

ARTADIA  
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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2022 HOUSTON AWARDEES



**Left to right:** Ian Gerson (photo credit: Nash Baker); Matt Manalo (photo credit: Lawrence Elizabeth Knox courtesy of Weingarten Art Group and Houston Endowment); and Anthony Suber (photo credit: Bess Connell Photography).

(Houston, TX | January 18, 2023)

**Artadia**, a non-profit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2022 Houston Artadia Awards **Ian Gerson**, the Horton Artadia Award recipient, **Matt Manalo** and **Anthony Suber**. The 2022 Houston Artadia Awards are supported by the Brown Foundation, the John R. Eckel Jr. Foundation, Cecily Horton, the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors across the country.

The decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process culminating in virtual studio visits with jurors **Dr. Anita N. Bateman**, Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and **Phillip A. Townsend**, Curator of Art, Art Galleries at Black Studies (AGBS), The University of Texas at Austin.

Juror **Phillip A. Townsend** reflected on the awards process “Having the opportunity to engage with some of Houston’s most critically engaged and radically thinking artists made my experience as an Artadia juror humbling, gratifying, and worthwhile.”

On Gerson’s practice, Townsend remarked, “Gerson’s work advances critical ideas about trans consciousness as a critical framework for identifying and understanding resistance, adaptability, and survival strategies that can be deployed in the pursuit of environmental justice.”

“Sublimating the precision of the colonial project into the form of the asymmetrical grid, Matt Manalo’s mixed media and conceptual works redress the logics of imperialism through the various meanings of cartography,” shared fellow Juror **Dr. Anita N. Bateman**. “At the same time,

Manalo's reuse of found materials in service of remaining environmentally conscious bespeaks his practice of centering sustainability and community care."

On Suber's work, Bateman said "Anthony Suber's sculptures, soundscapes, and mixed media works engage a type of Folk-Afrofuturist ethos that is not only responsive to legacy and ritual, but inherently incumbent upon

them." Townsend underscored the importance of lineage in Suber's work "Characterized by deeply researched interdisciplinary histories and technologies, personal and collective narratives of ancestry, spirituality, and vulnerability, and a desire to connect Black people to their past and to one another, Suber's artistic and social practices generate work and the virtuous community building our society desperately needs."

In addition to **Gerson**, **Manalo**, and **Suber**, this year's finalists for the Award included **Saúl Hernández-Vargas**, **Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud**, and **Sandra de la Rosa** selected by **Connie Choi**, Associate Curator of Permanent Collection, The Studio Museum in Harlem; **Ryan Inouye**, Associate curator of the 58th Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art; and **Dr. Anita N. Bateman**, Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

### **About Artadia**

Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$6 million in unrestricted funds to over 370 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 City, and the San Francisco Bay Area.

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

### **Press Contact**

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**About [Ian Gerson](#) (they/he)**

Ian Gerson is a queer and trans interdisciplinary artist and educator born and based in Houston, TX. Ian has participated in several residencies including Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, MacDowell, and Socrates Sculpture Park, and shared work across the US and in Mexico City, most recently at BOX13 in Houston and Galveston Artist Residency with an upcoming solo show at Art League Houston in 2023. Ian holds an MFA in Sculpture + Extended Media from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin.

Working at the intersections of sculpture, installation, and community engagement, Ian's practice investigates climate injustices, trans consciousness, and queer longing. Stemming from personal encounters with (un)natural disasters and transitioning, Ian's work asks how a trans experience, embodying adaptability and resilience, can be looked to as a model for surviving precarity. Ian weaves flimsy tapestries with discarded materials culled from local waterways and coastlines as a way of centering the refused, the invisible, the marginal.

**About [Matt Manalo](#) (he/him)**

Matt Manalo is a multidisciplinary artist who was born in Manila, Philippines and resides in Houston. He received his Bachelors of Fine Arts in Painting at the University of Houston. His environmentally conscious work incorporates raw materials and found objects and tackles ideas surrounding his own immigrant identity, displacement, and how "home" is defined. Manalo is influenced by the physical and social structures that exist in both the Philippines and the United States as well as the erasure of histories and presence of colorism that have resulted from colonization.

His work was recently seen in the exhibition, Carriers: The Body as a Site of Danger and Desire, Blaffer Art Museum in Houston, Texas curated by Tyler Blackwell and Steven Matijcio and he is included in the 2021 Texas Biennial: A New Landscape/ A Possible Horizon curated by Evan Garza and Ryan Dennis. Manalo is the founder of Filipinx Artists of Houston, a collective of visual, performing, literary, culinary, and multidisciplinary artists. He also runs an alternative art space: Alief Art House, a hub for creativity that highlights the cultural richness of the multiple communities within a unique Houston neighborhood.

**About [Anthony Suber](#) (he/him)**

Texas native Anthony Suber is a Southern based multimedia artist who defines himself as an American visual griot. His work is derived from his personal perspective and experience of spirituality, cross-generational relationships, history, and narratives he heard as a child. Suber is a graduate of the University of Houston with a BFA in studio art and also has an MFA from Houston Baptist University. Outside of his studio practice, Suber has served almost two decades as a fine arts educator in Texas.

Child-like exploration, anthropological discovery, and mysticism are the thread that stitches Suber's work together. Through re-interpreting language and movement, reference of living elements, and iconography from the African diaspora, he explores ways to preserve what has been (history) while highlighting our connections to the now (present) and what can be (future).