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Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue
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LEADING CURATORS SELECT ARTADIA AWARDEES 2009 BOSTON

New York, NY—Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue is delighted to announce the Artadia Awards 2009 Boston. For three consecutive days (July 29-Aug 1, 2009), three internationally prominent jurors—Peter Eleey (Visual Arts Curator, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis), Rita Gonzalez (Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art), and Randi Hopkins (Associate Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston)—conducted studio visits with 15 short-listed artists drawn from nearly 600 applicants in the metro Boston area. This is Artadia's second cycle in Boston following the inaugural awards cycle in 2007.

The two Artadia Awardees 2009 Boston at the \$15,000 level are: Amie Siegel and Joe Zane; the five recipients of the \$3,000 awards are: Claire Beckett, Ambreen Butt, Caleb Cole, Raul Gonzalez, and Eric Gottesman. (See attachment for images and descriptions of the awardees' work.)

Artadia Founder and Board President Christopher E. Vroom commented: "The vibrancy of Boston's cultural community is reflected in the outstanding caliber of artistic production evidenced by the seven *Artadia Award* recipients. We are proud to support artists and the process of art-making both here and around the country. Artists, in their capacity as creative producers, educators, civic leaders, and mentors, truly represent a foundation upon which our creative legacy will rest. We are indebted to them and they must be supported, particularly during times of economic turmoil."

"Boston is home to so many gifted visual artists," said Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston. "I wish to congratulate the awardees on their achievement and thank Artadia for highlighting our vibrant arts community."

Peter Eleey said of the process: "It was a pleasure to be introduced to such a varied cross section of the artist community in Boston, and to participate in a process that gives unrestricted funds directly to artists in support of their work at a time when they need it more than ever."

Rita Gonzalez added: "Each studio visit made clear the true heterogeneity of approaches and references at play in Boston. Our selections capture this diversity. I think our choices suggest how Artadia can be of equal importance to artists at different phases in their professional development."

Applications for the *Artadia Awards* were open to visual artists in all media and at any stage of their career working and living in metro Boston. The application was available online for two months from April 15 – June 15, 2009. The three first-round jurors—Sanford Biggers (artist, New York), Dan Cameron (Founding Director, Chief Curator, Prospect New Orleans), and Randi Hopkins (Associate Curator, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston)—reviewed 577 applications and selected the 15 finalists in New York in June.

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Visionary support for Artadia in Boston is provided by the LEF Foundation, two anonymous family foundations, and many generous individuals.



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About Artadia: The Fund for Art and Dialogue

Artadia's mission is to encourage innovative practice and meaningful dialogue across the United States by providing visual artists in specific communities with unrestricted awards and a national network of support. Artadia was founded as The ArtCouncil in 1997 by investment banker and art collector Christopher E. Vroom as a response to the demise of the National Endowment for the Arts' artist fellowships. The first awards were given in San Francisco, where Vroom was living at the time. Chicago was added as a program city in 2001. In 2003, Artadia added Houston to its roster, Boston in 2007, and Atlanta this year. Once Artadia commits to a community, it returns every other year to run its awards programs and, on the off years, it co-sponsors a public program with a local institution. Started as an individual's philanthropy, Artadia is now active throughout the United States supporting the core of creative culture: the individual artist.

Artadia Awards are determined through a rigorous jury process that employs nationally prominent curators, artists, and critics. Artadia partners with local foundations and individuals in the host cities to raise funds that go directly to artists in that community. Artadia matches those contributions by providing the funds that administer the program. Once an artist receives an *Artadia Award*, he or she becomes part of a national network of support forever. Since its founding, Artadia has awarded over \$2 million to more than 200 artists in its participating cities Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, and San Francisco.

This year Artadia launched a New York Artist Residency program, which brings Artadia Awardees from each of its program cities to New York for a three-month residency at the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP). This groundbreaking addition to Artadia's commitment to individual artists is the first of its kind in New York City for US-based visual artists and is supported by the National Endowment for Arts. Artadia also present events in New York and Miami, which are intended to not only demonstrate the tremendous creativity in partner communities, but also facilitate exchange and dialogue nationwide.

For press inquiries and information on Artadia, contact news@artadia.org.

For information on becoming a member or joining The National Council at Artadia, contact: Lila Kanner, Executive Director, lilakanner@artadia.org; 212-727-2233 ext. 207.

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Artadia Awardees 2009 Boston



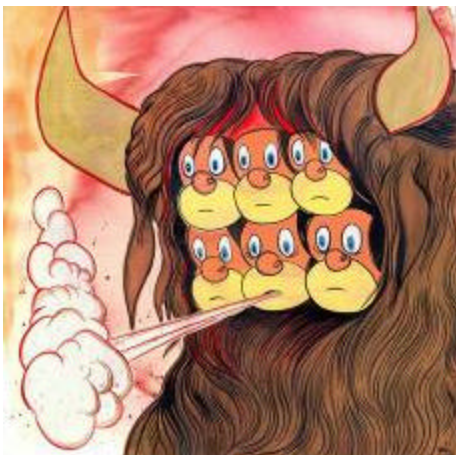
Since 2005, Claire Beckett has been photographing portraits of recently enlisted, young soldiers in U.S. training camps and simulated Iraqi locations used for training. Working within "conceptual documentary," Beckett is interested in the postures, costumes, make-believe settings, and role-playing of combat training, while also revealing the individual soldier on a human level. The fake Iraqi villages are meant as imitations of reality, but end up taking on their own reality. Holding a MFA from Massachusetts College of Art, Beckett has exhibited at Bernard Toale Gallery and at Chelsea Art Museum, New York this spring. *Civilian Joshua Osborne playing the role of an Iraqi civilian, Wadi Al-Sahara, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, CA, 2008, 2008, archival ink print, 30 x 40 inches*



A native of Pakistan, Ambreen Butt pairs techniques from a centuries-old Persian painting style with other media to narrate issues of gender, power, intellectual freedom, human rights, and cultural stereotypes. Influenced by Sufi and Pakistani poetry, Butt constructs diaristic tales with layers of paper and translucent Mylar that incorporate elements of collage, watercolor, white gouache, and stitching. These koans, or meditative paradoxes, pose unanswerable questions, entangling its heroine in arabesques of moral struggle. Butt's works have been exhibited internationally. She has been awarded two Joan Mitchell grants and the ICA/Boston Foster Prize in 1999. *Untitled, from the portfolio "dirty pretty," 2008, lithograph, etching, silkscreen, 17 ¼ x 15 inches*



Caleb Cole is fascinated with ambiguities and inconsistencies, and his photographs follow his interest in how people negotiate areas of grey. He merges photography and performance in the portrait series "Other People's Clothes." Cole finds or buys other people's clothing, then creates a persona and narrative based on his initial reaction to the garments. Using set pieces, he portrays a moment right before something changes, the silence before what is to come. Cole recently graduated from New England School of Photography and his work has been exhibited at SF Camerawork, the New York Photo Festival, and at the Artists Foundation, Boston. *February is Dental Month, 2008, archival inkjet print, 13 x 19 inches*



Raul Gonzalez is a self-taught artist and cartoonist whose work takes the forms of posters, billboards, set design, and illustrated books. His drawings in the "Pelt" series depict skewed romanticized versions of the American West that he describes as Frederick Remington and John Ford crossed with Walt Disney. His buffalo characters meld with images of Native Americans, creating hybrid creatures that "have been dehumanized and can therefore be tortured and humiliated without any lasting of guilt or consequence before disappearing from our memories altogether." His work has recently been exhibited at Tufts Aidekman Gallery and The Drawing Center in New York. *Buffalo, from "Pelt Series," 2008, mixed media, 15 x 15 inches*

Artadia Awardees 2009 Boston



Eric Gottesman is a collaborative community artist working in Ethiopia, Lebanon, and Labrador. Recently, he has been researching the history of photography during the “Ethiopian Red Terror” when the Soviet-supported government outlawed photography and portraits were allowed only in “photographing centers.” This psychological legacy continues to mystify national identity and politics. Gottesman records the photographic artifacts from that time, probing the nature of the document and terror. A recipient of an Aaron Siskind Foundation grant and a Fulbright Fellowship, Gottesman will have a solo exhibit at Duke University in August 2009.

Mother and Son Reunited (1978/2002), Rephotographed and Degraded, 2006, inkjet print, 24 x 17 inches



Amie Siegel employs film, video, photography, sound, and writing in her work. She reformulates cinematic strategies such as the remake or the establishing shot to upend expectations about the genres with which they are associated (documentary, fiction, historical, etc.). Germany’s complex history provides rich material for Siegel’s investigation of issues concerning cultural memory, identity, and the cinematic portrayal of place. The ruminating psychological and intellectual content of Siegel’s works posits that everything is subject to shifting interpretation. Featured at the 2008 Whitney Biennial, Siegel was a Guggenheim Fellow and has exhibited internationally.

Berlin Remake, 2005, 2-channel video installation, exhibition view



Joe Zane’s inquiry into essential questions that circulate around the making and presentation of art employs a variety of media including drawing, painting, video, and sculpture. With wit and humor, Zane’s pieces range from questioning a viewer’s urge to locate meaning in a work of art to lampooning his own unfulfilled wishes for critical attention. These works include a fabricated unauthorized *Phaidon* monograph and an issue of *Artforum*, starring himself on the cover. Zane’s work has recently been exhibited at MassMOCA and Lora Reynolds Gallery, Austin, TX. He was a finalist for Printed Matter’s 2009 Awards for Artists.

Schadenfreude, 2008, silver plated ABS, black walnut, 12 x 10 x 10 inches

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