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## **Arts Council of Indianapolis announces final 2018 recipient of DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award**

INDIANAPOLIS --- The Arts Council of Indianapolis has named a fifth and final recipient for the 2018 DeHaan Artist of Distinction Awards.

Visual artist Cory D Robinson, has been selected for his project, *Magnificence and Monsters*, which will focus on the creation of several furniture scale pieces that examine how the furniture objects of contemporary leaders, specifically dictators, set the tone for the way they prioritize and rule their respective governments. Robinson has a long career of constructing furniture objects that create narratives, but he expects this specific project will feel much more politically charged than his previous works. *Magnificence and Monsters* will draw in viewers with beautiful materials and form, while informing them about power, wealth, and perception.

Robinson, who is an Associate Professor of Art at the Herron School of Art and Design, is one of five contemporary visual artists selected in 2018 to receive the award. All of the awardees were selected for their artistic quality, innovative approach, and impact on the visual arts field.

Each artist receives a \$10,000 award through the generosity of The Christel DeHaan Family Foundation (CDFF). The partnership allowed the Arts Council to create this new artist grant/award program to provide quick turnaround project funding for professional visual artists in central Indiana that promotes, celebrates, recognizes, and rewards excellence.

The four previously announced 2018 recipients are: Anila Quayyum Agha, Kassim Norris, Artur Silva, and Stefan Petranek. Each artist submitted a detailed proposal outlining the intended project, its impact on their career, and how financial assistance would allow them to take the next steps to add this project to their portfolio.

“We couldn’t be more pleased with the second round of DeHaan artists,” said Shannon Linker, Interim President, Arts Council of Indianapolis. “Each of them represents the innovation and high level examination within their practice we were hoping to find. Their

projects all have national and international implications which is also especially exciting for the program.”

Deadlines for the 2019 DeHaan Artists of Distinction Awards will be announced later this fall.

### **About other 2018 artists/projects**

#### **Anila Quayyum Agha**

Creative Renewal Arts Fellow 2013

Anila will use the funds to design, create and fabricate a solo art exhibition composed of two sculptural installations and 12-15 mixed media drawings. The sculptural works will include a large-scale sculptural installation in the shape of either a pyramid or tetrahedron in patterned steel lit with a single light bulb to provide illumination during the day. The show is scheduled to open in January 2019 at Talley Dunn art gallery in Dallas, TX. Some of the work will subsequently be shown at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, TX the following year.

#### **Kassim Norris**

Robert D. Beckman, Jr. Fellow 2015

Kassim will purchase film stock and cover the scanning and processing expenses of filming his feature length film, "Searching for Mary". This film is based on a true story, which he discovered in an article nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, about a mother risking her life by sleeping in her car in a dangerous neighborhood while searching for her missing teenage child. After several conversations with the mother about her journey, it left such an impression on him that he chose to detour from his current project and tell this story instead.

#### **Artur Silva**

Creative Renewal Arts Fellow 2013, and 2005

Artur will create a film essay (between 20 and 40 minutes) exploring the imagery produced by hate groups. He will map out any parallels that might exist between 16th century representations of the aboriginal people in the United States. The film will be professionally edited, color corrected, and sound mixed. Once completed, Artur will submit it to local and national film festivals for consideration, as well as premier it at the auditorium at Herron School of Art and Design and other local rooms.

#### **Stefan Petranek**

Associate Professor of Photography and Intermedia, Herron School of Art and Design

Stefan will create two inter-related bodies of artwork addressing the worrisome projections of climate change by attempting to link the everyday reality of where he lives in the heartland

of America with the melting of mountain glaciers and transforming ocean climates often documented in the press. Focusing on the themes of water, weather, and landscape, he will create two video sculptures and a series of augmented photographic prints that explore the psychological loss accompanying our realization that climate change is not only real but a product of our own design.

**About the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation:**

Since 1997, CDFF Board Members have overseen grants in excess of \$60 million to arts, arts education, education, child welfare, and human need organizations. Throughout its history, the Foundation has refined its giving strategies and operations to optimize its support provided to arts and cultural organizations with a special emphasis on the performing arts. Support for the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award program is a new opportunity to engage the visual arts community.

**About the Arts Council of Indianapolis:**

The Arts Council is an organization that advocates for the need and importance of broad community funding and support for a thriving arts scene; connects artists, audiences, businesses, foundations, and arts and cultural organizations with opportunities to expand central Indiana's creative vitality; and innovates by constantly pursuing and promoting programs that catalyze creative growth in central Indiana.

The Arts Council owns and operates two performance and exhibition spaces, the Indianapolis Arts Garden (attached to Circle Centre Mall) and Gallery 924 (at 924 N. Pennsylvania Street). The Arts Council allocates public funding to arts and cultural organizations through a competitive grant program; offers fellowship opportunities including the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship, the Transformational Impact Fellowship, the Robert D. Beckmann, Jr. Emerging Artist Fellowship, and the DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award; provides programs, services, and technical assistance for artists and arts organizations; and manages the city's public art program including the new Public Art for Neighborhoods initiative. The Indy Arts Guide provides a comprehensive arts calendar featuring thousands of events, performances, and exhibitions throughout central Indiana. For more information on the Arts Council, call [\(317\) 631-3301](tel:3176313301) or visit online at [indyarts.org](http://indyarts.org).

**Connect with the Arts Council of Indianapolis on Facebook/indyarts, Twitter and Instagram @artscouncilindy, and online at [indyarts.org](http://indyarts.org).**