

**ARTADIA  
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For Immediate Release

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**ARTADIA ANNOUNCES SIX FINALISTS FOR THE 2020 LOS ANGELES AWARDS**

NEW YORK, NY - Artadia is pleased to announce the six Finalists for the 2020 Los Angeles Awards: **Beatriz Cortez, Amir Fallah, Arshia Haq, Alice Könitz, Shizu Saldamando** and **Suné Woods**. The Finalists will receive studio visits with second-round jurors, who will ultimately select three artists as Awardees - two Awardees will receive \$10,000 and one will receive \$25,000 in unrestricted funds. The Finalists were selected by jurors Cole Akers, Curator and Special Projects Manager, The Glass House, New Canaan; Jova Lynne, Curator, the MoCAD, Detroit; and Anuradha Vikram, Independent Curator and writer based in Los Angeles.

Of the process, Vikram noted: "I'm delighted to be a part of providing much needed direct-to-artist support to Los Angeles artists at pivotal moments in their careers through the Artadia grants. The six finalists are wonderfully representative of what makes Los Angeles such a vibrant place to live and work for artists, demonstrating the city's distinct visual cultures and artistic lineages."

Commenting on the submissions, Akers states "The quality of submissions to the 2020 Los Angeles awards was impressive and made it challenging to limit our selection to only six finalists. The compelling work of all who applied reflects the vibrancy of the city's cultural scene."

This is Artadia's fifth Award cycle in Los Angeles. The application was open to all visual artists living in Los Angeles for over two years, working in any media, and at any stage of their career. Finalists and Artadia Award recipients are selected through Artadia's rigorous, two-tier jury review process. In the first round of review, jurors evaluated the merit of all submissions and collaboratively determined the six Finalists.

Artadia is a national non-profit organization that supports artists with unrestricted Awards followed by a lifetime of program opportunities. Artadia is unique in that it allows any artist to apply, engages nationally recognized artists and curators to review work, and culminates in direct grants. Since 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$5 million to more than 335 artists in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

The 2020 Los Angeles Artadia Awards are generously supported by Angeles Art Fund, Capital Group, GRoW Annenberg, Marciano Art Foundation, Artadia's Board of Directors, Artadia Los Angeles Council members, and individual donors across the country.

For more information please contact: April Swanson, [april@artadia.org](mailto:april@artadia.org)

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**About the Finalists**

**[Beatriz Cortez](#)**



Beatriz Cortez is a multidisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles. She has received the Frieze LIFEWTR Inaugural Sculpture Prize (2019), Rema Hort Mann Foundation Emerging Artist Grant (2018), and California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists (2016), among others. She holds an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts, and a doctorate in Latin American Literature from Arizona State University. She teaches at California State University, Northridge. Beatriz Cortez is represented by Commonwealth and Council, Los Angeles. Beatriz Cortez's work explores simultaneity, life in different temporalities and versions of modernity, memory and loss in the aftermath of war and the experience of migration, and in relation to imagining possible futures.

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Amir Fallah



Amir H. Fallah creates paintings, sculptures, and installations that utilize personal history as an entry point to discuss race, representation, the body, and the memories of cultures and countries left behind. Through this process, the artist's works employ nuanced and emotive narratives that evoke an inquiry about identity, the immigrant experience, and the history of portraiture. Fallah received his BFA in Fine Art & Painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art and his MFA in painting at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has exhibited extensively in solo and group exhibitions across the United States and abroad. In 2015, Fallah had a solo exhibition at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and received the Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant. In 2009, the artist was chosen to participate in the 9th Sharjah Biennial. Fallah's painting *Calling On The Past* received the 2018 Northern Trust Purchase Prize at EXPO Chicago and is now part of the permanent collection at the SMART Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. In 2019 Fallah was awarded a permanent public art commission by the LA Art Commission and won the COLA Artist fellowship. The artist is also in the permanent collection of the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, McEvoy Foundation For The Arts, San Francisco, Neuman Museum, Kansas City, The Microsoft Collection, Plattsburg State Art Museum, Plattsburgh, NY, Cerritos College Public Art Collection, Norwalk, CA and Salsali Private Museum, Dubai, UAE. The artist currently has a solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tucson.

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[Arshia Haq](#)



Arshia Fatima Haq (born in India, based in Los Angeles) works across film, visual art, performance and sound. Through her multidisciplinary practice, she explores indigenous and informal archives, embodiment and catharsis, and feminist and mystical modes rooted in the Muslim world, but marginalized both within conservative Islam and Western imagination. She is the founder of Discostan, a collaborative decolonial project working with cultural and aesthetic production from the SWANA (South and West Asia and North Africa) region. Narrative threads include migration, celebration, warfare, nostalgia, homeland, and borders, often within realms of Islamic influence, through both traditional forms and kaleidoscopic reinventions via pop culture. aq's work has been featured at Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson, the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Broad Museum, LACE, Toronto International Film Festival, MOMA New York, Hammer Museum, LAXArt, Centre Georges Pompidou, and the Pacific Film Archive, amongst others. Currently, she hosts and produces monthly radio shows on Dublab and NTS, and recently released an album of field recordings from Pakistan on the Sublime Frequencies label. She received her MFA in Film and Video from California Institute of the Arts in 2005, and is a recipient of the California Community Foundation Visual Artist Fellowship, the Rema Hort Mann Emerging Artist Grant, and the Onassis AIR Fellowship.

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[Alice Könitz](#)



With her sculptures, Alice Könitz's explores the body and conceptual relationships to build structures that organize our social lives. Her experience and memory of places influences the work by establishing proposals for hypothetical situations or institutions. Könitz received her MFA in 1999 from California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. Her work has been exhibited at Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles; Made in LA, UCLA Hammer Museum; Museum der Stadt Mülheim an der Ruhr, Los Angeles; Nächst St Stephan, Vienna; among others. Könitz's work has been featured in publications such as The New York Times; The Los Angeles Times; The Art Newspaper; and Mousse Magazine among others.

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[Shizu Saldamando](#)



Shizu Saldamando lives and works in Los Angeles and received her B.A. from UCLA's School of Arts and Architecture and her M.F.A. from California Institute of the Arts. Her drawings, paintings, sculptures, and videos have been exhibited both locally and internationally and experiment with a broad range of surfaces and materials. Saldamando's portraiture employs video, painting and drawing on canvas, wood, paper and cloth, and functions as homage, as well as documentation, of friends within subcultures around the Los Angeles metropolitan area. She reimagines alternative Chicanx and Indigenous identities through portraiture and video-based work. Her work infuses mixed media and cross-generational portraiture that offers both a critique of traditional figures in art and a celebration of in-between spaces and the bodies that inhabit them. Confronting the viewer in quiet, lingering encounters, Saldamando establishes a formal intimacy for each portrait.

A selection of her solo exhibitions include LA Intersections, Oxy Arts, Highland Park, CA; When You Sleep: A Survey of Shizu Saldamando, Vincent Price Art Museum, Monterey Park, CA; All Tomorrow's Parties, Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, PA; and Stay Gold, Space 47, San Jose, CA. Selected group exhibitions include: Phantom Sightings at Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Portraits of the Encounter, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Trans-Pacific Borderlands, part of the Getty Pacific Standard Time initiative at the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA; We Must Risk Delight: Twenty Artists from Los Angeles, an official collateral exhibition of the Venice Biennale; Drawing the Line at Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA and The High Art of Riding Low at the Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles, CA.

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Suné Woods



Suné Woods work takes the form of multi-channel video installations, photographs, and collage. Her work has been presented in exhibitions including *Made in L.A. 2018*, Hammer Museum, *When A Heart Scatter, Scatter, Scatter*, Everson Museum of Art (2017) and Woods is a recipient of the *Visions from the New California* initiative, *The John Gutmann Fellowship Award*, and *The Baum Award for an Emerging American Photographer*. In my videos I work with people in my community to probe questions that deeply concern me. I utilize waterscapes to speak about existence, notions of intimacy, and relationships to aquatic ecology. How language is emoted, guarded, and translated through the absence/presence of a physical body are among my interests. I construct single and multi-channel video installations for people to immerse themselves within.