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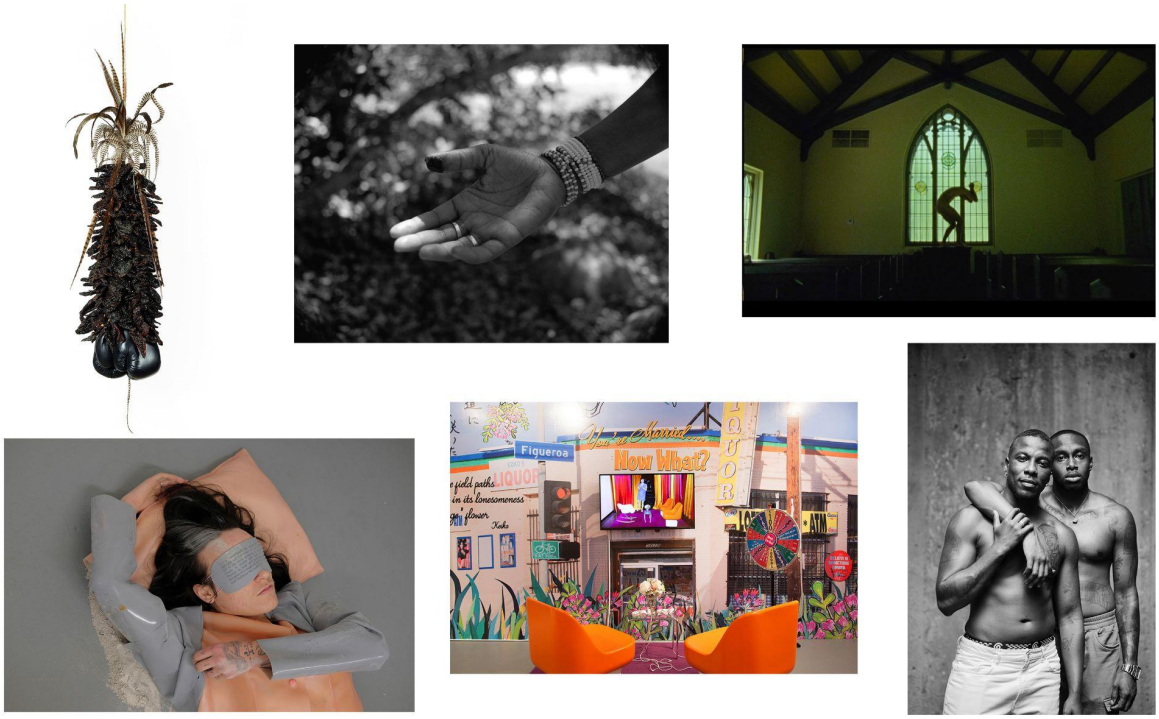
ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2022 LOS ANGELES FINALISTS



Top, left to right: Esteban Ramón Pérez, dana washington-queen, Chris Emile
Bottom, left to right: Miller Robinson, Yoshie Sakai, Texas Isaiah

For Immediate Release
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Artadia, a nonprofit grant making organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is pleased to announce that **Chris Emile, Texas Isaiah, Esteban Ramón Pérez, Miller Robinson, Yoshie Sakai, and dana washington-queen** have been selected as the 2022 Los Angeles Artadia Awards Finalists.

The Finalists will each hold virtual studio visits with second-round jurors, who will ultimately select two artists to receive $10,000 in unrestricted funds supported by Angeles Art Fund and Capital Group, and one artist to receive $25,000 supported by the Marciano Art Foundation.

Press-approved images of each artist's work are available **here.**

The 2022 Los Angeles 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 Los Angeles County for a minimum of two years.

This year's Finalists jurors were **Alexandra Foradas**, Curator of Visual Art, MASS MoCA, **Alexis Lowry**, Curator, Dia Art Foundation, and **Jennifer King**, Associate Curator, LACMA.

Alexis Lowry states "The jurying process offered an unparalleled opportunity to do a deep dive into the incredible work being made in Los Angeles today. It was enriching to see the diversity of practices and the ways that these artists are grappling the exigent questions of our times. I enjoyed the rigorous conversations with the other jurors that led to the exceptional finalists, who approached these issues with care, humor, and urgency."

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, Boston, 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 2022 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are generously supported by Angeles Art Fund, Capital Group, the Marciano Art Foundation, the Artadia Board of Directors, and individual donors from across the country.

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About Chris Emile (he/him)
Chris Emile is an active director, choreographer, filmmaker, and performer based in Los Angeles. His work oscillates between the opera, cinematic, commercial, and immersive performance worlds exploring themes of ancestry, redemption and self-determination.

Emile's work weaves together his concert dance training with his South-Central Los Angeles roots to create multi-disciplinary contemporary art through performance and film. Committed to ensuring accessibility for those the art world has ignored, his work is performed by Black, Brown and othered bodies for Black, Brown and systemically marginalized audiences. In the realms of his films and performances, movement is catharsis, a conduit for Black healing.

About Texas Isaiah (he/they)
Texas Isaiah is an award-winning, first-generation visual narrator born in East New York, Brooklyn, and currently residing in Los Angeles, CA. His venture into photography began in 2012 due to familial losses, which led him to see fewer versions of himself and others in older and modern images, making him reconsider photography's historical practices. The method prioritizes the endless possibilities of an adequate care system and a more thoughtful and compassionate visual world.

Through image-making, Texas Isaiah's practice reassesses the relationship between visibility, protection, care, and collaboration. He/they prioritize creating images of Black people, including trans and gender-expansive individuals, who have been historically erased from the photographic canon. The use of outdoor settings and their components comes from a need to rehabilitate our relationship with nature and be at home within our bodies to create more affirming and supportive surroundings for ourselves and one another.

About Esteban Ramón Pérez (he/him)
Esteban Ramón Pérez is a visual artist who received his BFA in Art from the California Institute of the Arts, and his MFA in Painting and Printmaking from Yale University School of Art. Pérez lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Esteban's work pays homage to his roots. He approaches his practice as an interrogation and excavation of his subjective memory, spirituality, fragmented history, and social political reality.

About Miller Robinson (they/them)
Miller Robinson is a 2Spirit, transdisciplinary artist of Karuk, Yurok, and mixed-European descent working and residing on unceded Tongva Territory. Since receiving a BFA from Otis College of Art and Design in 2014 they have exhibited in Los Angeles at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Heritage Square Museum, with Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), and at HORSEANDPONY Fine Arts in Berlin amongst others.

Tethered by sensibilities that prioritize collaboration, storytelling and the passage of non-linear timelines, themes of growth, transfiguration, temporality, and stewardship are routine to their practice. They work in constant dialogue with the state of materials and experiences, informed by

a lineage of basket weavers and fix-the-earth People. Through performance, sculpture, and books, they incorporate poetry, tattooing, garment-making and site-specific installation to create detailed ecosystems within exhibitions that seek out horizons in Queer and Trans potentialities.

About Yoshie Sakai (she/her)
Yoshie Sakai is a multidisciplinary artist based in Gardena, California. She is the recipient of the 2021/22 City of Los Angeles (COLA) Individual Artist Fellowship in Design and Visual Arts, California Community Foundation for Visual Artists Emerging Artist Fellowship, and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. She has shown at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, California State University Dominguez Hills University Art Gallery, Verge Center for the Arts, Antenna, and the Chinese American Museum Los Angeles. She has been in residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, ACRE, Vermont Studio Center, Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency, Ali Youssefi Project, and this year will be at the Marble House Project, Bemis Center, and the Kohler Arts/Industry Residency in Foundry at the Kohler Company.

In Sakai's video work, she creates characters that function as avatars responding to and negotiating contemporary social issues of cultural identity, gender roles, and familial and personal relationships. As a colorful and subtly transgressive undercover cultural agent, she exposes the absurdities of a manipulative social structure while at the same time humorously struggling and reveling in those structures as a participant. She induces intimate situations between her created personalities and the audience by staging her videos within installations that become whimsical and imaginative playhouses. Her work infiltrates the psychological space of the viewer, giving form to our vulnerability and evoking, sometimes, nervous laughter.

About dana washington-queen (they/them)
dana washington-queen is a nonbinary writer, photographer and film/video artist based in California. They hold a MFA in Visual Arts from UC San Diego and a BA in English from California State University, Long Beach. Their work has been exhibited at Jeffrey Deitch, Art+Practice and San Diego Art Institute, and has received festival selections from BlackStar Film Festival, Outfest Fusion LGBT People of Color Film Festival, and DTLA Film Festival.

dana uses narrative through text, image, performance poetry, and video to explore blackness, cultural/knowledge production, and systems of power. Their research and practice bring embodied knowledge into dialogue with experimental strategies to examine figurations of blackness, queerness, knowing, and being in the world.