

ARTADIA  
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ORGANIZATION  
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EST 1999

## THE 2026 21c ARTADIA AWARD COMES TO NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

*\$15,000 in Unrestricted Funds Supporting Local Artists Through  
Our Partnership with 21c Museum Hotels*



Monica Mahoney, Making Change, 1962, Located in the 21c Hotel in Bentonville.

**EMBARGOED THROUGH THURSDAY, MAY 21ST AT 1PM ET/12PM CT**

(Bentonville, AR | May 21, 2026)

Artadia, a non-profit grantmaking organization and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, is excited to announce that Northwest Arkansas has been selected as this year's city for the **sixth annual 21c Artadia Award!** This opportunity provides **\$15,000 in unrestricted funds** to one visual artist living and working in the Northwest Arkansas area in partnership with 21c Museum Hotels.

Launched in Louisville in 2021, the 21c Artadia Award is a long-term partnership that annually provides \$15,000 to one artist living and working in the unique creative communities where 21c Museum Hotels are located.

“Support from this generous award has allowed me to invest in my practice in such a meaningful way. This honor has affirmed my work and given me the financial stability to bring creative

projects to fruition with intention and care. I am very grateful.” – **Jen Everett**, 2025 21c St. Louis Artadia Awardee

Previous 21c Artadia Award cycles have granted four artists with unrestricted awards – Kiah Celeste (2021 Louisville), Kathy Liao (2022 Kansas City), André Leon Gray (2023 Research Triangle), Erika NJ Allen (2024 Cincinnati), and Jen Everett (2025 St. Louis).

We encourage all eligible Northwest Arkansas artists to take advantage of this opportunity to receive substantial funding and join a **nationwide community of over 400 artists**.

The 21c Northwest Arkansas Award application is an open call, free to apply, and available to visual artists currently living and working within Bentonville and Washington Counties, Arkansas.

“We are pleased to spotlight the burgeoning Northwest Arkansas artist community in Bentonville this year through our annual partnership with Artadia, for the sixth 21c Artadia Award. This amazing opportunity provides networking and financial support to artists working in communities often passed over in favor of established markets in larger cities. It exposes the creative endeavors of individuals working in regions where there is always something new and exciting happening congruently to places like NY and LA, proving there is indeed a ‘There’ there. Drawing upon a wide survey of artists born in or assimilated to the communities they call home, this award recognizes and celebrates cultural significance and universal shared experiences of expression.”  
– **Patrick Weber**, Senior Director of Museum Operations, 21c Museum Hotels

Mark your calendar for **June 15th** when the application opens. Visit [Artadia's website](#) to learn more. And spread the word to artists in your community!

### **About 21c Museum Hotel Bentonville**

Located in the heart of Bentonville and walking distance from Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, 21c Museum Hotel blends contemporary art with a unique hotel experience, offering an inspiring space for culture, creativity, and comfort.

### **About 21c Museum Hotels**

21c Museum is a multi-venue museum and boutique hotel located in six cities.. One of the largest contemporary art museums in the U.S., and North America’s only collecting museum dedicated solely to art of the 21st century, each property features exhibition space open free of charge to the public, combined with a boutique hotel and restaurant. It was founded in 2006 by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson; philanthropists, preservationists, and collectors, committed to expanding access to contemporary art as a means of catalyzing revitalization and civic connection. 21c presents a range of arts programming led by Senior Director of Museum Operations, Patrick Weber, including both solo and group exhibitions that reflect the global nature of art today, as well as site-specific, commissioned installations, and a variety of cultural events. The organization collaborates on arts initiatives with artists and organizations worldwide, including Speed Art Museum, North Carolina Museum of Art, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Artadia, Creative Time, For Freedoms, and others.

**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**

[Jonathan Michael Castillo](#) (he/him)

Jonathan Michael Castillo's work is focused on people, place, the communities and groups that people form, the social issues that affect populations and how people navigate larger systems of government and bureaucracy. Utilizing photography, video, installation and handmade paper his projects operate as both social documentary and socially engaged art. Topics such as immigration, labor, economics, debt, government systems and how those subjects overlap are prominent themes in his work.

Castillo (b. 1982, Los Angeles, CA) is a visual artist, photographer and educator based in Chicago. His work has been featured with The New Yorker, Wired, The Chicago Tribune and CBS: Los Angeles. Jonathan was recently commissioned to create a large-scale permanent installation of his work at O'Hare International Airport as part of the Terminal 5 expansion project. In 2023 he was commissioned to make work for the city of Chicago's Citywide Plan in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Planning and Development.

[Nick Raffel](#) (he/him)

Nick Raffel's work in sculpture and installation considers architectural and infrastructural systems which facilitate the flow of air, water, and gas. Recent works intervene in pre-existing mechanical systems, questioning their efficiency, sustainability, adaptability, and healthfulness. Raffel considers passive solutions to energy production and the ways designed objects, including his sculptures, are situated within and relative to natural forms of energy.

Nick Raffel (b. 1982, Portland, Maine) lives and works in Chicago. Upcoming and recent exhibitions include Bodenrader, Chicago; Artists Space, New York City; Cushion Works, San Francisco; Swiss Institute, New York City; Bridget Donahue, New York City; Fondazione Prada, Venice; Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University, Middletown; Prairie, Chicago; Pied-à-terre, San Francisco, and Kunstverein Nürnberg. Raffel holds an MFA from the University of Chicago.

[Mindy Rose Schwartz](#) (she/her)

Mindy Rose Schwartz is a sculptor and installation artist whose work draws on personal memory and craft traditions to conjure objects that feel both familiar and uncanny. She is interested in ways the intended significance or function of mass-produced objects can oscillate in our perception being sites of fear or control as well as sentiment, longing, and pleasure. Her work has dealt with processing loss, creating objects as memorials, and vehicles for affective transformation.

Mindy Rose Schwartz lives and works in Chicago. She holds an MFA in studio arts from the University of Illinois in Chicago and has an upcoming solo show at M. LeBlanc Gallery in Chicago. Solo exhibitions of her work have been featured at Sophie Tappeiner in Vienna (2025), Interstate Projects in New York (2021), Et. Al. Gallery in San Francisco (2020), Queer Thoughts at Balice Hertling in Paris (2017), Queer Thoughts in New York (2017), and at Atlanta Contemporary (2017).

Selected group exhibitions include: Artists Space in New York City, US (2025), King's Leap in New York City (2024), Tatjana Pieters Gallery in Ghent, BE (2021), The Renaissance Society in Chicago, US (2002), Room E-10 27 in Berlin, DE (2018), Carlos Ishikawa in London, UK (2018), Cooper Cole in Toronto, CA (2017), Alter Space in Los Angeles, US (2016), Galerie Hussenot in Paris, FR (2015) and Arcadia Missa, UK (2015). She was a recipient of the Helen Coburn Meier and Tim Meier Foundation, Meier Achievement Award (2012), a 3Arts Fellowship at Ragdale Residency (2010).

### **About the finalists**

[Jonas N.T. Becker](#) (they/them)

Jonas Becker's work examines land, labor, and extraction, often reflecting underrepresented rural issues. His research-based practice excavates layers of marginalized histories, drawing attention to the ways systems of power place value on bodies and the landscape. Becker works across mediums, including photography, film, sculpture, and performance. Increasingly, he has centered this work in the Appalachian region, where he is from.

Jonas N.T. Becker (b. Morgantown, WV) has exhibited internationally, recently including a survey exhibition at The Wexner Center for Contemporary Art, and exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, FotoFocus Biennial, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and the Driehaus Museum. His work is published in Frieze, The Brooklyn Rail, and MIT Press/New Museum's anthology Trap Door: Trans Cultural Production and the Politics of Visibility. Recent awards include the Magnum Foundation Counter Histories Award, Lucas Artist Residency at Montalvo Art Center, and Wexner Artist Residency Award. Becker lives and works in West Virginia and Chicago, where he is an Associate Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

[Le Hien Minh](#) (she/her)

Le Hien Minh is a Vietnamese artist currently based in Chicago, whose work is shaped by her experiences growing up in post-war Vietnam during the 1980s and 1990s, a time of nation-building marked by utopian dreams, political upheaval, and the harsh realities of a war-torn country, which formed the foundation of her artistic vision. Rooted in these experiences, Minh examines the collision point between lived reality and visionary possibility, creating works in which the boundaries between actuality and potentiality, the real and the imagined, remain fluid. Her contemplative yet provocative work blends mysticism, cultural investigation, and matriarchal concepts, addressing human-made systems, both visible and invisible, that govern our world.

Le Hien Minh is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships from the Finnish Cultural Foundation (Finland), the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (Japan), the Goethe- Institut (Germany), the Asian Cultural Council (New York), the 3Arts Ignite Fund (Chicago), and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Her work has been featured in exhibitions across galleries and institutions such as the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan; the Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi; and the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, as well as in public spaces, including the historic Buddhist temple Myorakuji (Japan) and Töölönlahti Bay (Helsinki). In 2026, Minh presents her work in The Spirits of Maritime Crossing, a Collateral Event of the 61st Venice Biennale, held at the historic Palazzo Rocca Contarini Corfù in Venice.

[Sherwin Ovid](#) (he/him)

Sherwin Ovid's work makes productive misuse of the language of rational geometric diagrams, using drawing and hybrid media to chart speculative crossings between physical and virtual space. Through handmade and digitally altered marks drawn from Afro-Caribbean cosmograms and hidden networks, his practice navigates geographic symbols as shifting coordinates that encode presence, loss, and unsettled relations to place and to one another. His traces of broken grids and improvisational gestures are layered as provisional maps—unstable diagrams that question orientation, belonging, and territorial boundaries.

Ovid, who hails from Trinidad while currently based in Chicago, is an artist whose career is grounded in a generative studio practice shaped by teaching and an ongoing interest in how we inhabit space. He earned his MFA as a Lincoln Fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is an Assistant Professor of Instruction at Northwestern University. His work has been exhibited at institutions including the Chicago Cultural Center, Gallery 400, UIS Visual Arts Gallery, Cleve Carney Art Gallery, and Goldfinch Gallery and has received support from the Illinois Arts Council, 3Arts Award, and Helen Coburn Meier and Tim Meier Foundation.