

ARTADIA  
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## ARTADIA ANNOUNCES 2026 LOS ANGELES AWARDEES



**Left to right:** Sula Bermudez-Silverman (photo credit: Isaac Schneider), Coleman Collins (photo credit: Emily Zheng), and Yoshie Sakai (photo credit: Muzi Li Rowe).

**EMBARGOED THROUGH TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 3PM ET/12PM PT**

(Los Angeles, CA | March 18, 2026)

**Artadia**, a non-profit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is thrilled to announce the 2026 Los Angeles Artadia Awardees: **Sula Bermudez-Silverman**, **Coleman Collins**, and **Yoshie Sakai**, the 2026 Marciano Art Foundation Artadia Awardee.

The 2026 Los Angeles 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 Los Angeles County for two consecutive years at minimum. We received **562** applications, with **57%** of the applicants identifying as African, African American or Black, Multiracial, Arab, Arab American, Asian or Asian American, Latina/e/o/x, Middle Eastern, or North African; **50%** as women, gender nonconforming, or nonbinary; and **51%** as emerging artists.

This year's Los Angeles Artadia Awards are supported by the Marciano Art Foundation, 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 **Darol Olu Kae**, **Tidawhitney Lek**, and **Reynaldo Rivera**, selected by Round 1 jurors **Nina Bozicnik**, Senior Curator, Henry Art Gallery; **Ade Omotosho**, Nancy and Tim Hanley Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, Dallas Museum of Art; **Aurora Tang**, Independent Curator / Program Officer, PST ART.

"It was an honor to serve as a juror of the Artadia Awards and to encounter an incredible array of artists working in Los Angeles across material, form, and lines of research," shared **Bozicnik**.

"While I was familiar with some of the artist applicants, many were new to me, sparking curiosity and an interest to follow the work that evolves from these artists in the future. This group of finalists includes six distinct artistic voices, each exhibiting a depth of engagement with their respective mediums that animates the incredible possibilities of what art can be and what it can envision for our collective humanity."

"The deliberation at the center of the jurying process was deeply collaborative and made room for various critiques and perspectives, giving rise to a dynamic selection of finalists as a result" said **Omotosho**. "These finalists represent a cohort committed to thinking rigorously and expansively about the stakes and possibilities of their chosen mediums, using them to examine systems of power, their personal lives, and their communities."

"It was a pleasure serving as an Artadia juror, and an honor to play a role in the process of making unrestricted grants to artists engaging in rigorous and poignant work in Los Angeles, a city with such robust communities of artists, and a place I am fortunate to call home," reflected **Tang**.

All six finalists held virtual studio visits with Round 2 jurors **Idurre Alonso**, Head of Modern and Contemporary Collections, Getty Research Institute, and **Aurora Tang**, Independent Curator / Program Officer, PST ART, who served as our local juror present for both rounds.

"**Yoshie Sakai** is an interdisciplinary artist whose immersive and playful installations explore aging as a site of connection," shared Alonso. "Through humor, interactivity, and narrative play, she engages viewers in conversations that emerge from her perspective as the child of a Japanese immigrant family in Los Angeles. Her work transforms personal histories into broader reflections on community, identity, and the complexities of growing older."

"Through performance, video, and installation imbued with humor, Yoshie Sakai confronts difficult realities of aging in a society lacking systematic support for elders and their caretakers," added Tang.

"**Sula Bermudez-Silverman's** practice is grounded in a deep engagement with the material histories of objects," noted Alonso. "Her work emerges from rigorous research that often brings to the surface colonial legacies and geopolitical narratives embedded within everyday objects. By crafting delicate pieces from substances such as sugar and glass, she investigates how materials function as carriers of historical memory, revealing the ways in which objects can hold stories of power, labor, and identity."

Tang reflected on the depth of Bermudez-Silverman's research, "Sula Bermudez-Silverman conducts deep research into the significance and history of the objects that surround our daily lives, investigating the ways in which symbol or material can act as a carrier of historical memory."

"**Coleman Collins'** work engages questions of global Black consciousness and diaspora," explained Alonso. "His practice also examines the circulation of capital and people, the architectural spaces shaped by the histories of slavery and plantation economies, and the politics of representation. Collins is deeply invested in the tensions between the physical and the virtual; his recent explorations with 3D imaging and digital forms probe how technology mediates identity and historical memory."

"Coleman Collins' work considers the shifting landscape of image and representation of place, exploring the ways in which physical sites of social, political, and cultural confluence are understood and experienced on-site, on-screen, and beyond," said Tang.

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.

### **Press Contact**

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## **About the Awardees**

[Sula Bermudez-Silverman](#) (any pronouns)

Sula Bermudez-Silverman works somewhere between the archive and the laboratory, following the obscure histories of commodities and objects. Her practice spans a wide range of materials, from uranium glass and animal traps to hair gel, chili flakes, honey bees and pearls. Through intensive research into trade routes and mythological narratives, she examines the imprint history leaves on objects and bodies, inviting viewers to reconsider their relationship with the material world they have inherited. Sula holds an MFA in Sculpture from Yale School of Art. Her work was featured in *Made in LA: Acts of Living* at the Hammer Museum (2023) and will be included in the 2026 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

[Coleman Collins](#) (he/him)

Coleman Collins (b. 1986) is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and researcher whose work explores notions of diaspora in relation to technological methods of transmission, translation, copying, and reiteration. His most recent projects examine the connections between things-in-the-world and their digital approximations, paying particular attention to the ways in which real and virtual spaces are socially produced.

Recent exhibitions and screenings of his work have taken place at e-flux, New York; Ehrlich Steinberg, Los Angeles; Herald Street, London; the Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna; Carré d'Art, Nîmes; Soldes, Los Angeles; the Palestine Festival of Literature, Jerusalem/Ramallah; Larder, Los Angeles; Hesse Flatow, New York; and Brief Histories, New York. He has received support from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. His work is in the permanent collection of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

[Yoshie Sakai](#) (she/her)

Yoshie Sakai is an interdisciplinary artist who infuses humor and tragedy to platform historically overlooked perspectives on immigrant family dynamics and cultural identity. Sakai takes moments from her life as a Japanese American artist in South Bay Los Angeles to create immersive character-driven narratives that address difficult emotions and emphasize Interconnectivity.

Sakai has always been interested in asking viewers to reconsider their perspectives. Growing up with conservative immigrant parents, she learned to harness humor and entertainment to filter social issues and encourage progressive change. She still does this with her art practice. She uses curiosity, humor and compassion to subvert expectations and expand accessibility.

## **About the finalists**

[Darol Olu Kae](#) (he/him)

Darol Olu Kae is a Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker whose research-driven practice spans moving image, sound, photography, and printed material to examine the social and spiritual forces shaping Black cultural production. Working at the intersection of cinema and visual culture, he explores the lifeworlds of community ecosystems, particularly the legacies of

jazz collectives, as frameworks for understanding relational life, impermanence, spirituality and devotion. Kae interrogates the embodied labor and lived practices of Black life, foregrounding how we gather, feel, and create together, sustaining one another even under conditions of duress, where survival itself becomes a collective practice.

[Tidawhitney Lek](#) (she/her)

Lek (b. 1992, Long Beach, CA) lives in Long Beach and works in downtown Los Angeles. She completed her BFA at California State University of Long Beach, and has been included in major exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University; and the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Her work has been acquired by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Pérez Art Museum Miami, and was recently selected for the 2026 Venice residency with Victoria Miro Gallery.

Tidawhitney Lek is a contemporary painter who navigates figurative surrealism and captures themes of intimate domesticity, collective memory, and cultural identity, using narratives and documentation to nuance ideas and history in her subject matter. Lek's paintings collide and extend the dialogue between place, figures, objects, and time, redefining the perspective or point of view. Lek finds inspiration in the mundane where tension is subdued, and the serene interrupted, reframing the idiosyncratic experience as it reflects one's representation of society.

[Reynaldo Rivera](#) (he/him)

Reynaldo Rivera (b. 1964, Mexicali, Mexico) grew up between Mexico and the United States, moving through San Diego de la Unión, Los Angeles, and Stockton, California. Since the 1980s, he has photographed trans women, drag performers, and chosen family, creating an intimate and evolving record of queer Latino Los Angeles grounded in trust and shared experience. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions including *Fistful of Love/También la belleza* at MoMA PS1 (2024) and is held in the collections of institutions such as Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Los Angeles is where Reynaldo Rivera learned to see, and where he continues to photograph his friends, chosen family, and generations of queer and trans communities from within a shared history of trust. He keeps working because the forces that threaten to erase these communities—through violence, displacement, and forgetting—have not disappeared. This ongoing record exists so future generations know they were here, that they belong, and that queer and trans people helped shape the culture, imagination, and this city.