

## **Nasher Sculpture Center Announces the 2022 Nasher Artist Grant Winners**

*Five North Texas Artists to Receive Grants to Support Studio and Curatorial Practices*

DALLAS, Texas (July 29, 2022) – The Nasher Sculpture Center announces the winners of the 2022 Nasher Artist Grants, a program which provides annual financial support to North Texas artists through the distribution of grants that may be used to fund the purchasing of equipment and materials, travel or research, studio space, or artist-run curatorial projects. The 2022 Nasher Artist Grants are made possible by support from Ann and Chris Mahowald and Leigh Rinearson.

The 2022 grant awardees are: Ari Brielle, Ciara Elle Bryant, Liss LaFleur, Goran Maric, and Tina B. Medina.

The 2022 winners were chosen by a jury that included artists Mel Chin, Dr. Lauren Cross, Karla Garcia, and Cynthia Mulcahy. Nasher Associate Curator Dr. Leigh Arnold and Nasher Curator of Education Anna Smith serve on the jury on an annual basis. Each Nasher Artist Grant awardee will receive \$2000 to realize projects related to their practice.

"In a year when so many artists, like so many people around the country, face economic and political challenges, the Nasher is proud to offer support to the artistic community of North Texas," says Curator of Education Anna Smith. "This year's awardees call attention to important voices, from the visionary to the domestic, and shine light on marginalized communities. The jury is pleased to highlight this meaningful work and contribute to these artists' development and success."

2022 Nasher Artist Grants will go towards the realization of the following projects by the award recipients:

### **Ari Brielle Allen**

After receiving a diagnosis of endometriosis, artist Ari Edwards turned the focus of her art to exploring how Black women often suffer from reproductive diseases at higher rates than their non-black counterparts due to generational trauma, documented inequities in the healthcare system, higher stress, and less access to healthy foods. Through photography, drawing, and painting, Edwards is processing her diagnosis and its implications, while framing it within the broader context of health and wellness for Black women in this country, and will use her Nasher Artist Grant to fund an exhibition about the subject this fall in San Antonio. The series consists of self-portrait paintings, drawings of family photos, and photographs printed on silk of her body after surgery.

### **Ciara Elle Bryant Dallas**

Ciara Elle Bryant will use her Nasher Artist Grant to support an upcoming solo exhibition at Southern Methodist University's Mildred J. Hawn Gallery in September 2022. Bryant was asked to create artworks by Meadows School of Art PhD candidate Sophia Salinas based on close readings of Octavia E. Butler's literary work, the result of which are artworks that explore technology and the digital age while considering Butler's themes of power and the urge for a Black Utopia. The exhibition will include several large-scale panels that deploy photography and collage to wrestle with power constructs, as well as new media works and a video installation.

**Liss LaFleur****Denton**

Artist Liss LaFleur will use her Nasher Artist Grant to fund future exhibitions of The Queer Birth Project, a five-year initiative (2022-27) that seeks to promote inclusion by sharing the birth experiences of queer (LGBTQ+) people in the United States. The structure of this project is based on a radical re-envisioning of feminist artist Judy Chicago's Birth Project (1980-85) and includes: a new national survey, a collection of visual artworks for exhibition, and a series of publications. This project is made collaboratively with queer sociologist Katherine Sobering, PhD. Given the landmark decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and the cascading effects of the ruling on everything from bodily autonomy to marriage equality, the project seeks to promote access and support for reproductive healthcare, not just for the queer community but for everyone, expanding cultural ideas relating to the body, birth, and family building.

**Goran Maric****Wylie**

Artist Goran Maric, whose life has been deeply affected by war, will use his Nasher Artist Grant to fund an exhibition that addresses conditions where the normative aspects of a society during peaceful times lose their meaning in wartime, as well as the hope conveyed by individuals engulfed in wartime destitution. Utilizing an anthropological approach to photojournalism, he endeavors to convey the attitudes of the local manual laborers with whom he worked as a contractor at US military bases in Afghanistan by silk-screening their hope-filled faces on military sandbags atop sandbag walls. This element, aided by others that also express memories from the war-torn world, metaphorically addresses the vital, unrecognized support these workers provided to the US military throughout the region.

**Tina B. Medina****Dallas**

Tina Medina will use her Nasher Artist Grant to fund a documentarian project that captures the current cultural identity—the voices, memories, histories, and faces—of Oak Cliff, Dallas, a neighborhood that has ebbed and flowed with various ethnicities and economic classes throughout Dallas history and is now rapidly changing due to gentrification and the influx of developers and property tax changes. For the project, Medina will create audio records of personal family histories and of individuals from various backgrounds who live in the neighborhood, which will then be incorporated into an audio-visual installation. The visual installation will include non-literal portraits of the individuals and families, with the intention of conveying the importance of their contributions to the local community and the culture of our nation.

**For images, please follow [this link](#).**

**The next open call for Nasher Artist Grant applications will be in summer 2023.**

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**About the Nasher Sculpture Center:**

Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world, featuring more than 300 masterpieces by Calder, de Kooning, di Suvero, Giacometti, Gormley, Hepworth, Kelly, Matisse, Miró, Moore, Picasso, Rodin, Serra, and Shapiro, among others. The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for children 12 and under and members, and includes access to special exhibitions. For more information and book

advanced tickets, please visit [www.NasherSculptureCenter.org](http://www.NasherSculptureCenter.org).