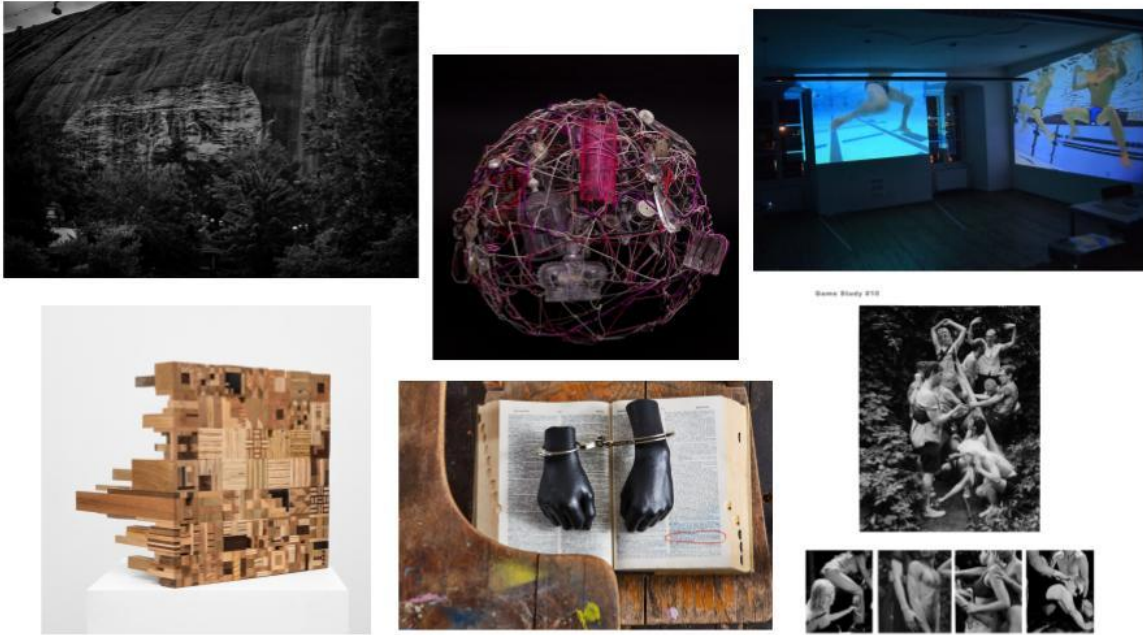


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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2021 ATLANTA FINALISTS



Top, Left to Right: Sheila Pree Bright, Laura Noel, Jane Foley. **Bottom, Left to Right:** Ato Ribeiro, Masud Olufani, Jill Frank

Embargoed through October 28, 2021, 1:00pm ET

(NEW YORK, NY | October 28, 2021) – **Artadia**, a nonprofit grant making organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is pleased to announce that **Sheila Pree Bright, Jane Foley, Jill Frank, Laura Noel, Masud Olufani and Ato Ribeiro** have been selected as the 2021 Atlanta 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 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 jurors were **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.

Regarding the process, **Veronica Roberts** states "Participating in the Atlanta Artadia Award Jury was deeply gratifying because supporting artists and their growth is always significant, especially at this moment. I have so valued the experience of getting to know these Atlanta artists as well as hearing Raina and Clare's very astute observations. This process offered a deep dive into art-making, truly getting me excited about exploring artists coming out of Atlanta."

Of the Finalists, **Claire Tancons** says "Having recently relocated to France after nearly two decades in the United States, participating in this edition of the Artadia jury was especially meaningful to me to remain connected to artistic practice in the US now, especially in the South where I lived primarily, having made New Orleans my primary residence. This might be why I was so thrilled to discover Atlanta-based, New Orleans-native Jane Foley who's already accomplished underwater acoustic work barely touches the surfaces of so many more worldly, and worldling, connections with historic water."

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 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 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 Jane Foley

Jane Foley (b. 1985, New Orleans) is a sound, video, and sculpture artist living in Atlanta, Georgia (US). They have created sound sculptures for the Architecture Triennale in Lisbon, Portugal and La Friche Belle de Mai in Marseille, France with Zurich-based Sound Development City, as well as composed sounds that played in taxicabs throughout the 5th Marrakech Biennale in Morocco. In Atlanta, they have created public works for the High Museum, Dashboard, Flux Projects, Atlanta Contemporary, and the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport.

A former college synchronized swimmer and a current video artist, Foley makes films in swimming pools, exploring themes of intimacy and weight/weightlessness through gestures of holding and release. By working with these themes through sculpture, video, and sound, they perform material translations, where the strokes of a swimmer are a percussion loop, and an inflatable pool floatie gets a second life as a concrete vessel. This work is an ongoing poem that follows queer routes through loss and love.

About Jill Frank

Jill Frank (B. 1978) 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 Laura Noel

Laura Noel is an Atlanta-based, photographer and installation artist, whose prints are held in private and public collections, including The High Museum of Art, The George Eastman Museum, The Ogden Museum in New Orleans, the Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia and The Gregg Museum of Art. Her photographs have been exhibited at the Pingyao International Photography

Festival in China, the Internationale Fototage Festival in Mannheim, Germany, Gallery 24 in Berlin, United Photo Industries in New York, The Cleveland Museum, and Gallery 1401 in Philadelphia. She has been a resident at The Hambidge Center, The Arctic Circle Residency and is looking forward to upcoming residencies at Arteventura in Aracena, Spain and the ChaNorth Artist Residency in Upstate New York in 2022.

Noel employs photographs, small sculptures, and installations, to examine the contradictory nature of the self, the inner voice that pushes us forward and pulls us back, that punishes, rewards and questions who we are. She is especially intrigued by the fundamental conundrum of how a person exists in their own mind and simultaneously feels they are outside themselves looking inward for understanding. Noel explores the universality of this idea, as well as how it plays out in her own life.

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.

About Ato Ribeiro

Ato Ribeiro (b. 1989) is a multidisciplinary artist working in a variety of media including sculptural installation, drawing and printmaking. He works between Accra, Ghana and Atlanta, Georgia, where he is currently serving as a MINT 2021 Leap Year Artist. He was the 2017 Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Emerging Artist Award recipient, Artist in Resident at Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, Germany, and received fellowships at Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT, The Studios at MASS MoCA in North Adams, MA and the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in Madison, ME among others.

Ribeiro's research mines through and honors a variety of shared and neglected histories in order to visually speak to his contemporary sense of cultural hybridity. By employing familiar practices—of collecting, joining and refining natural and repurposed materials— his wooden kente quilt works, mixed media installations and prints provide educational opportunities to seek out new points of reference, while preserving layers of African cultural heritage and varying ethnic perspectives.