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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2023 LOS ANGELES AWARDEES



**Left to right:** Kang Seung Lee (photo credit: Ruben Diaz); Maria Maea (photo credit: Gabriel Lopez); and Sarah Rosalena (photo credit: Alan Mendez).

(Los Angeles, CA | March 22, 2023)

**Artadia**, a non-profit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2023 Los Angeles Artadia Awards: **Kang Seung Lee**, the Angeles Art Fund Artadia Award recipient, **Maria Maea**, the Capital Group Artadia Award recipient, and **Sarah Rosalena**, the Marciano Art Foundation Artadia Award recipient. The 2023 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are supported by the Marciano Art Foundation, Angeles Art Fund, Capital Group, Rose Fiorentino (in honor of Franklin J. Mattei), the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors from across the country.

Artadia is excited to spotlight three artists that reflect the current fabric of artmaking in Los Angeles. **Lee**, **Maea**, and **Rosalena** create works that explore familial, queer, and technological histories through multidisciplinary work. Using the idea of the archive in conjunction with innovative practices, each artist proposes new futures and possibilities.

The decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process culminating in virtual studio visits with jurors **Henriette Huldish**, Chief Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, Walker Art Center, and **Daniela Lieja Quintanar**, Chief Curator and Deputy Director, Programs, REDCAT.

Juror **Henriette Huldish** reflected on the awards process, saying, “Artadia’s deep investment in supporting artists is apparent through the rigorous selection process, which resulted in a strong group of finalists for the Los Angeles Awards. It was a pleasure to participate in the process and engage in generative conversation with each of the artists and my fellow juror.”

On Lee's practice, **Huldisch** remarked, "Lee's work uncovers submerged queer histories and artistic kinships to poetic effect. His resonant, varied materials—including a plant that stems from one tended to by Harvey Milk, video images of friends' tattoos and scars, or fabric used for funeral shrouds—maintain a visceral, affective relationship to their subjects, and together constitute something like a group of magical memory objects."

Fellow juror **Daniela Lieja Quintanar** commented on Maea's work, "Maea's artistic practice sparks deep connections with her ancestry, community, and the future."

**Quintanar** remarked on Rosalena's work, the recipient of the Marciano Art Foundation Artadia Award, "Rosalena's unique work challenges western preconceptions of technology and the computational and brings forward indigenous legacy in contemporariness. Without a doubt, Artadia's support and recognition will benefit her artistic career."

"Rosalena's work dexterously enmeshes technology with traditional craft techniques," shared **Huldisch**. "She translates code-based source imagery into resonant two and three-dimensional forms, using yarn, beads, clay, and more. There she reveals the erased labor and knowledge that were key to developing digital technology to begin with."

In addition to **Lee**, **Maea**, and **Rosalena**, this year's finalists for the Award included **Chris Emile**, **Iman Person**, and **Samira Yamin**, selected by **Daniela Lieja Quintanar**, Chief Curator and Deputy Director, Programs, REDCAT; **Leilani Lynch**, Associate Curator, MCA Denver; and **Anjuli Nanda Diamond**, Artistic Director, The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation.

### **About Artadia**

Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$6 million in unrestricted funds to over 380 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 [Kang Seung Lee](#)** (he/him)

Kang Seung Lee is a multidisciplinary artist who was born in South Korea and now lives and works in Los Angeles. Recent projects include exhibitions at 2021 New Museum Triennial, New York (2021); 13th Gwangju Biennial, Gwangju (2021); MASS MoCA, North Adams (2021); Gallery Hyundai, Seoul (2021); Commonwealth and Council, Los Angeles (2021); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (2020). He is a recipient of MacDowell Fellowship (2022); California Community Foundation Fellowship (2019); Rema Hort Mann Foundation Grant (2018); and Artpace San Antonio International Artist-in-Residence program (2017). Lee's work is in the collections of Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea; among others.

Lee's work frequently engages the legacy of transnational queer histories, particularly as they intersect with art history. It's focused on the intersection of history and visual culture, centering under-recognized or marginalized narratives. He often researches and repositions various queer archives and collections, connecting distinct geographies and experiences to forge new sites of knowledge.

**About [Maria Maea](#)** (she/her)

Maria Maea (b. 1988) is a multidisciplinary artist working in sculpture, installation, performance and sound. Through her art practice, she deepens her connection to ancestry and collective memory. Maea's work has recently been exhibited in the Orange County Museum of Art's California Biennial, Palm Springs Art Museum, La Pau Gallery and Oxy Arts. Maea's work has been featured in publications such as The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Cultured Mag.

Maea works in sculpture, sound and performance. As a LA-native and a first generation Mexican-Samoan artist, she investigates her relationship to LA as home. She uses palms from the greater LA area to build sculptures that play in the space between figurative and abstraction. These sculptures Maea calls future ancestors are made from concrete, rebar, living & dead plants. The work seeks to complicate art's relationship with institutions around ideas of contamination and preservation. Many works structurally contain seed pods that over time will crumble to dust, however the seed will remain - making the artworks multi-generational.

**About [Sarah Rosalena](#)** (she/her)

Sarah Rosalena Brady (b. 1982 Los Angeles, CA) is an interdisciplinary artist working in computational craft, textile, beadwork, and digital ceramics. Her recent solo shows include Clockshop and Blum & Poe Gallery. She was recently given the Creative Capital Award, the LACMA Art + Tech Lab Grant, the Carolyn Glasoe Bailey Art Prize, the Steve Wilson Award from Leonardo, the International Society for Art, Sciences, and Technology, and the Craft Futures Grant from Center for Craft. Her textile and ceramic work are in the permanent collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. She is Assistant Professor of Computational Craft at UC Santa Barbara. She is a third generation Angeleno from Northeast Los Angeles and is based in DTLA. She is multiracial of Wixárika, Laguna Pueblo, and Irish descent.

Rosalena's work deconstructs technology with material interventions, creating hybrid objects that function between human/nonhuman, ancient/future, handmade/autonomous, beyond power structures rooted in colonialism. They collapse binaries and borders, creating new epistemologies between Earth and Space. Rosalena is shaped by the origins, character, and assembly of weaving, including the Wixárika weaving tradition passed down her matrilineal bloodline.