

Nasher Sculpture Center Announces the 2023 Nasher Artist Grant Winners

Five North Texas Artists to Receive Grants to Support Studio Practices and Creative Projects

DALLAS, Texas (August 7, 2023) – The Nasher Sculpture Center announces the winners of the 2023 Nasher Artist Grants, a program that provides annual financial support to North Texas artists through the distribution of grants. Each awardee receives \$2,000 that may be used toward the purchase of equipment and materials, travel or research, studio space, or artist-run curatorial projects. The 2023 Nasher Sculpture Center Artist Grants are made possible by support from Leigh Rinearson and the Joe Hardt and Marie Park Family Fund.

The 2023 grant awardees are: Alisa Banks, Dan Jian, Felicia Jordan, Antonio Lechuga Jr., and Sarita Westrup.

The winners were chosen by a jury that included artists Kathryn Andrews, John Dickinson, Tina Medina, and Andrea Tosten. Nasher Associate Curator Dr. Leigh Arnold and Nasher Curator of Education Anna Smith serve on the jury on an annual basis.

“It is heartening to see the range of projects that North Texas artists are working on, from those striving to bring light to critical issues, support their community through creative practice, or deepen their personal engagement with materials,” says Curator of Education Anna Smith. “The Nasher is proud to extend support and recognition to contemporary artists in our region.”

2023 Nasher Artist Grants will go towards the realization of the following projects by the award recipients:

Alisa Banks

Dallas

Alisa Banks plans to conduct a self-directed residency in printmaking, setting aside three months to experiment with techniques that will culminate in two new bodies of work. The first will be a series of monoprints and collages using the health education book *It's Perfectly Normal* (1994) as a framework for exploring the rise in book bans and their effect on reproductive justice. The second will be a series of dimensional prints inspired by W.E.B. Dubois's hand-drawn charts for *The Exhibit of American Negroes* at the 1900 World's Fair using an expanded color palette inspired by Amanda Williams's photographic series *Color(ed) Theory* (2014-15).

Dan Jian

Fort Worth

Dan Jian will produce a stop-motion animation titled *Shadow of the Rhizome* using charcoal dust drawings. Jian's repetitive and analog process serves as a generative act that runs counter to the nature of web-media-centric culture. Her visual vocabulary incorporates images such as topographies, airplanes, horses, and native Texas plants that will be personified to create a newly imagined story with humor and absurdity. *Shadow of the Rhizome* will utilize landscape to explore themes of navigating both physical and mental space and seeking a sense of belonging.

Felicia Jordan

Dallas

Felicia Jordan combines traditional and modern techniques to explore themes of trauma and healing. Based on the artist's lived experiences as well as research on how Black people are treated when seeking medical care, Johnson is creating a series of quilted surfaces that share the narratives of Black women who have struggled to be heard when experiencing a health crisis. These artworks depict nameless figures overlaid with stitched, handwritten text meant to provoke a visceral and empathetic reaction to individual stories that might otherwise be lost among medical statistics.

Antonio Lechuga Jr.

Dallas

Antonia Lechuga Jr. will create a large-scale visual marker of the severity and magnitude of the ongoing tragedy of gun violence in the U.S. As a survivor of a random shooting in 2022, Lechuga hopes to create an offering for the families of victims who were not so fortunate. For his project, titled *Flowers for the Living*, Lechuga will cut 647 flowers of differing shapes, colors, and sizes from large fleece *cobijas* (blankets) to create an expansive bouquet of flowers, each representing the family of a victim of gun violence in 2022. The *cobijas*, a fixture in many homes, evoke a sense of security and comfort while offering to grieving families a bouquet that will never wilt or fade away.

Sarita Westrup

Dallas

Sarita Westrup creates sculptural basketry inspired by the Rio Grande Valley where she was born and raised. Westrup reimagines the harsh border line into meandering tunnels, archways, and portals while employing techniques and materials native to northern Mexico. These works translate the artist's own intangible and internalized border experiences in abstracted forms, textures, and transparent layers. Westrup will use grant funds to support the production of new work and for transportation costs related to upcoming exhibitions in California, Virginia, and Australia that will allow her to share her perspective with audiences outside of the region.

For images, please follow the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/on15gpup7krysi2on2ae7/h?rlkey=dbge4uuc1w53q6nhy31fdnf5n&dl=0>

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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 Brancusi, Calder, de Kooning, di Suvero, Giacometti, Basquiat, Hepworth, LeWitt, Matisse, Miró, Moore, Picasso, Rodin, Serra, and Shapiro, among others. The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. 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.