanding of corporally based modes of communication, and exploitation of the technological glitch.”

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: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island and for a minimum of two years. This year's Finalists for the Award included Lizania Cruz, Mo Kong and Maia Palileo selected by Ndubuisi C. Ezeoluomba, Francois Billion Richardson curator of African Art, New Orleans Museum of Art; and Marcela Guerrero, Jennifer Rubio Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Kim Nguyen, Curator, CCA Wattis, San Francisco.

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 [Artadia](#)

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.

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 [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.