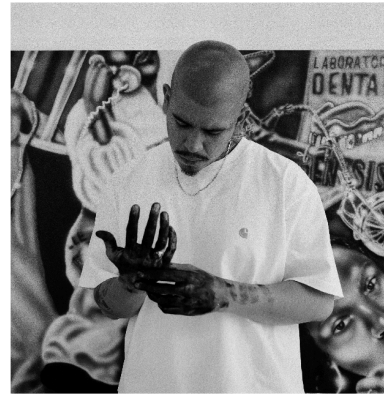


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ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2024 SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AWARDEES



Left to right: Zeina Barakeh (photo credit Al-an deSouza); Genevieve Quick (photo courtesy of the artist); and Esteban Abdul Raheem Samayoa (photo credit Gabe Searles).

(San Francisco, CA | July 9, 2024)

Artadia, a non-profit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2024 San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Awards: **Zeina Barakeh**, **Genevieve Quick**, and **Esteban Abdul Raheem Samayoa**.

Since its inception in 1999, Artadia has steadfastly championed emerging talents, leaving an indelible mark on the cultural landscape. Over the past 25 years, Artadia has been a catalyst for artistic innovation, providing crucial financial support, mentorship, and recognition to countless artists who have gone on to shape the culture of contemporary art. In its 25th year, Artadia is thrilled to continue doing what it does best – providing impact that not only includes financial assistance, but also cultivates a community that values artistic expression and champions the next generation of visionaries.

The 2024 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. We received **358** applications, with **56%** of the applicants identifying as Black, Native American or Alaskan Native, Latinx, Asian, Arab, biracial or multiracial; **60%** as women, gender nonconforming, or nonbinary; and **46%** as **emerging** artists.

This year's San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Awards are supported by the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council supporters, and individual donors across the country.

The Awards decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process. This year's finalists for the Awards included **Torrey Cummings**, **Tianzong Jiang**, and **Ramekon O'Arwisters**, selected by Round 1 jurors **Corinne Erni**, Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Chief Curator of Art and Education, Parrish Art Museum; **Việt Lê**, artist, writer, and curator; and **Ileana Tejada**, Senior Manager, Fellowships and Programs, Headlands Center for the Arts.

On being a part of the jurying panel, **Erni** remarked "Artadia provided me with a welcome opportunity to take a deep dive into the burgeoning art scene in the San Francisco Bay Area. As a curator based on the East Coast, I enjoyed the process of discussing the artists and our selection criteria with my fellow jurors who have a closer connection to the place."

She continued "Representing a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and artistic techniques, these six finalists seem to have a common penchant for exploring aspects of performance and materiality to connect history and mythology to the self and the now."

Fellow juror **Lê** said, "The 2024 San Francisco Bay Area Artadia Finalists all have experimental, humorous, political, and spiritual practices— each is visionary in their craft, concept and care."

Lê, an artist himself, provided Artadia with a poetic interpretation of the jurying process:

Processing the process (Round 1): wildly diverse range, home
on the range ~~age~~-over: love, grief, gall.

All six finalists held virtual studio visits with jurors **Ileana Tejada** joined by **Laura Phipps**, Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art.

"Spending time with the dynamic art scene in the Bay Area as an Artadia juror was a really special opportunity and provided a wonderful experience for us to collaborate and engage in dialogue as colleagues across the country. Tejada was an invaluable co-conspirator and a fount of Bay Area knowledge, while Phipps brought her transcontinental insight and deep understanding of art and art history, both of which were equally critical in this process," shared Round 2 jurors **Tejada** and **Phipps**.

They continued, "Within the varied practices of these Bay Area artists, we observed the profound ways in which these artists prioritize research, approach and embody often difficult histories, and carefully and critically consider material choices. We were repeatedly struck by the use of humor—an important tool deployed cuttingly and effectively as a healing technique in their work."

On Barakeh's work, they remarked, "Barakeh offers deeply considered visual amalgamations of historic categories—of art, of war, of geopolitics and economies—that compels one to consider our position in the contemporary moment. In her recent installations and projects, Barakeh shows an incredible sensitivity to site-specificity and interest in pushing on the understanding of the connections between exterior conditions and interior trauma."

“Coming from a place of intensive questioning and research, Quick’s practice uses humor and spectacle to suggest alternative histories and tools for communication. Throughout her videos, performances, and interactive works, Quick creates worlds that allow for imagining new, expansive, and truly bonkers futures.”

On Samayoa’s practice, they shared, “Samayoa said that “the Bay Area is a great place to be an artist--we’re all weird and strange here, making our weird stuff. There is space to breathe here.” This sense of freedom—to create, discover, connect and experiment--was deeply felt in our visit with Samayoa. Throughout his varied material practice, Samayoa illustrates an impressive ability to embed both memory and fantasy in works that communicate to broad audiences.”

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 400 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 the Awardees

[Zeina Barakeh](#) (she/her)

Zeina Barakeh (b. Beirut) is a Palestinian Lebanese artist based in the Bay Area whose work is influenced by her upbringing amidst numerous conflicts in Lebanon. While her artwork broadly engages with the discourse of war, her research delves into military emerging technologies, the blurred boundaries between humans and machines, and the evolving nature of warfare, encompassing kinetic and cyberwarfare.

Her work has been featured in exhibitions and film festivals including the Salesforce Tower Top, SF; ZAZ Corner Jumbotron, Times Square, NY; Muceum, Marseille, France (upcoming); Schneider Museum of Art, OR; Catharine Clark Gallery, SF; Zimmerli Art Museum, NJ; Peabody Essex Museum, MA; Asian Art Museum, SF; Yinchuan MOCA, China; Bernstein Gallery at Princeton University, NJ; Hamzianpour & Kia Gallery, LA; Middle East Institute, DC; San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; and published in Art Journal Open to name a few. Notable screenings include the 11th Harlem International Film Festival; 13th Blue Plum Animation Festival; and 15th Another Hole in the Head film festival. Residency awards include Perspectives: Here and There, Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions, Rutgers University; and Vermont Studio Center.

[Genevieve Quick](#) (she/her)

Genevieve Quick is an interdisciplinary artist who has exhibited in the Bay Area at McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, the Wattis Institute, the Asian Art Museum, and Mills College Art Museum and at Aurora Picture Show, Houston; NTU CCA, Singapore; and Asian Cultural Center, Gwangju, South Korea. She has been awarded residencies from Montalvo Center for the Arts, Headlands Center for the Arts, Recology, MacDowell, Djerassi, the deYoung Museum, and Yaddo. She has received grants from the San Francisco Arts Commission, the Fleishhacker Foundation, Kala, and the Center for Cultural Innovation.

Through video, performance, sculpture, and installation, Quick's narratives and objects magnify the alienness of the Asian American diaspora to imagine that we come from Planet Celadon, a speculative world that references the historically prominent East Asian ceramic glaze. Through humor and fantastical scenarios, Quick probes the complexity of representation, communication, and belonging with references to popular culture through music, dance, and film. As present and recent history merge with more ancient costumes, ceramics, and symbols, Quick affirms differences and creates more expansive representations of the Asian American diaspora across time and place.

[Esteban Abdul Raheem Samayoa](#) (he/him)

Esteban Abdul Raheem Samayoa (b.1994 Sacramento, CA) is a Mexican-Guatemalan artist currently based in Oakland, CA, whose work is deeply rooted in his cultural heritage and exploration of personal identity. His mastery of black and white charcoal drawings forms the cornerstone of his practice, where he portrays moments of nostalgia and intimacy that resonate profoundly within his community. Beyond charcoal, Samayoa explores vibrant color palettes and diverse mediums such as installations and ceramics, while incorporating textured surfaces such as burlap, plaster, and soil to honor his Guatemalan origins.

Using artwork as a vehicle to not only serve as a reflection of his personal journey but also as a bridge for shared experiences and collective growth, Samayoa's intention is to create art that fosters unity while celebrating the collective power of self-expression. Samayoa's work has garnered national recognition and has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions. Notable recent group exhibitions include "A Scratch in the Paint" at Good Mother Gallery in Los Angeles and "Eighteen Painters" at Andrew Kreps Gallery in New York.

About the finalists

[Torreya Cummings](#) (they/them)

Torreya Cummings (b. 1977, Sloughhouse CA) has assembled drag pirates on a sailing ship to reflect on "cross dressing" bans from the 1860s, used industrial-scale welding curtains to emulate the quality of light from wildfires, and fabricated a hanging island out of fake plants and souvenirs scavenged from the waste stream to reference both western landscape painting tropes and the destructive resource extraction underlying cubicle dreams of paradise. Working with sculpture, installation, photography, performance and video to bridge research and speculation, Cummings uses drag aesthetics, everyday materials and theater tricks as tools to explore how we understand (or misunderstand) history, people and place.

They were a Bay Area Fellow (2021-2023) at the Headlands Center for the Arts, and have exhibited solo projects at institutions including Recology SF, the Oakland Museum of California, and Aggregate Space Gallery (Oakland); group shows at The Contemporary Jewish Museum, Root Division, Gallery 16, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. They have presented performances with Machine Project (LA), Southern Exposure (SF), and the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts (SF). Cummings studied ceramics and photography at University of California, Davis and received an MFA in sculpture from California College of the Arts. They live and work in Emeryville, CA.

[Tianzong Jiang](#) (they/them)

Tianzong Jiang is an interdisciplinary artist and filmmaker living and working in San Jose and San Francisco. As an artist with a Chinese-American background, they explore the intricate relationship between culture, identity, and history. Through video, installation, sculpture, and performance, they create experiential interventions and idiosyncratic performances that undermine the seriousness of art-making and challenge conventional perceptions of the mundane. The series of works informed by their meditation practices can be regarded as contemporary "koans." For example, "the *Train of Thoughts*" video installation was inspired by the inability to subdue the thoughts rushing through their mind during meditation sessions – they made the situation literal by meditating in front of live tracks with trains periodically running behind them.

Selected exhibitions include the deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA; Headlands Center for the Arts, Sausalito, CA; Mills College Art Museum, Oakland, CA; and Southern Exposure, San

Francisco, CA. Tianzong is a recipient of the 2023 Hung Liu Award and is currently a Graduate Fellow at the Headlands Center for the Arts.

[Ramekon O'Arwisters](#) (he/him)

Ramekon O'Arwisters' (b. 1960) abstract sculpture dives into the abyss and the beautiful. He is a sculptor and photographer, who uses broken studio ceramic and crocheted fabric to redefine craft. With large sharp ceramic shards knotted together using shredded fabric and black zip ties, his sculpture stands as cultural totems, critiquing the art-historical perspective, American culture, and African American craft traditions.

Born in North Carolina, O'Arwisters earned a M.Div. from Duke University Divinity School in 1986. He was an artist-in-residence at the de Young Museum, the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and the Vermont Studio Center.