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ARTADIA AND 21c MUSEUM HOTELS ANNOUNCE THE 2022 21c KANSAS CITY AWARDEE



Kathy Liao, *Liu Nian*, 2021.

Embargoed through **August 25th, 12pm CST**
(Kansas City, MO | August 25th, 2022)

21c Museum Hotels, a multi-venue contemporary art museum and award-winning hospitality company, and **Artadia**, a nonprofit grantmaker and nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons, are thrilled to announce that **Kathy Liao** has been selected as the 2022 21c Kansas City Artadia Awardee.

Press-approved images of the artist's work are available [here](#).

The 2022 21c Kansas City Artadia Award is generously supported by 21c Museum Hotels, the Artadia Board of Directors, Artadia Council Members, and individual donors across the country.

The Awardee will receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds. In addition to the financial Award of \$10,000, all Awardees have access to the ongoing benefits of the Artadia Awards program. The 2022 21c Kansas City Artadia Award application was open to visual artists working in any visual media, at any stage in their career, living and working within **Cass, Clay, Jackson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, Platte, Ray, and Wyandotte Counties.**

The decision was reached after an extensive two-tiered jurying process, culminating in virtual studio visits with jurors **Daisy Nam**, Executive Director and Curator, Ballroom Marfa, and **Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi**, Curatorial Assistant, Hammer Museum.

Juror **Onyewuenyi** shared sentiments about the award process, “It’s been a really fortunate experience to get both a bird’s eye view of the Kansas City art community alongside a series of intimate, generative conversations about a few artists’ practice. This variable level of engagement provided a sense of the artistic networks that exist across this Midwest City as well as what sustains the nodes within them.”

Fellow juror **Nam** remarked on Liao’s work: “I was taken by Liao’s large-scale paintings that unabashedly take up space, not as a means to occupy, but as a way to fully invite viewers into the work. While her works stem from a personal place of familial stories, memories, and experiences, these intimacies can be felt by her viewers. Her use of scale, textures, layers of paint and striking colors, enliven our senses and awaken the stories that lie within each of us.”

“The sustaining factor dovetailed across the histories of the land, as well as the intimate bonds that care for time, from the here and now to moments that have passed. Taking history, time, and intimacy into consideration, I both felt and saw a shimmering to Liao’s paintings that feel quiet, that keep you submerged in the effect at each layer,” stated **Onyewuenyi**. “It looks and feels like an iridescent collage of time. These shards of intimacy, surfacing on the surface of Liao’s canvas, capture something about the technological moment where our actual and virtual worlds collide like crystal images, ones riddled with *déjà-vu*. I’m excited with how this Artadia grant pushes these crystal images into Liao’s sculpture practice.”

“On behalf of 21c, congratulations to Kathy Liao on the 2022 Artadia/21c award. Kathy’s multi-media practice illuminates a wide range of insights into contemporary conditions, from the immigrant experience to our relationship with technology to how memory shapes perception and perspective,” says 21c Chief Curator **Alice Gray Stites**. “We are proud that her work has been exhibited at 21c Kansas City, and look forward to witnessing how her practice will grow after receiving this award. We are also grateful to the jurors for their thoughtful time and efforts spent with the three talented finalists for the second Artadia/21c award, and look forward to continuing this collaboration in support of individual artists in vibrant communities like Kansas City.”

About 21c Museum Hotel Kansas City

21c Museum Hotel Kansas City includes a 120-room boutique hotel, contemporary art museum, and The Savoy restaurant. 21c Kansas City is located between the Power & Light District and River Market downtown - the perfect base to explore the City of Fountains. The property offers 8,000 square feet of exhibition space featuring rotating, curated contemporary art exhibitions free of charge, seven days a week. 21c Kansas City has 19 suites, including the rooftop 21c Suite with expansive views of downtown. The Savoy, led by executive chef Brandon Brumback, offers a dining experience with deep ties to the community, featuring seasonal ingredients and products from local farmers, distilleries, and family-owned businesses.

About 21c Museum Hotels

21c is a multi-venue contemporary art museum combined with a boutique hotel and chef-driven restaurant with nine properties across the U.S. The company was founded by Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, contemporary art collectors and preservationists committed to expanding access to thought-provoking contemporary art. Each 21c property features a public exhibition space that presents rotating solo and group exhibitions that reflect the global nature of art today and commissioned site-specific installations curated by Museum Director, Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites. 21c collaborates on arts initiatives with artists and organizations worldwide, including the North Carolina Museum of Art, Contemporary Arts Center, Speed Art Museum, Creative Capital Foundation, Creative Time, For Freedoms, and others. Since opening in Louisville, KY, in 2006, 21c Museum has presented nearly 100 exhibitions, including *Cuba Now!*; *Alter Ego: A Decade of Work by Anthony Goicolea*; *Hybridity: The New Frontier*; *Aftermath: Witnessing War, Countenancing Compassion*; *SEEING NOW*; *Wild Card: The Art of Michael Combs*; *Albano Alfonso: Self-Portrait as Light*; *Pop Stars! Popular Culture and Contemporary Art*; *Labor&Materials*, *Fallen Fruit: The Practices of Everyday Life*; *The SuperNatural*; *Dress Up, Speak Up: Regalia and Resistance*; *The Future is Female*; *Truth or Dare: A Reality Show*; *Refuge*; and *Wim Botha: Still Life with Discontent*.

About Artadia

Artadia is a nonprofit grantmaking organization and a nationwide community of visual artists, curators, and patrons. Over two decades, Artadia has worked collaboratively to foster a more just arts economy and improve the conditions necessary for artists from all backgrounds to thrive. We elevate artists' careers at critical moments in their practice through a proven combination of recognition, grantmaking, community support, and advocacy. Since its founding in 1999, Artadia has awarded over \$6 million in unrestricted funds to over 360 artists in 8 cities, with partnerships like the 21c Artadia Award allowing an even further reach.

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