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ARTS ATL



Ariel Dannielle, "Fresh Set," 2022.

Artadia's 2024 Atlanta awardees have joined a very small club

ARTSATL STAFF x NOVEMBER 19, 2024

The Artadia art grant is one of a few national grants that supply not only money, but a heap of art-world attention as well.

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Since 1999, New York-based [Artadia](#) has been awarding unrestricted grants to visual artists in seven cities specifically chosen for their high concentration of creative workers: Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco Bay Area and Atlanta. Over \$6 million has been distributed over the 25 years.

This year, three artists have been added to the roster of Atlanta recipients: Aineki Traverso, Ariel Dannielle and Sergio Suárez. All were vetted through a two-tiered judging process that included submission review and virtual studio visits, winnowed down from almost 200 applications. Other finalists were Reuben Bloom, Jeremy Bolen and Quintavius Oliver.

Artadia's awards not only provide artists with funds that the artists may use in any way they wish, the awards also provide artists with that most elusive of art world currency: recognition. Being an Atlanta awardee puts these artists in the company of bona fide art-world celebrities like Bethany Collins, Danielle Deadwyler, Fahamu Pecou and Angela West. There is no surefire ticket to success in the art world, but nearly all prior winners have seen their profiles rise in the wake of the Artadia award.

Here are the 2024 awarded artists, their work and some of what the final-round jurors had to say about it.

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(Photo by Walker Banson)

Aineki Traverso

"I am blown away with the work that she is doing to not only create deeply personal paintings that capture vignettes of her life but that also reshape how one experiences painting itself. Through her different approaches to display and site-specificity, she creates new avenues for contemplation and interpretation that I am really excited to see."

Lauren Cross (juror), Gail-Oxford Associate Curator of American Decorative Arts, The Huntington



greener than grass I am and dead or almost, 2024.



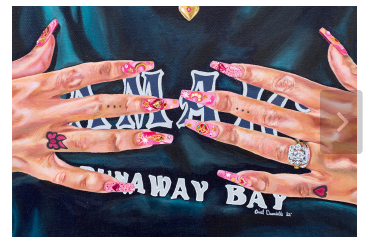
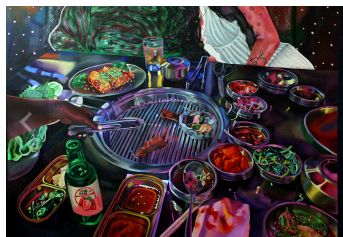
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Ariel Dannielle



(Photo courtesy of the artist)

“Dannielle paints her lived experiences, exploring Black womanhood through a lens that she has titled “Beauty in the Mundane,” but there is nothing dull about her highly textured and vibrant painted surfaces, which offer a joyful and playful panacea for today’s moment.”



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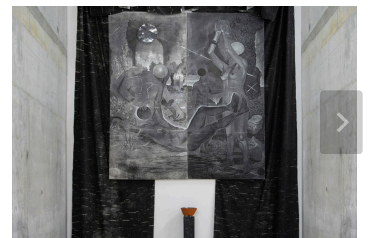
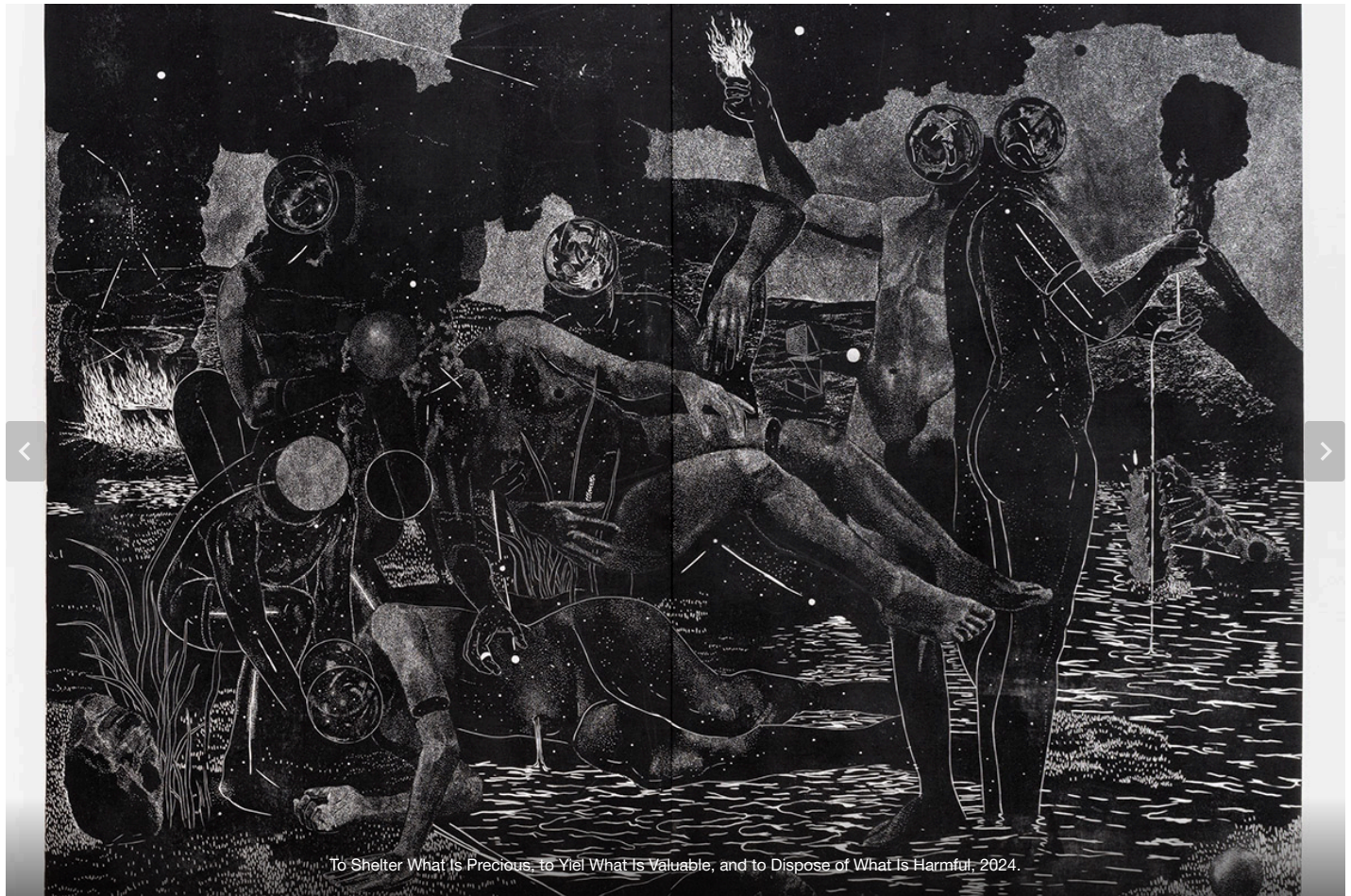
Sergio Suárez



(Photo by Colin Conces)

"Suárez work is deeply thought provoking and expansive. The way he translates such complex themes across material and form is impressive. I enjoyed the various dimensions of his work and his desire to keep experimenting."

Lauren Cross



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Other finalists



Jeremy Bolen, On Breathing—iron lung with blue gum, iron lung, blue gum branches, mine dust, 2022.



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