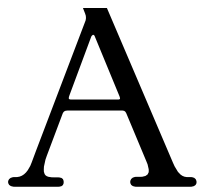


## Artadia Announces The 2023 Atlanta Awardees

BY BURNAWAY STAFF  
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Jessica Caldas, *The Endeavor*, 2021, used hand dyed military parachute and poly fiber fill, 85 feet in length. Photograph courtesy of Artadia and the artist.



**rtadia**, a non-profit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2023 Atlanta Artadia Awards: **Jessica Caldas; Stefanie Jackson; and Nneka Kai.**

The 2023 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 2023 Atlanta Artadia Awards are supported by the Ressler/Gertz Family Foundation, Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council supporters, and individual donors across the country. ADVERTISEMENT

The decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process culminating in virtual studio visits with jurors **Liz Andrews**, Director, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art and **Rory Padeken**, Vicki and Kent Logan Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Denver Art Museum.

On the jurying process, **Padeken** shared, “Artadia continues to play a pivotal role in supporting artists at critical moments in their careers. This year’s cohort of exceptional artists explore a range of complex issues related to the law, gender identity, labor, racial and political injustices, and the cosmic imaginary. I look forward to seeing how their work develops in the future.”

Fellow juror **Andrews** remarked, “The vibrant and diverse pool of finalists from Atlanta showed me, yet again, how powerful of a place Atlanta is for artists.”

**Andrews** commented on Caldas’ practice, “The soft sculptures Jessica Caldas creates are beautifully constructed and somehow monumental in some instances while always feeling deeply intimate.”

“Jessica Caldas envelops viewers in love and care, empathy and understanding, creating spaces that bear witness to and honor the lived experiences of women who labor, who give birth, who struggle, who survive, and who triumph,” said **Padeken**.

“Stefanie Jackson’s paintings feel wild and surreal, and her long-standing practice deserves this recognition and so much more,” stated **Andrews**.

On Jackson’s work, **Padeken** shared, “Stefanie Jackson is a dreamer and a storyteller who envisions fictional worlds haunted by nightmarish realities,

addressing ADVERTISEMENT  
issues  
regarding racial and political  
injustices, the erasure of  
African American histories,  
and social inequity and  
inequality in the United  
States.”

“In Nneka Kai’s work, hair  
becomes a method, a line, a  
tool, and a thread to mend,  
bind, and weave an  
embodied experience of  
Black identity, thought, and  
material culture through  
languages of performance  
and abstraction,” said  
**Padeken**.

“Nneka Kai’s work is rooted  
within a deeply informed  
curiosity about the power of  
Black hair, and I believe that  
we have only begun to see  
the great art she will bring to  
the world,” felt **Andrews**.



Stefanie Jackson. Photograph by Lela Jenkins and  
courtesy of Artadia and the artist.

In addition to **Caldas**, **Jackson**, and **Kai**, this year’s finalists for the Awards  
included **Jane Foley**, **Courtney McClellan** and **Sergio Suárez**, selected by **Rachel  
Adams**, Chief Curator and Director of Programs, Bemis Center for Contemporary  
Arts; **Liz Andrews**, Director, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art; and **Jia Yi Gu**,  
Director and Curator, MAK Center in LA.





Nneka Kai, *Hair Rug*, (2017- ongoing), kanekalon synthetic hair, 68" in diameter. Photograph courtesy of Artadia and the artist.

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