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BOPA ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE MASB ARTIST TRAVEL PRIZE

Join us in celebrating Elena Volkova and Jackie Milad as the recipients of the 2022 prize

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) and the **Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City (MASB)** announce **Elena Volkova** and **Jackie Milad** as the recipients of the **2022 Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City Artist Travel Prize**. These two artists will receive \$6,000 each to help fund travel essential to their studio practice. The prize winners are determined by the MASB board of directors, who received 35 proposals this year.

Elena Volkova is a Ukrainian-born interdisciplinary artist, working in the medium of photography, installation, and drawing. Her current body of work follows the post-minimalist aesthetic and focuses on liminal space, bringing attention to the everyday overlooked moments. Volkova has received several recognitions and awards, including Janis Meyer Traveling Fellowship, Hamiltonian Fellowship, Vermont Studio Fellowship, and Stevenson University Faculty Research grant. Volkova's work has been a part of Art in Embassies program and has been exhibited in Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

She has also been a co-host of the photojournalism podcast, "Ten Frames per Second," working with J.M. Giordano on a series of interviews with local and international photographers. At Hamiltonian Gallery, Volkova created a series of panel discussions, "On Drawing, Site Specificity, and Questioning Photography," focused on contemporary art practices. She was also a producer on "Project Line 180," a series of video interviews with local artists. She has exhibited her work regionally, nationally, and internationally. Volkova resides in Baltimore and teaches Photography at Stevenson University.

Volkova's travel project, "Ukrainian Portraits" is a community arts project aiming to create an archive of portraits using a historic photographic process to bear witness to the Ukrainian people affected by war. Her goal is to engage the community in the creation of artifacts and facilitate an artistic experience which focuses on empowerment and healing.

Jackie Milad is a Baltimore City-based artist born to immigrant parents. Her identity as a mixed-cultural person of Egyptian-Honduran origins informs her creative practice. Growing up in a multi-ethnic and trilingual home was at times chaotic, yet it inspired a curiosity of history and heritage. Milad focused her studies on performance art and painting and was drawn to the work of feminist artists and identity-based artists. After graduating from art school and returning to Baltimore, Jackie sought out experimental time-based art. To this day Milad considers her large-scale painting-collage practice to be rooted in performance art and experimental practices.

Milad lives in Baltimore City with her son and artist-musician husband. She currently works full-time in the studio and serves as faculty and a mentor in the low-residency MFA program and Curatorial Practice MFA program at Maryland Institute College of Art. Milad is a multi-year recipient of the Individual Artist Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. In 2019, she was named a Janet & Walter Sondheim Prize Finalist and a Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Ruby Grantee. Milad's work is in the following public

collections: Pizzuti Collection, GLB Memorial Foundation Collection, The Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University, Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, and Meta Inc (Facebook). Milad received her BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts, and her MFA from Towson University.

Milad will use her prize to support a research trip to London to visit the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities outside of Egypt at The British Museum. Participating in the museum's Study Program, she will have the unique opportunity to handle and draw antiquities from life.

About the MASB Artist Travel Prize

The seventh edition of the MASB Artist Travel Prize awards \$6,000 to a visual artist or visual artist collaborators living in Baltimore City. The \$6,000 prize is intended to function as funding for travel essential to studio practice. The previous winners of the MASB Artist Travel Prize are Rosa Leff in 2021, Schroeder Cherry and Hoesy Corona in 2020, LaToya M. Hobbs and J.M. Giordano in 2019, Erin Fostel and Erick Antonio Benitez in 2018, Nate Larson in 2017, and Stephen Towns in 2016. The winners have traveled to Morocco, Czech Republic, Japan, Peru, throughout the United States, and to Ghana and Senegal.

About the Municipal Art Society of Baltimore City (MASB)

The Municipal Art Society of Baltimore was founded in 1899 as part of the City Beautiful movement. It is one of only two remaining societies to be operating under its original charter "to provide sculptural and pictorial decoration and ornaments for the public buildings, streets and open spaces in the City of Baltimore, and to help generally beautify the City." Artistic contributions to the City span more than one hundred years. In 2016 the MASB embarked on a path to provide new opportunities to Baltimore artists and art places within the City, including this Artist Travel Prize and an annual Public Art Prize.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists, arts programs, and organizations across the city, and by producing large-scale events such as Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival, and Light City, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.