

ARTADIA
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ANNOUNCING THE 2023 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ARTADIA AWARDEES



Left to right: Sofía Córdova (photo courtesy of Matthew Gonzalez Kirkland), Heesoo Kwon (original photo taken by Andrew Sungtaek Ingersoll and Leymusoom-rendered by Heesoo Kwon) and Ranu Mukherjee (photo courtesy of Colin Raney).

(San Francisco, CA | July 13, 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 San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Awards: **Sofía Córdova**, **Heesoo Kwon**, and **Ranu Mukherjee**.

The 2023 San Francisco Bay Area 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 **Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties** for a minimum of two years. The 2023 San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Awards are supported by the Wattis Foundation, 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 **Christine Koppes**, Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, ICA San Francisco and **Jordan Stein**, Writer, independent curator, and founder of Cushion Works, San Francisco.

“Unrestricted financial awards to artists are more rare than warm July days in the Bay Area, and even more critical for survival,” remarked **Stein**. “Big thanks to Artadia for the infrastructure and commitment they bring to this undersung process year after year. After reviewing countless dynamic applications, we selected three artists who explore multiple temporalities, and who dream beyond earthly conditions to insist on richer, and more collaborative, earthly conditions.”

Fellow juror **Koppes** commented on Artadia's jurying process, saying, "This was an incredible opportunity to spend a day in studio visits, diving deep into each artist's practice, learning about new projects of artists I'm familiar with and introducing myself to artists who I'll be following here on out. The San Francisco Bay Area is full of talented, smart, boundary-pushing artists making really critical work as was reflected in the five finalists, and the three Jordan and I selected are although at different points in their careers, they are all reaching pivotal moments where an Artadia award will be crucial support."

"Cordova's videos and installations make time move back and forth—informed by both the past and the future— and always in the spirit of revolution and collectivity," said **Stein**.

"Through elements of sci-fi, storytelling, music, and dance, Córdoba's work challenges contemporary issues such as climate change, colonization, and capitalization while celebrating community and resilience," shared **Koppes**. "She has a clear confidence in a range of areas such as choreography, music, sculpture, and video and a strong aesthetic vision that flows through her entire practice."

On Kwon's practice, **Stein** remarked "Kwon is hard at work to queer the boundaries of time and space, a project so big, ancient, and futuristic that we're only beginning to build a language for it."

"A true visionary, Kwon has established an autobiographical feminist religion that is at the core of her work, using self taught technologies such as 3D scanning and animation to create a universe void of patriarchy and misogyny," said **Koppes**.

Koppes shared, "Mukherjee has an impressive command of various mediums, working in a hybrid of collage, painting, and film cohesively to tackle topics of colonization, climate, and time through compositions of plants, minerals, bodies, and objects - such as furniture made with exploited materials - that come together in a distinct visual landscape."

"Mukherjee connects metaphysics and phenomenology by asking impossible questions—*What does time feel like?*—that yield beautiful, complex, and just as impossible answers," remarked **Stein**.

In addition to **Córdova**, **Kwon**, and **Mukherjee**, this year's finalists for the Awards included **Sholeh Asgary**, **Quinn Girard**, and **Xandra Ibarra**, selected by **Matilde Guidelli Guidi**, Associate Curator, Dia Art Foundation; **Jennifer Inacio**, Associate Curator, Pérez Art Museum Miami; and **Jordan Stein**, Writer, independent curator, and founder of Cushion Works, San Francisco.

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 390 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.

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About [Sofía Córdova](#) (she/they)

Born in 1985 in Carolina, Puerto Rico and currently based in Oakland, California, Sofía Córdova has exhibited and performed at The Whitney Museum of American Art, Tufts University Galleries, SFMOMA, the Arizona State University Museum, The Berkeley Art Museum, the Vincent Price Museum, the Wattis Institute and the MEWO Kunsthalle. She has participated in residencies at Eyebeam, NY, Headlands Center for the Arts, Mills College Museum, CA, and the ASU Museum, AZ and composed and choreographed performances for the SF Arts Commission, Merce Cunningham Trust and Soundwave Biennial. She is a recipient of a Creative Work Fund and has been featured in Art in America and Aperture Magazines.

Córdova makes work that considers sci-fi as alternative history, dance music's liberatory dimensions, climate change and migration, mystical objects and most recently, revolution - historical and imagined - within the matrix of class, gender, race, late capitalism and its technologies. Recent works have included performance, video, music, sculpture, taxidermy, and installation. She is one half of the music duo XUXA SANTAMARIA. In addition to discrete projects, performances, and albums the duo collectively scores all of her video and performance work.

About [Heesoo Kwon](#) (she/they)

Heesoo Kwon is a multidisciplinary artist from Seoul, South Korea, currently living and working in San Francisco, California. Selected exhibitions include Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA; San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Micki Meng Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Gray Area, San Francisco, CA; A.I.R. Gallery, New York, NY; 47 Canal, New York, NY; Blinkers Art & Project Space, Winnipeg, Canada; West Den Haag, Netherlands; Alternative Space Loop, Seoul, South Korea and WMA Space, Hong Kong. She was recently awarded the 2025 Eureka Fellowship from the Fleishhacker Foundation and the 2022 50 Arts Commission for Media Arts from the Hewlett Foundation. Kwon earned a Master of Fine Arts at the University of California, Berkeley, and will start her position as an Assistant Professor in the Animation department at California College of the Arts in the Fall of 2023.

In 2017, Kwon initiated an autobiographical feminist religion, 'Leymusoom'. As the initiator, Kwon led communal activities and expanded her personal feminist utopia in the digital realm. Technology, particularly in relation to building a digital feminist utopia through 3D animation, digital libraries and metaverse are central to her ever-evolving exploration of her family histories and feminist liberation. Kwon uses various software to regenerate her female ancestors' lives and form the Leymusoom community without constraints of time and space. For Kwon, making art is a ritualistic practice, and technology is a shamanistic tool that allows her to queer her past, present, and utopian dreams.

About [Ranu Mukherjee](#) (she/her)

Ranu Mukherjee's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the 18th Street Arts Center, Los Angeles, de Young Museum, San Francisco; the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design; the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; the Tarble Art Center, Charleston, IL and the San Jose Museum of Art, CA. Her most recent hybrid film installations have been presented by *Natasha*, Singapore Biennale 2022-2023, the 2019 Karachi Biennale and Los Angeles County Museum of Art and in numerous international group exhibitions. Awards and honors include a Pollock Krasner Grant (2020); Lucas Visual Arts Fellowship at Montalvo Arts Center (2019-2024); an 18th Street Arts Center Residency, Los Angeles (2022); Facebook Artist in Residence (2020); de Young Museum Artist Studio Program (2017); the Space 118 Residency, Mumbai (2014); and a Kala Fellowship Award and Residency, Berkeley (2009).

Ranu Mukherjee's collage-based paintings and film installations cultivate ecological, somatic, feminist and multidimensional perspectives on time, energy and power emerging from ruptured colonial legacies. Working with pigment, digital pattern, sari cloth, choreography and animation, she brings together South Asian, European and American references and materials that mix, converse and interrupt one another to create creolized visual languages. Depictions of tree, plant, flower, mineral, human and animal bodies, as well as furniture, microphones and other industrial objects, come together in fields of luminescent color, reconfiguring relationships and picturing differently tuned worlds.