The Herb Alpert Foundation and CalArts Announce The Five 2019 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts Recipients

Five $75,000 prizes given annually for the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts in Dance, Film/Video, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Recipients include Meshell Ndegeocello for Music and Pam Tanowitz for Dance.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (PRWEB) May 10, 2019 -- “I’ve always loved the artists that travel the road less traveled…those are the artists that touch me.” - Herb Alpert

The Herb Alpert Foundation and California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) have awarded the 25th Annual Herb Alpert Award in the Arts (HAAIA) to five exceptional mid-career artists. The recipients will be recognized at the HAAIA 25th anniversary celebration hosted by Herb Alpert and his wife Lani Hall Alpert and the Herb Alpert Foundation in New York City on May 13, 2019. Over 140 awardees and panelists from the past 25 years are expected to attend.

The awards recognize artists working in Dance, Film/Video, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts who are risk-takers using their talent, vision, and labor to make something that matters within and potentially beyond their field. The outstanding candidate in each genre receives an unrestricted prize of $75,000.

The 2019 winners in the five categories are: Pam Tanowitz, Dance; Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Film/Video; Meshell Ndegeocello, Music; Lloyd Suh, Theatre; Cecilia Vicuña, Visual Arts.

“We are gratified,” said Herb Alpert Foundation President Rona Sebastian, "to celebrate with CalArts the shared vision of 25 years of The Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. Under the exemplary direction of Director Irene Borger, this program has reached far and wide into the arts community and is appreciated for its high level of compassion, sensitivity, and respect for individual artists. This unique grant opportunity has become an important milestone for mid-career artists to be recognized by their peers, and often is a defining moment leading toward the next level of their careers.”

CalArts President Ravi Rajan added, “Artists need space and time to create models of what's possible in the world. CalArts was founded to focus on incubating artists, and for the past 25 years it has been amazing to partner with Lani Hall and Herb Alpert to do just that. I can't imagine the arts without them.”

“Herb Alpert had a hunch that a prize to artists—artists who took risks—could make a difference to artists, certainly, and maybe even in the world. He said: "What if?" – the core of creativity. The artists the Herb Alpert Award honors and supports not only ‘think outside the box,’ they think: What Box?” notes Irene Borger, Director, Herb Alpert Award in the Arts. She describes why the 2019 panelists chose these five artists:

PAM TANOWITZ / DANCE
“The Dance panel has selected choreographer Pam Tanowitz for her unwavering commitment to her uncompromising artistic vision, rigorous sense of craft and composition, and for beginning again with each new work. They value her musicality, wit and poetry, her investigation - and disruption - of traditional forms, and her generous, humane and fully collaborative practice.”
Dance Panelists: Lili Chopra, Joanna Haigood, Stanford Makisi

BEATRIZ SANTIAGO MUÑOZ / FILM/VIDEO
“The Film/Video panel honors artist Beatriz Santiago Muñoz for her unique visual language that reveals the invisible, and magically locates the cosmic in the everyday. Always experimenting, she creates a sense of time unique to each film, tackles major ontological questions, constructing narratives that go way beyond themselves, and grapples with the long haunting questions of representation.”

Film/Video Panelists: Pablo de Ocampo, Bill Morrison, Diana Nawi

MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO / MUSIC
“The Music panel celebrates composer, singer, bassist, storyteller, lyricist and producer Meshell Ndegeocello as a rare constellation in the artistic firmament, whose generosity of spirit defies the confines of genre and whose work dwells in both darkness and deliverance. Drawing power from its vulnerability and unflinching emotional honesty, she renews their faith in the transformative power of art.”

Music Panelists: Derek Bermel, Vijay Iyer, Pamela Z

LLOYD SUH / THEATRE
“Playwright Lloyd Suh was selected by the Theatre panel for his adventurous spirit, thrilling theatrical imagination, brilliant sense of play, and the way he approaches each work as a new form while constantly exploring questions of identity in America. They applaud his wholehearted support of his peers, and encouragement of emerging voices that are shaping a new generation of theatre makers.”

Theatre Panelists: Loretta Greco, Gideon Lester, Carl Hancock Rux

CECILIA VICUÑA / VISUAL ARTS
“Artist, poet and activist Cecilia Vicuña was named the Visual Arts prizewinner for her fearless explorations, uncompromising poetics, responses to today's political, social, and ecological realities, unwavering feminism and commitment to indigeneity with an integrity that is a model for younger generations.”

Visual Arts Panelists: Bill Arning, Marcela Guerrero, Hamza Walker

HAAIA 2019 RECIPIENT PHOTOS (Credit: Courtesy of Herb Alpert Awards)

HAAIA 2019 RECIPIENT BIOS

HERB ALPERT LANI HALL PHOTOS (Credit: Photo by Dewey Nicks)

About The Herb Alpert Award in the Arts

The Herb Alpert Award in the Arts is an unrestricted prize of $75,000 given annually to five risk-taking mid-career artists working in the fields of dance, film/video, music, theatre and the visual arts.

The prize was initiated and funded by the Herb Alpert Foundation and has been administered by California
Institute of the Arts since 1994. The Herb Alpert Award honors and supports artists respected for their creativity, ingenuity, and bodies of work, at a moment in their lives when they are poised to propel their art in new and unpredictable directions. The Herb Alpert Award recognizes experimenters who are making something that matters within and beyond their field.

For More Information on 25 years of the HAAIA, past winners and panelists, please visit: herbalpertawards.org
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