

Ibrahim Said Named 2024 Awards in Craft Recipient by Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation



(SAN FRANCISCO — May 22, 2024) The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation today announced the 2024 recipients of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft, honoring artists and craftspeople for their profound contributions at the intersections of multidisciplinary inquiry, cultural stewardship, and innovative material practice. Among this year's five awardees are Cristina Córdova, Ibrahim Said, Nisha Bansil, Raul De Lara, and Thea Alvin.

The Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft annually celebrates craft practitioners whose forms of expression offer rich and transformative conduits for dialogue, storytelling, and contemplation. Recognizing individuals working across a breadth of mediums, the awards are dedicated to giving artists and craftspeople the necessary resources to continue growing their practices and advancing their impact within their communities both locally and throughout their discipline, uplifting the complex, present and ever-expanding role of craft within our cultural fabric.

Through their diverse approaches, this year's awardees demonstrate the potential for cultivating new and expansive perspectives of the world through craft. Placing emphasis on the cultural and historical significance of their materials, the awardees honor lineages within their disciplines while charting paths for future generations of craftspeople. Spanning clay, glass, stone, and wood, among other media, their practices draw upon a range of artistic traditions as well as ecological, personal, and social influences, representing the multifaceted realities of contemporary craft.

One of this year's 2024 recipients, **Ibrahim Said** (b. 1976; Cairo, Egypt) is a ceramicist whose practice recognizes the rich cultural heritage, techniques and the history of the pottery industry from his hometown of Fustat, Egypt. Born into a family of potters and raised in Al Fustat, an area of Cairo famous for commercial pottery, Said's interest in the medium emerged at six years old, when he began accompanying his father to his pottery studio. The artist's work is influenced by the visual landscape of his childhood; walking to the studio every day, he passed buildings inlaid with relief carvings on doors and walls, which he now integrates into his vessels. His ceramic vessels take on gravity-defying shapes, with top-heavy bodies supported by sinuous legs and tentacles coiled into mobius strips. Cascading down their sides are intricate geometric patterns that mimic the interlacing designs of Islamic art and architecture. Combining wheel throwing, hand-

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building and surface adornment, including carving, glazing and finials, Said pushes the physical limits of clay while engaging, respecting and building upon a lineage of Egyptian pottery.

Previous recipients of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft include poly-disciplinary artist **Antonius-Tin Bui** (2022), multimedia artist **Adebunmi Gbadebo** (2023), furniture maker, artist and educator **Aspen Golann** (2023), artist and community activist **Terrol Dew Johnson** (2022), and beadwork and fashion artist **Jamie Okuma** (2022).

Recipients of the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft are annually selected by a rotating panel of leaders in craft, including craft practitioners, curators, educators, and others guiding the field. The panelists for the 2024 cohort were **Sarah Darro**, Curator and Exhibitions Director of Houston Center for Contemporary Craft; **Leslie Noell**, Creative Director at Penland School of Craft; **Phillip Smith**, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the American College of the Building Arts; and **Leo Tecosky**, glass blower and 2023 Maxwell/Hanrahan Award in Craft awardee.

ABOUT THE MAXWELL/HANRAHAN FOUNDATION

Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation powers people who explore and ask, teach and try, conserve and connect, create and captivate. Our funding supports individual scientists, teachers, conservationists and creators whose diverse perspectives enable us to discover new things about ourselves and our world. Learn more about our partners and work at www.Maxwell-Hanrahan.org.

ABOUT THE MAXWELL/HANRAHAN FOUNDATION AWARDS IN CRAFT

Launched in 2022 and administered by United States Artists, the Maxwell/Hanrahan Awards in Craft were established in celebration of the groundbreaking contributions of craftspeople and artists within our cultural landscape, countering the disproportionate lack of funding for craft in the United States. This honor is among the nation's largest awards within the field of craft, offering unrestricted and transformative opportunities for craft practitioners to further their creative visions, embark on new paths of experimentation, and continue to advance their disciplines.

Exploration and insight require time and commitment. The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation Awards in Craft seek to make both possible for devoted craftspeople and artists from around the country who strive to express what we see and experience in our world through engagement with material. The award recognizes practitioners committed to material mastery and exploration with practices encompassing the stewardship of living cultural traditions, unique insight in material study, and the advancement of craft at the intersection of other fields including science. Each of the five awardees will be granted \$100,000 in unrestricted funding. We recognize that arts funding, especially for craftspeople, is lacking in the US, and we encourage others to commit to these fields.

ABOUT UNITED STATES ARTISTS

United States Artists plays a pivotal role in America's cultural ecosystem, advancing the well-being of artists through unrestricted funding and tailored professional services, amplifying artists' work, and improving conditions that support their essential roles in society. Founded in 2005 and based in Chicago, IL, United States Artists has awarded over 877 individuals with over \$45 million of direct support across its flagship Fellowship program and its special Initiatives. Learn more at unitedstatesartists.org.