

ARTADIA
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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2022 ATLANTA AWARDEES



Left to right: José Ibarra Rizo (photo credit: courtesy of the artist), Kelly Taylor Mitchell (photo credit: Nydia Blas), and Ato Ribeiro (photo credit: Gioncarlo Valentine).

(Atlanta, GA | November 8, 2022)

Artadia, a nonprofit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2022 Atlanta Artadia Awards - **Kelly Taylor Mitchell, Ato Ribeiro, and José Ibarra Rizo.**

The 2022 Atlanta Artadia Awards were supported by the Tim and Lauren Schragger Family Foundation, the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors across the country. The 2022 Atlanta Artadia Awards application was open to visual artists working in any visual media, at any stage in their career, who have been living and working within Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton counties for a minimum of two years.

The decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process culminating in virtual studio visits with jurors **Veronica Kessenich**, Executive Director, Atlanta Contemporary, and **Rehema C. Barber**, Chief Curator, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

Juror **Veronica Kessenich** reflected on the awards process: “Having the opportunity to be a juror for the 2022 Atlanta Artadia Awards uniquely champions what I know to be true: Atlanta forges exceptional talent.” On the effect of the award, she stated, “It is our collective hope that this award comes at a pivotal moment and affords the opportunity to champion ancestors, give voice to communities, and advance artistic craftsmanship.”

On the Awardees, Kessenich remarked, “Kelly Taylor Mitchell, Ato Ribeiro, and Jose Ibarra Rizo's works were so deeply personal yet crafted in such a manner that we can all identify and see our own humanity represented within their works.”

Fellow juror **Rehema C. Barber** commented on Mitchell’s multimedia practice “Mitchell's performances, installations, and paper-based works use craft as tools of power, imbued with the essence of its maker's memories and familial history, creating a searing reminder about known and unknown familial origins--a prevailing dilemma for many of the people represented in the African Diaspora.”

On Ribeiro’s work, Barber remarked “Ribeiro's desire to find a sense of self and home combines various techniques to create alluring sculptures that declare an Afrocentric personhood that crosses tradition and geography.”

“Rizo's striking photographs unveil what has been previously hidden in plain sight--working people and the families they are raising in southern Georgia,” Barber shared. “With his keen eye, Rizo spotlights a community of people, who have long been marginalized, revealing that just like everyone else they too are in search of the quintessential American dream.”

In addition to **Mitchell, Ribeiro, and Rizo**, this year's finalists for the Award included **Jessica Caldas, María Korol**, and **Hasani Sahlehe** selected by **Rosario Güiraldes**, Associate Curator, The Drawing Center; **Sarah Kennel**, Aaron Siskind Curator of Photography and Director of the Raysor Center, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and **Veronica Kessenich**, Executive Director, Atlanta Contemporary.

About Artadia

Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$6 million in unrestricted funds to over 360 artists nationally. Celebrating visual artists and their foundational role in shaping society, the Artadia Award benefits three artists annually in seven major US cities with high concentrations of creative workers—Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco Bay Area. 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.

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

Press Contact

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About Kelly Taylor Mitchell (she/her)

Kelly Taylor Mitchell is an artist and educator based in Atlanta, GA where she is an Assistant Professor of Art and Visual Culture and Art Program Director at Spelman College. She has participated in residencies and fellowships nationally and internationally as an Affiliated Fellow at The American Academy in Rome, a SMFA at Tufts Traveling Fellow and as an artist-in-residence at Women's Studio Workshop, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, and Atlanta Contemporary. Her work is exhibited nationally and can be found in collections nationwide like the Harvard Fine Arts Library, Walker Art Center Library, Bowdoin Special Collections, Smith College Special Collections, and more.

Kelly Taylor Mitchell is an interdisciplinary artist working across orality and ancestral memory, both real and imagined, woven into the fabric of the Africana Diaspora. Mitchell's artistic process is ancestor worship, centering a reverence for spiritual technology and lineal craft — familial oral histories function as a medium in her work in tandem with printmaking, papermaking, book arts, performance and textiles. Her current work is linked to ancestral ties in the American South, referencing and constructing mythologies that find their roots in marronage, Sankofa, masquerade, and protective gestures of the Diaspora.

About Ato Ribeiro (he/him)

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 2022/2023 MOCA GA WAP Fellow and was recently a MINT 2021 Leap Year Artist. Ribeiro 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.

About José Ibarra Rizo (he/him)

José Ibarra Rizo (b. 1992 Leon, Guanajuato) is a multidisciplinary artist working and living in Atlanta, Georgia. José received a BA in Studio Art with a concentration in Drawing and Painting from Georgia College & State University. He is the inaugural recipient of the MINT + ACP's 2021 Emerging Artist Fellowship and is one of five selected artists for MINT's 2022-23 Leap Year artist program.

José's latest body of work utilizes photography to tell the stories of his community and how they occupy space and express their multicultural identity in the American South. He collaborates with his subjects to create images that speak to the complex and diverse experiences they collectively share as working-class people in America.