

ARTADIA
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ANNOUNCING THE 2021 PROSPECT ARTADIA AWARDEES



Left to Right: Chandra McCormick and Monique Verdin

Embargoed through January 24, 2022 1:00pm ET

(New York, NY | January 24, 2022) – **Artadia**, a nonprofit grant making organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, in partnership with **Prospect New Orleans**, is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Prospect Artadia Awards: **Chandra McCormick** and **Monique Verdin**. After launching this initiative in 2014, Artadia is once again proud to partner with Prospect to acknowledge the vibrant artistic community of New Orleans and continue to support local artists at this critical time.

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

Prospect.5: Yesterday we said tomorrow is the fifth edition of Prospect New Orleans, a citywide art exhibition. Participating artists have created projects that emerge from research into place, express connections to the past and to land, and seek to form and reflect community. They have considered the ways in which history continues to shape the present, and their artworks are testaments to acts of ritual, selfhood, and modes of resistance that define daily life in New Orleans and beyond. Their projects offer spaces of memorialization and mourning, and of imagination and togetherness. The 2021 Prospect 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 in New Orleans and who exhibited work in any iteration of Prospect, including Prospect.5.

Chandra McCormick and Monique Verdin 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 **Thomas Lax**, Curator of Media and Performance at the Museum of Modern Art in New York; and **Tocarra Thomas**, Director of the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans. Both McCormick and Verdin participated in previous Prospect exhibitions, with McCormick showing in 2014 in Prospect.3: *Notes for Now* and Verdin in 2017 in Prospect.4: *The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp*.

On McCormick receiving the award, **Lax** notes, “Chandra McCormick’s documentary photographic practice provides a visual chronicle to the lived experiences of African-American life and inspiration to generations of New Orleanians cultural practitioners.”

Liberty Specialty Markets has selected Monique Verdin as the recipient of the Liberty Specialty Markets Artadia Award; of the Awardee, Senior Vice President **Robert Pittinger** notes, “We are delighted that Monique Verdin is the recipient of the Liberty Specialty Markets Artadia Award. We hope the award will help this internationally recognized artist flourish, grow and build greater awareness of her inspiring works exploring the natural tensions between sea and land in coastal Louisiana. As a leading fine art insurer, we’re dedicated to protecting single works of art and collections, but it’s also important to us that we support the art community. The Artadia program, which helps artists to flourish in their local communities and beyond, fits with our philanthropic culture and our commitment to supporting the arts in our communities around the world.”

Of the Prospect Artadia Awards, Executive Director of Prospect New Orleans **Nick Stillman** comments, “This is a wonderful way to honor New Orleans’ rich community of contemporary artists. I couldn’t be happier for Chandra and Monique, two artists from the Prospect family who are each so deserving of this award.”

The 2021 Prospect Artadia Awards are generously supported by Prospect New Orleans, Liberty Specialty Markets, 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 [Prospect New Orleans](#)

Prospect New Orleans is a citywide contemporary art triennial and the only exhibition of its kind in the US with a decade-long history. Every three years, Prospect brings new art to the old city by inviting artists from all over the world to create projects in a wide variety of venues spread throughout New Orleans.

About [Chandra McCormick](#)

Chandra McCormick was born and raised in the lower ninth ward of New Orleans, Louisiana. She has been documenting Louisiana and its people for more than 25 years alongside her husband Keith Calhoun. Whether chronicling religious ceremonies, cultural traditions, and visual histories of the Lower 9th Ward or tracing the legacies of slavery through sugarcane laborers on plantations, sweet potato field harvesters, or life at Angola, Louisiana State Penitentiary, their images bear witness to the social realities of Black life—historicizing and archiving the rich unique traditions and deep-rooted attributes of Louisiana culture. Since the early 1980s, Calhoun and McCormick have engaged photography as a site of social activism—documenting, illuminating, and conveying the struggles and celebrations of the Black American experience.

About [Monique Verdin](#)

Monique Verdin is an interdisciplinary storyteller who has intimately documented the complex interconnectedness of environment, culture, climate and change in southeast Louisiana. Monique is director of the Land Memory Bank & Seed Exchange, a former member of the United Houma Nation Tribal Council and is part of the Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative core leadership circle of brown (indigenous, latinx and desi) women, from Texas to Florida, working to envision just economies, vibrant communities and sustainable ecologies.