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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2021 ATLANTA AWARDEES



**Left to Right:** Sheila Pree Bright, Jill Frank, and Masud Olufani

**Embargoed through November 8, 2021, 1:00pm ET**

(Atlanta, GA | November 8, 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 Atlanta Artadia Awards: **Sheila Pree Bright, Jill Frank, and Masud Olufani.**

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

Sheila Pree Bright, Jill Frank, and Masud Olufani 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 **Raina Lampkins-Fielder**, Curator, Souls Grown Deep Foundation, Atlanta and **Humberto Moro**, Deputy Director/Senior Curator at Museo Tamayo, Mexico City and Adjunct Curator at SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA

Of the process, **Raina Lampkins-Fielder** notes “The mission undertaken by Artadia to support artists and their work is an important one, made even more necessary during periods of challenge and uncertainty. It is at those moments that we may look to artists to provide alternative visions and to inspire new ways of thinking.”

Of the Awardees, **Lampkins-Fielder** added “The three artists acknowledged here--while diverse in their practice--all share a similar spirit of bearing witness to our time. Through her photographs, Sheila Pree Bright brings to light the individual narratives of her subjects as she creates stories investigating the socio-political and historical contexts in which we all live. Jill Frank’s epic portraits of young people as they enact the various social rituals and systems of play that ultimately inform their identity or sense of self reveal the vulnerability, the potential-- as well as the humor-- of American youth. Often invoking the trickster in his work, Masud Olufani’s multidisciplinary practice looks to our ancestors and powerfully envisions the narrative traditions of African and African American folklore, with a particular focus on collective memory as it is manifested in the American South.”

**Humberto Moro** notes, “It has been an honor to see the vibrant work which is being produced in Atlanta and meet artists along with Raina. I’m thrilled that the 2021 awardees are a diverse group of artists who from rich and different perspectives are not only addressing relevant issues of our time, but they are actively thinking about and working with their communities.”

The 2021 Atlanta 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 23 counties of Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton. This year’s Finalists for the Award included Jane Foley, Laura Noel, and Ato Ribeiro, selected by jurors **Raina Lampkins-Fielder**, Curator, Souls Grown Deep Foundation, Atlanta; **Veronica Roberts**, Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, The Blanton Museum of Art, Austin; and **Claire Tancons**, Independent Curator based in New Orleans.

The 2021 Atlanta Artadia Awards are generously supported by Mailchimp, 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 [Sheila Pree Bright](#)**

Sheila Pree Bright is an acclaimed International Photographic Artist who portrays large-scale works that combine a broad range of knowledge of contemporary culture. She is known for her series, #1960Now, Young Americans, Plastic Bodies, and Suburbia.

As a Photographic Artist, the way she sees and shoots creates narratives about social, political and historical context not often seen in the visual communication of media and propaganda-based platforms. The imagery she presents and captures of culture and sometimes counter-culture challenges ideas about narratives that are controlled by Western thought and power structures.

**About [Jill Frank](#)**

Jill Frank is an Atlanta-based artist and educator. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Photography at Georgia State University. Reviews of her work have appeared in Art Forum, Art in America and The Paris Review. She has had solo shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia. She attended School of the Art Institute of Chicago (MFA studio art) and Bard College (BA Photography).

Working primarily in photography and video to explore the ideologies and aesthetics that shape teenage life, her large-scale photographs and sound/video installations reveal the struggle to present one's identity within unstable environmental, political and social contexts. Diverging from traditional documentary forms, Frank uses sound, scale, repetition and staging to record conquests and games, where representation plays a decisive and transformative role.

**About [Masud Olufani](#)**

Masud Ashley Olufani is an Atlanta based actor, mixed media artist, and writer. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and The Savannah College of Art and Design where he earned an M.F.A. in sculpture in 2013. Olufani has exhibited his work in group and solo shows nationally and internationally. He is the 2021-22' inaugural Visual Arts Fellow at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

His multidisciplinary practice explores the resonance of memory; the narrative traditions of African and African American folklore; and methodologies of constructive resilience implemented by marginalized communities to maintain cohesion and ensure survival. He works with a disparate assortment of materials and studio methods to investigate how objects operate in both the objective and subjective realities, and how history tethers those objects to individual and collective memory.