



# FUTURE. ART. AWARDS.

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m o z a i k

## FUTURE.ART.AWARDS Virtual Exhibition

Opening to The Public  
June 30, 2020



Title  
**FUTURE  
ART AWARDS**

Submission Deadline  
**MAY 17, 2020**

Awards Hosted By

**MOZAIK PHILANTHROPY**

Description

**ALL U.S. ARTISTS  
ALL MEDIUMS.  
NO SUBMISSION FEE.  
\$2,000 CASH PRIZES.**

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Thank you to all of the talented artists who submitted to our open call for the MOZAIK Future Art Awards. We stand in admiration and celebration of your works, representing a diverse array of lived experiences and creative expressions.

As part of our emergency rapid relief response, MOZAIK invited artists across the country to share an art piece inspired by times of crisis and social upheaval that can shed light on the current global pandemic and help us imagine alternative futures. The inclusive contest was open to all professional and amateur U.S. artists, and entries were submitted over the course of five weeks between April 10th through May 17th, 2020. All mediums were welcome, including visual/ media arts, sound arts, performance, and social practice. People of Color, Native people, Queer people, Women, and other historically marginalized or underrepresented people were encouraged to submit their art.

**More than 1,100 artists from across the country responded with submissions.**

To deepen MOZAIK's commitment to Flow Funding as a model for diversity, equity, and inclusion in philanthropy, the organization invited its 2019 Flow Funders and Grantees in the arts to serve as judges for a blind review of the submitted works. Winners were announced on May 31st, 2020, with artist honorariums of \$2,000 awarded to each of the ten featured artists. Equitable honorariums were also awarded to the judges for their time and expertise.

The Future Art Awards virtual exhibition, showcasing the works of the featured artists as well as the special mention artists, is set to open free to the public on June 30th, 2020. Please stay tuned here for additional updates.



01  
© VIRTUAL EXHIBITION



# VIRTUAL EXHIBITION IN JUNE 2020

## PAST. PRESENT. FUTURE.

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MOZAIK piloted its first **Flow Fund** in June 2019—a new model in participatory grantmaking that champions diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across all philanthropic activities. Working in collaboration with Kindle Project, the foundation welcomed a group of community artists and arts professionals working across diverse expressive mediums to allocate the foundation’s resources to six innovative artists and organizations working to empower arts activism across Los Angeles.

As part of the foundation’s COVID-19 rapid relief response efforts, MOZAIK invited its flow funders and grantees back as judges to qualify and select the top ten featured artists as part of the MOZAIK Future Art Awards Virtual Exhibition in June 2020.



# FUTURE ART AWARDS JURORS



**TOM FRANCO**

Fine Art Sculptor



Tom is the co-founder and sole director of the Firehouse Art Collective since 2004, which is a progression of 4 community art spaces providing art studios, communal housing, and event spaces in the East Bay Area California, namely the cities of Berkeley and Oakland. The Firehouse mission says: Empowering the practice of artistry for the benefit of personal and community well-being.

In 2020, Firehouse will expand to the cities of Los Angeles and Reno, Nevada. These spaces allow artists to co-create community and culture, with a large emphasis placed on living a truly creative lifestyle. His artwork is regularly displayed and sold through galleries of the Firehouse Art Collective, as well as in shows throughout the United States and overseas. Tom and his main artistic collaborators have developed public art programs, murals, live art happenings and feature films. He regularly teaches art classes and speaks at high schools, colleges and community workshops.



# FUTURE ART AWARDS JURORS



**LIBRE GUTIERREZ**

Visual Artist



Born in Tijuana, Mexico, Libre Gutierrez is a Visual Artist with a major in Architecture currently living in Mexico City. His interest in artistic expression started at a young age with influences in the 90s graffiti scene in the streets of his native Tijuana. Today, his renowned murals, sculptures, and artist workshops span 26 countries and 5 continents, including a number of urban art projects across Los Angeles. Libre works regularly with NGOs, universities, art schools, prisons, festivals, brands, embassies, and diverse communities and movements that focus on urban interventions in low income or vulnerable neighborhoods, using art as a tool for change or as a means to lower violent behaviors and channel energy toward positive community cohesion.



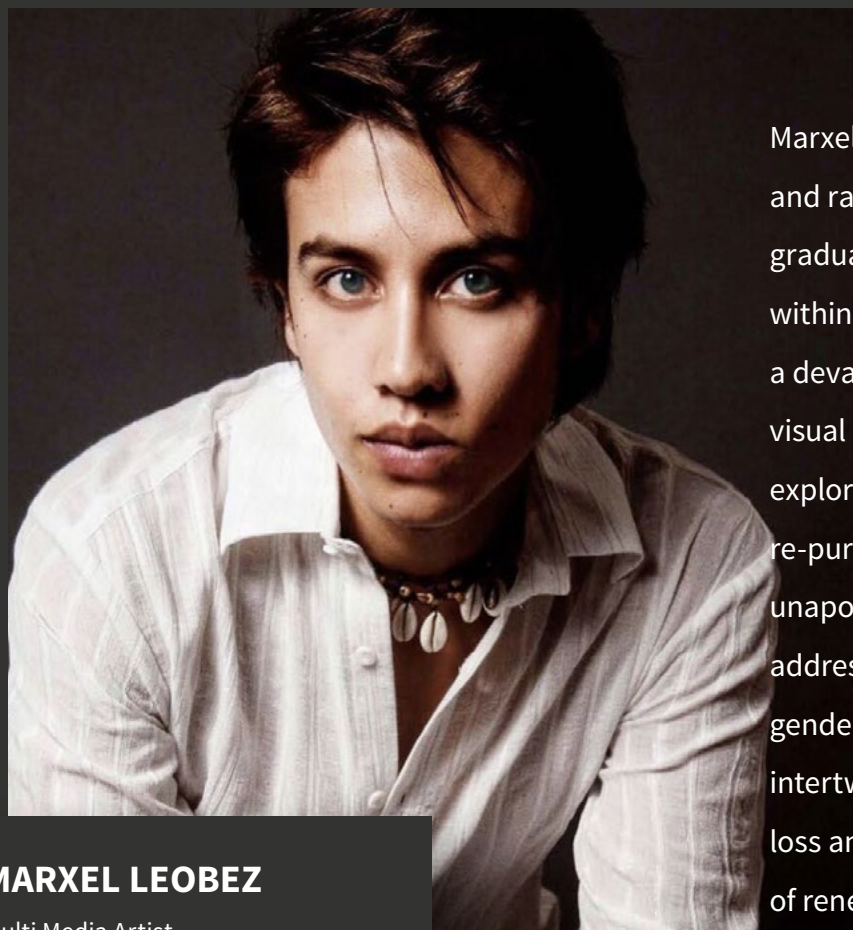
Shiva Balaghi is a cultural historian who specializes in the arts of the Middle East and its diasporic communities. Balaghi's writing and curation are rooted in her view that artists and filmmakers are public intellectuals whose work reflects and engages critical social issues. For nearly two decades, she taught at NYU and Brown University. She is currently Senior Advisor to the President and Provost of the American University in Cairo for Arts and Cultural Programs.

**SHIVA BALAGHI, Ph.D.**

Cultural Historian



# FUTURE ART AWARDS JURORS



**MARXEL LOBEZ**

Multi Media Artist



Marxel is a multi-media latino artist born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Upon graduating from Cornell University, he worked within entertainment until poor health took a devastating toll and pushed him back into visual arts for healing and aggressive self exploration examining unresolved traumas, re-purposing self through unbridled unapologetic self-expression. His work addresses themes of connectivity via gender, race, sex / sexuality and pop culture, intertwining sensual erotic narratives of love, loss and passion under the constant pressures of renegotiating one's place and identity within or against societal norms. His depictions of various subjects are brought to life through vibrant color, varied texture, materials and personal symbolic iconographies from his mixed Latin and European ancestry.



**DAWN MENDELSON**

Artist and Managing Director of Piece by Piece



Southern California artist Dawn Mendelson has been creating and teaching mosaic art for over twenty years, specializing in the pique assiette style, which uses recycled materials. She is the managing director of Piece by Piece, a non-profit organization that brings mosaic art to inner-city communities, including South Central Los Angeles and Skid Row. She also leads art projects through ArtWorksLBC, a healthy neighborhood initiative using art as a conduit to building community and promoting wellness. Dawn works on both big and small projects, from fine small pieces to large scale murals for public and private spaces, and has been featured on PBS and HGTV. Her passion is working with people, especially those who are new to art, and enjoying their moments of self-discovery.



**ATOSSA SOLTANI**

Systems Change Strategist



Atossa Soltani is a campaign strategist, storyteller, and systems thinker who has been working for indigenous rights and rainforest protection for three decades. Atossa is the founder of the nonprofit organization Amazon Watch and serves as its board president. She recently helped launch Artists for Amazonia, bringing together artists and creative influencers in campaigns to catalyze global action for the protection of the Amazon rainforest. She is also a producer of a feature-length documentary film titled The Flow about learning from nature's genius. Atossa is currently serving as the director of global strategy for an alliance of indigenous nations and NGOs that have formed the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative, to protect 74 million acres of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth.

**VOTAN IK**

Indigenous Rights Artists



Votan is a Los Angeles native of Maya and Nahua roots. His work blends the knowledge of his ancestry, graphic design, street art, and awareness of the issues facing native peoples today. He expresses his voice primarily on city streets in the form of large scale murals and street art, to create artworks which including the blending of contemporary art techniques with old Mayan symbolism, and Native American imagery.

Votan is also the owner and founder of NSRGNTS, a collective and band that uses indigenous oral tradition, resistance and Native accomplishments to add strength to indigenous resilience. He's held residencies in Germany, Ecuador, United Arab Emirates, and throughout the United States. He is also featured in the permanent exhibition at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles as a contributor to shaping L.A.'s art history.

# FUTURE ART AWARDS JURORS



## MOZAIK ANNOUNCES FUTURE ART AWARDS FEATURED ARTISTS



**The inclusive contest connects people to the essential power of art during the pandemic and celebrates the creative reimagining of the future.**

“Vision Test / Viewfinder” by artist Jennie E. Park of Santa Clarita, California

“Shaded Oppression” by artist D’nae Harrison of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free” by artist Brian Mark of Brooklyn, New York

“MMMRRRZZZMMM” by artist Solomon Robert Nui Enos of Honolulu, Hawaii

“NOVEL LOVE” by artists Cameron Miller-DeSart and Stephanie Pavlik of Los Angeles, California

“E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many, One)” by artist John Jahni Moore of Huntsville, Alabama

“Front Line” by artist Chuck Styles of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“In The Crowd” by Francesca Bifulco of Los Angeles, California

“Air Jars (Spring 2020 Product Line)” by artist Juliana Haliti of Albany, New York

“Hope” by artist Lesley Thiel of Mooresville, North Carolina

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VISIT WEBPAGE



# FEATURED ARTISTS



**Chuck Styles** Philadelphia, PA

## “Front Line”

Chuck Styles is a multi disciplinary artist based out of the Philadelphia area and born in a small suburb outside of West Philadelphia. Styles was no stranger to poverty and struggle growing up. In many ways, his artwork reflects both the reality of his childhood struggle and his desire for a better financial future.



**Art Description:** Inspired by the Battle of Iwo Jima, this artwork depicts our essential workers from top to bottom who risk their lives every day to help keep society functioning. Thank you to all the Delivery People, Individuals that work in Super Markets, Public Transit Workers, Law Enforcement, Doctors & Nursing Staff. You all are holding the world together. On the front lines.



**Francesca Bifulco** Los Angeles, CA

## “In The Crowd”

Francesca Bifulco is a native Southern Italian multi-media artist from Paestum, living and working in Los Angeles since 2013. Her practice fluctuates between large-scale backdrop canvases and sculptural wooden compositions.

### Art Description:

[VIEW VIDEO](#)





# FEATURED ARTISTS



**Juliana Haliti** Albany, NY

**“Air Jars (Spring 2020 Product Line)”**

Juliana Haliti is a painter and sculptor who explores her fear and anger towards the profligate human effect on the environment through complex collages and representations of the harmful circumstances surrounding it.

**Art Description:** Air Jars (Spring 2020 New Product Line), (1 Gallon) Glass, metal, and paper. “Air Jars” juxtaposes the basic hedonistic human instinct to buy pretty, new, and high end products against the dangerous, human caused and human killing infected air that exists in these places where these pandemic viruses originated.



**Solomon Robert Nui Enos** Honolulu, Hawaii

**“MMMRRRZZZMMM”**

Solomon Robert Nui Enos is a Native Hawaiian artist, educator, and visionary who has been making art for more than 30 years. His work touches on ancestry and identity, the nature of consciousness, the human conundrum, and the future of Hawai‘i.

**Art Description:** This is a photo of a mural that was created as part of the Pow!Wow! Festival in Honolulu. The title is a Neo-Dadaist expression of the sound of unfolding generations. It is the linked hands and the collectivist visual narrative that best summarizes this strange and potentially hopeful time, even amidst the terrible suffering.

**D'nae Harrison**

Philadelphia, PA

**“Shaded Oppression”**

D'nae Harrison is an award-winning interdisciplinary artist, who is currently focused on creating a public art initiative dedicated to improving the quality of life in distressed and impoverished neighborhoods.

**Art Description:** Shaded Oppression is a 4ft x 4ft mixed media painting created in response to the 2016 election results. The social commentary piece utilizes oil paint, fabric, and wood to depict a scene of several individuals masked by their government flag.

**Cameron Miller-DeSart**

Los Angeles, CA

**“NOVEL LOVE”**

Cameron Miller-DeSart is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker (*Kidnapped*, *Lazy Sunday*) with a background in acting and a passion for the technical craft of visual storytelling.

**Art Description:** A narrative short film. A devastating global pandemic. We meet our characters shortly after they've met one another and yet, a crackling energy pulses between them. As the film progresses, we get to see a growing love form, despite impossible circumstances forcing them apart.

**Produced by Stephanie Pavlik****Directed by Cameron-Miller DeSart**

Director of Photography John von Nolde

Starring Jordan Wilson

Starring Nicklaus Von Nolde



# FEATURED ARTISTS



# FEATURED ARTISTS



**Lesley Thiel** Mooresville, NC

**“Hope”**

Lesley Thiel is a self taught figurative artist known for her highly detailed photorealistic paintings. Her paintings speak of the strength of the upcoming generation of young women and girls who may well be our saviors. She questions the accepted narrative of the female voice in society and the myths attached to this.

**Art Description:** A young girl stands alone and isolated in an environment that has been destroyed by fire and which still smolders. On her head she wears a wreath of dead brush: a parody of the wreath of flowers that represents new life and renewal in classical art. Life has been destroyed, but out of it a rich earth is created that will give new life.



**Jennie E. Park** Santa Clarita, CA

**“Vision Test / Viewfinder”**



Jennie E. Park is an artist and writer interested in interdisciplinarity, integrated approaches to healing, and structural social change. (In)vulnerability and (in)visibility recur as practices, tools, or obstacles she explores in relation to her work.

**Art Description:** An optician asks, “Lens 1 or 2?” to ascertain visual acuity while flipping through a series of lenses, and viewfinders at scenic stops enable visitors to zoom into or scrutinize vast vistas. This kinetic sculpture references these practices or technologies of ascertaining, manipulating and interrogating vision by presenting alternate interpretations of the same images, via four phrases.



### Brian Mark

Brooklyn, New York

**“Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”**

NY based composer, pianist and visual artist Brian Mark has been hailed as an “attractive and intelligible” artist (Boston Musical Intelligencer), whose work is “compelling” (London Jazz News), and “preserves the vibrancy and relevance of contemporary art music” (New York Examiner).

**Art Description:** This is a solo work for a trombone and digital delay processing pedal that was written for Madison, WI based trombonist Cole Bartels and was created as a direct result of COVID-19. The title is a verse taken from Emma Lazarus’s iconic 1883 poem “The New Colossus,” which was a tribute to the symbolism of Lady Liberty.



### John Jahni Moore

Huntsville, AL

**“E Pluribus Unum (Out of Many, One)”**

John “Jahni” Moore is a southern born American visual artist. His early years were spent immersed in books, church, and nature. He works primarily in paint and charcoal but often makes use of assemblage as homage to his southern, indigenous, and African roots.

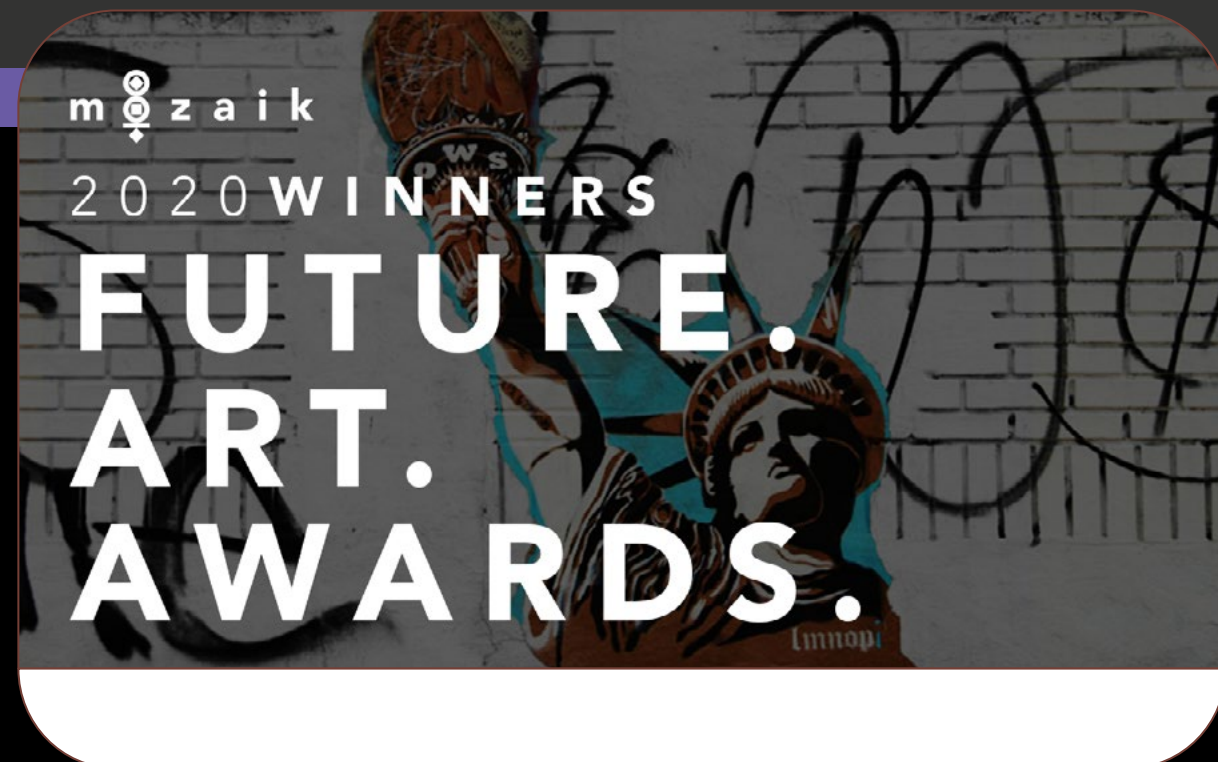
**Art Description:** In this two-dimensional piece, the intense vibrancy of the central colors are brought into a type of suspended animation hanging in the balance of a blue coolness. The piece is backed by mandala-styled configured forearms and hands showing strength in diversity.



# FEATURED ARTISTS



# SUPPORT THE ARTS, SPREAD THE WORD



## SHARE WINNERS PROMO

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## VIEW/SHARE AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARE





# 07

◆ MOZAIK PHILANTHROPY

## MISSION

Exploring and modeling new practices in philanthropy with disruptive, creative, and catalytic potential.



## WHO WE ARE

# MOZAIK PHILANTHROPY

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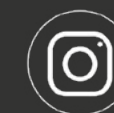
Website: [mozaikphilanthropy.org](http://mozaikphilanthropy.org)

### MOZAIK Philanthropy

Los Angeles, CA

United States

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## ABOUT

We are on a mission to democratize philanthropy by broadening and diversifying our areas of focus through the unique perspectives and grassroots knowledge of our selected grantees and flow funders.

We see a world where the fundamental human rights of all people are realized and upheld. Our vision is to use the intrinsic power of community art, education, and storytelling, to advance universal human rights by uniting cultures, societies, generations, and faiths through the collective celebration of diversity and conscious evolution. Through our work, we hope to inspire the next generation of global citizens and philanthropists.

JOIN US