

PRESS RELEASE

OCTOBER 23, 2023

Press Contact

Rachel Eggers

Associate Director of Public Relations
rachele@seattleartmuseum.org
206.654.3151

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM (SAM) AWARDS TARIQA WATERS THE 2023 BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Waters wins \$15,000 and a solo exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum in 2024



SEATTLE, WA - The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) and the Betty Bowen Committee, chaired by Gary Glant, announced today that Seattle artist Tariqa Waters is the winner of the 2023 Betty Bowen Award. The juried award comes with an unrestricted cash award of \$15,000 and a solo exhibition at SAM. Founded in 1977 to continue the legacy of local arts advocate and supporter Betty Bowen (1918-1977), the annual award honors a Northwest artist for their original, exceptional, and compelling work.

Tariqa Waters's innovative practice encompasses mixed-media tableaus, paintings, photographs, film, and immersive installations that push the aesthetics of commercial advertising into surreal, otherworldly territory. It is at the juncture with product advertising that Waters interrogates the importance of styling and beauty, especially its significance for Black women. How to negotiate the presentation of one's self in public, how to cultivate a unique and distinctive aesthetic of personal beauty, are questions that guide her work. Her work will be featured at the Seattle Art Museum in a solo exhibition in 2024, with dates to be announced.

Solo exhibitions of Waters's work have been shown in Seattle at the Hedreen Gallery, the Northwest African American Museum, and the Museum of Museums (MoM). She has been awarded multiple prizes and grants, including the Conductive Garboil Grant, the Artist Trust Fellowship Award, the Neddy Artist Award, and the Artist Trust Arts Innovator Award. Waters is a two-time finalist for the Betty Bowen Award, winning the Kayla Skinner Special Recognition Award in 2020 and the Gary Glant Special Recognition Award in 2021. She was named one of Seattle's Most Influential People in 2023 by Seattle Magazine.

Samantha Wall won the Kayla Skinner Special Recognition Award and Mary Ann Peters won the Gary Glant Special Recognition Award, in the amount of \$2,500 each. Finalists Derek Franklin, Lisa Liedgren Alexandersson, and Ido

SEATTLE
ART
MUSEUM

ASIAN
ART
MUSEUM

OLYMPIC
SCULPTURE
PARK

1300 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206.625.8900
seattleartmuseum.org



(Lisa) Radon will each receive Special Commendation Awards in the amount of \$1,250, awarded annually since 2020. The six finalists were chosen from a pool of 414 applicants from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to compete for the \$23,750 in awards.

“This award serves as a testament to the countless hours, sleepless nights, and relentless dedication that I have poured into my craft,” says Waters. “It is a validation of the risks I have taken, the boundaries I have pushed, and the artistic growth I have experienced along the way. As an artist, it is not always easy to navigate the complexities of the creative process, but this recognition affirms that my work has resonated with others and has made a meaningful impact.”

Recent past winners include Anthony White (2021), Dawn Cerny (2020), Lynne Siefert (2019), and Natalie Ball (2018). The 2022 winner was Portland artist Elizabeth Malaska. Her solo exhibition, *All Be Your Mirror*, will be on view at the Seattle Art Museum November 17, 2023–June 16, 2024.

2023 BETTY BOWEN WINNER



Tariqa Waters – Seattle, Washington

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Tariqa Waters is a multimedia artist who invokes traditional pop aesthetics to mediate the co-opting of Black culture and consumerism. Her immersive installations, video works, large-scale sculptures, and photographs utilize humor, satire, and spectacle to critique and defy expectations, incorporating intentional anachronisms that navigate ideas of femininity, gender, race, and beauty. By recalling memory, myth, and tall tales, Waters lays bare the contradictions and dualities of Americana aesthetics.

KAYLA SKINNER SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Samantha Wall – Portland, Oregon

Samantha Wall's recent series, *Beyond Bloodlines*, pulls from Korean folklore and Euro-centric mythologies to expose the effects of alienation and exile

within the diaspora. Delicately layered on Dura-lar, the symbolic form of the serpent woman represents the status of Otherness applied to women who deviate from narrow margins of social acceptance. Wall's drawings navigate the artist's identity as a Black Korean immigrant, and remodel pathways for Black American narratives of existence within the US.

GARY GLANT SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



Mary Ann Peters - Seattle, Washington

As a second generation Arab-American, Mary Ann Peters's work constructs an outline for cultural inquiry that employs history, architecture, science, and heritage to respond to undermined diasporic narratives. Peters filters a personal exploration of these themes through the concept of audience perception and the ethical considerations of artistic discourse. Peters challenges the concept of an image being neutral, instead focusing on visuals that coalesce and redefine contemporary topics.

SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARDS



Derek Franklin - Portland, Oregon

Derek Franklin is an artist, curator, and artistic director who utilizes painting and sculpture to investigate the ways in which one responds to violence inextricably woven into societal structures. Drawing from constructivist theatre design, Franklin conceptualizes the home as a kind of stage and centers his inquiry on the objects that bear witness to daily domestic rituals, such as eating or drinking. Activated by the audience's presence, Franklin's work asks viewers to engage in communal experiences of sadness, awkwardness, and humor.



Lisa Liedgren Alexandersson - Seattle, Washington

Lisa Liedgren Alexandersson's current project explores the intersections of artistic hierarchy, labor, and skill through the process of creating cotton and linen woven works. These materials evoke the history of painting through both material and the notion of the grid, a key point of investigation for their work. Adapting 1960's Swedish kitchen towel weaving instructions into new artistic works, Liedgren Alexandersson prods the dual status of textiles as domestic, utilitarian objects, and as demonstrations of skillful aesthetic exploration.



Ido (Lisa) Radon - Portland, Oregon

Ido Radon's mixed media and multi-sensorial work is guided by long-term interests in the ideological and material structures and processes that produce reality under the conditions of advanced capitalism. Radon interrogates the use of various technologies to mediate the abstractions of capitalism and counter-histories of revolutionary impulses. The rise of the personal computer and community computing provide a historical and cultural grounding through which Radon incarnates feminist theory and critical discourses in complex aestheticized forms.

2023 BETTY BOWEN COMMITTEE

Gary Glant (Chair), Mike Hess, Mark Levine, Sangram Majumdar, Catharina Manchanda, Llewelyn Pritchard, Greg Robinson, Norie Sato, Anthony White, and Merrill Wright.

ABOUT THE BETTY BOWEN AWARD

Betty Bowen (1918-1977) was a Washington native and enthusiastic supporter of Northwest artists. Her friends established the annual Betty Bowen Award as a celebration of her life and to honor and continue her efforts to provide

financial support to the artists of the region. Since 1977, SAM has hosted the yearly grant application process by which the selection committee chooses one artist from the Northwest to receive an unrestricted cash award, eligible to visual artists living and working in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Image credits: Photo by Alex Cayley. *Pink Ball Barrette*, 2022, Tariqa Waters, blown glass, 9 x 9 x 9 in. © Tariqa Waters. *Becoming*, 2023, Samantha Wall, conté crayon and ink on Dura-Lar, 80 x 80 in., © Samantha Wall. *impossible monument (the threads that bind)*, 2023, Mary Ann Peters, silk, silk thread, silk waste, silk pods, glycerin, wood, and water, 84 x 60 x 144 in., © Mary Ann Peters. Installation view of *Grief is On My Calendar Everyday at 2:00 PM*, 2023, Derek Franklin, mixed media, 110 x 216 x 192 in. © Derek Franklin. *B-cognition*, 2023, Lisa Liedgren Alexandersson, linen, cotton, and wood, 63 x 30 x 240 in. Photo: Musse Barclay, © Lisa Liedgren Alexandersson. *Sail or Temporary composition of a specter of a world*, 2023, Ido Radon,, mixed media, 138 x 47 x 2 in. © Ido Radon.

ABOUT SEATTLE ART MUSEUM

As the leading visual art institution in the Pacific Northwest, SAM draws on its global collections, powerful exhibitions, and dynamic programs to provide unique educational resources benefiting the Seattle region, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. SAM was founded in 1933 with a focus on Asian art. By the late 1980s the museum had outgrown its original home, and in 1991 a new 155,000-square-foot downtown building, designed by Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates, opened to the public. The 1933 building was renovated and rededicated as the Asian Art Museum in 1994, and it reopened on February 8, 2020 following an extensive renovation and expansion. SAM's desire to further serve its community was realized in 2007 with the opening of two stunning new facilities: the nine-acre Olympic Sculpture Park (designed by Weiss/Manfredi Architects)—a “museum without walls,” free and open to all—and the Allied Works Architecture designed 118,000-square-foot expansion of its main, downtown location, including 232,000 square feet of additional space built for future expansion. The Olympic Sculpture Park and SAM's downtown expansion celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2017.

From a strong foundation of Asian art to noteworthy collections of African and Oceanic art, Northwest Coast Native American art, European and American art, and modern and contemporary art, the strength of SAM's collection of approximately 25,000 objects lies in its diversity of media, cultures, and time periods.