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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2021 SAN FRANCISCO AWARDEES



Left to Right: Sydney Cain, Terri Friedman, Dana King

**Embargoed through September 20, 2021 1:00pm ET**

(New York, NY | September 20, 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 San Francisco Artadia Awards: **Sydney Cain**, **Terri Friedman** and **Dana King**.

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

Sydney Cain, Terri Friedman and Dana King will each receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds, as well as access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Award program. The decision followed an extensive jury process, culminating in a virtual studio visit with jurors **Wassan Al-Khudhairi**, Chief Curator, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis; and **Monetta White**, Executive Director, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco.

Of the process, **Monetta** says, “It was an honor to be included as one of the jurors for the San Francisco Artadia award. The creative output of the participating artists was incredible, and just reinforced that the Bay Area is rich with art and artists who push the boundary of deeply rooted innovation and justice that the world craves right now. Congratulations to the 2021 San Francisco Artadia awardees, I was extremely impressed with their artistic excellence, rigorous practice and their clear artistic voice. I applaud the team at Artadia for keeping artists at the core of local, national and global conversations.”

Of the Awardees, **Wassan** states, “The artists selected as finalists for the Artadia awards represented a strong group of artists working across a range of media. Selecting the winners was a difficult decision but each of the awardees has a practice that engages their subject and medium in truly unique and engaging ways. I was also excited that the group is made up of intergenerational artists each bringing their point of view and vision to their work and community.”

The 2021 San Francisco Artadia Award application was open to visual artists working in any visual media, at any stage in their career, who had been living and working for a minimum of two years within any of the nine Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. This year’s Finalists for the Award included Rodney Ewing, Klea McKenna, and MCXT Collective, selected by jurors **Pujan Gandhi**, Jan Emison Assistant Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art, Minneapolis Institute of Art; **Monetta White**, Executive Director, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco; and **Juana Williams**, Independent Curator.

The 2021 San Francisco Artadia Awards are generously supported by the Phyllis C. Wattis 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 [Sydney Cain](#)**

Sydney “Sage” Cain is a visual artist born and raised in San Francisco, CA. As an act of empowered remembering, Cain’s work invites viewers to challenge the continuum of colonialism that privileges scientific language and understanding of mystical experiences over indigenous epistemologies. Utilizing graphite, powdered metals, printmaking, and chalk as transcendent emblems for myth-making, her work offers reverent narratives that reveal the power of remembrance and spiritual evolution within “unseen” Black afterlives.

Cain’s work has been exhibited at Betti Ono, Ashara Ekundayo Gallery, Rena Bransten Gallery and the Oakland Museum of California. They have received the Emerging Artist Award at the Museum of the African Diaspora and the Honorary AIR Award at Kala Art Institute. Cain is currently represented by Rena Bransten Gallery with a solo exhibition scheduled to open there late 2021.

**About [Terri Friedman](#)**

Terri Friedman’s work responds to the current climate of anxiety and uncertainty by enlisting color, abstraction, and text to explore topical issues and personal narratives. Brain science, in particular research on neuroplasticity and epigenetics, are growing fields that set the context for her work. She explores with fiber and optimism the brain-body connection, mental health, and the brain’s ability to rewire from psychological and physical trauma.

After receiving her BA from Brown University and her MFA from the Claremont Graduate School, Friedman exhibited her kinetic sculptures at such venues as the San Jose Museum of Art, MOCA’s Geffen Contemporary, Orange County Museum of Art, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. More recently she has exhibited her large scale tapestries at the Berkeley Art Museum, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Beach Museum of Art, CODA Museum, Netherlands, and gallery exhibitions in New York and California curated by Jenelle Porter, Glenn Adamson, Betty Sue Hertz and Rirkrit Tiravanija. In 2019 she was featured in *Vitamin T: Threads and Textiles in Contemporary Art* (Phaidon Press) and in 2020 she had a solo show at the CUE Art Foundation in NYC curated by artist Kathy Butterly.

**About [Dana King](#)**

Dana King is a classical figurative sculptor who creates public monuments of Black Bodies in Bronze. King prefers sculptures because they inhabit space and space is power. She believes sculpture provides an opportunity to shape culturally significant memories that determine how African descendants are publicly held and remembered.

King creates Black Bodies in Bronze. Her work explores a subversive concept in a traditional form. She rescues everyday Black American heroines/heroes from unjust obscurity and then ennoble their tenacity and courage through figurative sculpture. Across countless generations elders have communicated culture, history, and wisdom through storytelling. She continues that tradition in bronze, resurrecting our ancestors' love and truth from America's buried past. Intense research shapes these memories. It empowers her to create art that invites people to understand themselves and their lives in a connected and compelling way. Equity and justice are integral to her art practice.

