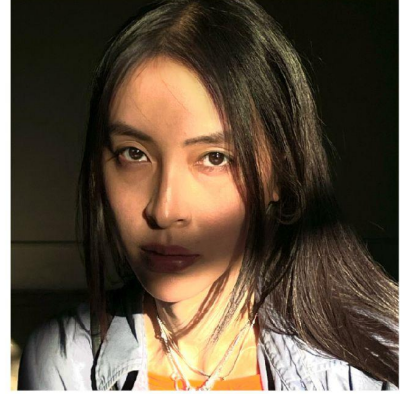


ARTADIA
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
501(c)(3)
EST 1999

ANNOUNCING THE 2023 NEW YORK CITY ARTADIA AWARDEES



Left to right: Simon Benjamin (photo courtesy of the artist); Lizania Cruz (photo courtesy of Guarinex Rodriguez); Diane Severin Nguyen (photo courtesy of the artist).

(New York City, NY | May 10, 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 New York City Artadia Awards: **Simon Benjamin**, **Lizania Cruz**, and **Diane Severin Nguyen**.

The 2023 New York City 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 the five boroughs: **the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens**, and **Staten Island** for a minimum of two years. The 2023 New York City Artadia Awards are supported by the May & Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc., the New York State Council of the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the Orentreich Family Foundation, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The Willem de Kooning Foundation, the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors across the country. The New York Artadia Network is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process culminating in virtual studio visits with jurors **Mia Locks**, Executive Director, Museum Moving Forward, and **Manuela Moscose**, Executive Director, Center for Art, Research and Alliances (CARA).

“I am honored to have been a part of this year's jurying panel for the Artadia Awards, which mobilizes significant support to outstanding artists working in New York City. We received more than 500 applications - a testament to the vigorous, rich and diverse arts community in our city. As jurors, we worked our way through each application with care and sensitivity, taking into consideration how this Award will have an important effect on each artist's career at this particular

moment. I am eager to see the difference that this Award will make for these three amazing artists,” shared juror **Manuela Moscoso**.

“It is an absolute pleasure to serve as an Artadia juror and to support such incredible artists getting unrestricted grants,” expressed fellow juror **Mia Locks**. On Benjamin’s practice, she remarked, “Benjamin’s work is the quiet and thoughtful kind that draws you in and invites you to slow down, to stop and think, and you are generously rewarded for doing so.”

“Benjamin is an artist and filmmaker whose current body of work uses the sea and the coast as frameworks for considering colonial histories and their impacts on the present,” shared **Moscoso**. “His work is rich and expansive across mediums and historical records.”

“Lizania Cruz brings incredible intentionality to every aspect of her work, and I think this really opens up the possibilities for what it means to 'engage' with an artwork in meaningful ways,” **Locks** remarked. “Cruz’s work uses oral history, audience engagement, and research to explore themes of migration and belonging. Her work mobilizes the community in ways that are both experimental and careful,” said **Moscoso**.

“Nguyen draws from disparate sources like debris on the streets of New York City and Vietnamese folk poetry to create pieces that lie somewhere between alienation and intimacy,” stated **Moscoso**. “Her pieces not only invite a deeper viewing, but invoke the viewer’s empathy and curiosity.” “Diane Severin Nguyen creates imagery so visceral and hard to pinpoint, and the effect is a powerful experience of what it feels like to be in the world right now.”

In addition to **Benjamin, Cruz, and Severin Nguyen**, this year’s finalists for the Award included **Tamar Ettun, Chase Hall, and Pauline Shaw**, selected by **Andrea Andersson**, Founding Director and Chief Curator, Rivers Institute for Contemporary Art & Thought; **Manuela Moscoso**, Executive Director, Center for Art, Research and Alliances (CARA); and **TK Smith**, Writer, Critic, and Assistant Curator of Art of the African Diaspora, Barnes Foundation.

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

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 Contact

Maya Teich | Programs and Communications Assistant, Artadia | maya@artadia.org

About [Simon Benjamin](#) (he/him)

Simon Benjamin is a Jamaican multi-disciplinary artist and filmmaker based in New York, whose practice considers how the past ripples into the present in unexpected ways. Using the sea and coastal space as frameworks, his current body of work explores how lesser-known histories and colonial legacies impact on our present and contribute to an interconnected future. His work has been included in exhibitions and screenings internationally including documenta 15, Kassel, Germany (2022); Kingston Biennial, National Gallery of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica (2022); Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Governor's Island, NY; Third Horizon film Festival, Miami, FL (2022); trinidad+tobago film festival, Trinidad and Tobago (2021); NYU Gallatin at Governors Island, New York, NY (2021); The 92nd St. Y, New York, NY (2020); Hunter East Harlem Gallery, New York, NY (2019); the Ghetto Biennial, Port Au Prince, Haiti (2018); Jamaica Biennial, National Gallery of Jamaica, Kingston, Jamaica (2017); New Local Space, (NLS) Kingston (2016); and Columbia University, New York, NY (2016).

Through research, oral history, and critical fabulation, Benjamin calls attention to the contradictions entangled in the enduring myths and images of the Caribbean as tropical paradise—a carefully constructed imaginary that replaced the harsh reality of the exploitative plantation. With the intention of moving beyond critique or pointing to systems and power – he creates open-ended poetic and lyrical moving images and objects which bring together the immaterial and the tactile, which he hopes prompts the imagination of futures that exist in the notion of otherwise.

About [Lizania Cruz](#) (she/her)

Lizania Cruz (she/her) is a Dominican participatory artist and designer interested in how migration affects ways of being & belonging. Cruz has been part of multiple artist-in-residence and fellowships. Some notable ones are the Laundromat Project Create Change (2017-2019), IdeasCity:New Museum (2019), Robert Blackburn Workshop Studio Immersion Project (SIP) (2019), BRIClab: Contemporary Art (2020-2021), Jerome Hill Artist Fellow, Visual Arts (2021-2022), and International Studio & Curatorial Program, ISCP (2022).

Cruz's practice uses audience participation to investigate notions of being & belonging within the public sphere. The result of this takes the form of objects such as books, zines, installations, happenings, video, and photography. Through research, oral history, and active participants, the projects she develops aim to highlight pluralistic narratives about migration and race.

About [Diane Severin Nguyen](#) (she/her)

Diane Severin Nguyen is an artist who works with photography, video, and installation. Nguyen currently lives and works in New York. Nguyen received her BA from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MFA from the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts at Bard College. Recent selected solo exhibitions include SculptureCenter, New York (2022); Renaissance Society, Chicago (2022); Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (2022); and Maison Européenne de la Photographie (2023). Nguyen's films have been screened at New York Film Festival, New York; IFFR, Rotterdam; Berlinale, Berlin; and Yebisu Festival, Tokyo. Recent group exhibitions have been held at the Schinkel Pavilion, Berlin (2023), the 58th Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2022–2023); 'GHOST 2565 Triennial', Bangkok (2022); Greater New York 2021 at MoMA PS1, New York (2021); Made in LA at the Hammer Museum and The Huntington (2020–2021); and 'Bodies of Water: 13th Shanghai Biennale', Power Station of Art (2021).

Diane Severin Nguyen's photography hybridizes the organic and the synthetic into amalgam sculptures, held together by the parameters of a photographic moment, and her video work expands that moment into a layered cultural and historical context. Nguyen is particularly

interested in exceeding the image as a document, and rather exploring forms of image-making that speak to desire and transformation.