

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

For broadcast inquiries, contact:

Lauren Green 443-263-4310

All other media inquiries, contact

Barbara Hauck 443-263-4315



**BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS ANNOUNCES THE SEMIFINALISTS
FOR THE 2022 JANET & WALTER SONDHEIM ART PRIZE**

Thirteen visual artists selected as semifinalists for the prestigious \$30,000 prize

The **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)** proudly announces the semifinalists for the 17th annual **Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize**. This year's panel of esteemed jurors — Catherine Morris, Jean Shin, and Kambui Olujimi — have selected 13 visual artists for the semifinal round. Semifinalists will be asked to share an expanded submission including up to 30 images or time-based works and a description of how they will use the fellowship if they are selected.

Three of these semifinalists will then be selected for final review for the prize and their work will be exhibited in the **Walters Art Museum** beginning in July 2022. This year, the prestigious prize will award **\$30,000** to a visual artist or visual artist collaborators living and working in the Baltimore region. BOPA will also be awarding two residencies to finalists not selected for the Sondheim Art Prize: a six-week, fully funded residency at Civitella Ranieri in the Umbria region of Italy, and a six-month residency at The **Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower** in Baltimore.

Civitella Ranieri (www.civitella.org) is a residency program for international writers, composers, and visual artists. Since 1995, Civitella has hosted more than 1,000 Fellows and Director's Guests. The Center enables its Fellows to pursue their work and to exchange ideas in a unique and inspiring setting. The **Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower** has been transformed into studio spaces for visual and literary artists. Located at 21 S. Eutaw Street in the heart of the Bromo Arts & Entertainment District, the 15-story city landmark is the ideal location for artists to explore their practice.

2022 Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize Semifinalists

Tommy Bobo	Washington, DC
Marybeth Chew	Baltimore, MD
Susan Crawford	Baltimore, MD
Andrew Gray	Baltimore, MD
Maren Henson	Baltimore, MD
Megan Koeppel	Baltimore, MD
Travis Levasseur	Baltimore, MD
Katherine Mann	Washington, DC
David Page	Baltimore, MD
Mojdeh Rezaei-pour	Washington, DC
Amber Robles-Gordon	Washington, DC

Katiana Weems
James Williams

Baltimore, MD
Baltimore, MD

Past distinguished recipients of the Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize are Laure Drogoul (Baltimore, MD) in 2006; Tony Shore (Baltimore, MD) in 2007; Geoff Grace (Baltimore, MD) in 2008; Baltimore Development Cooperative (Baltimore, MD) in 2009; Ryan Hackett (Kensington, MD) in 2010; Matthew Porterfield (Baltimore, MD) in 2011; Renee Stout (Washington, DC) in 2012; Gabriela Bulisova (Washington, DC) in 2013; Neil Feather (Baltimore, MD) in 2014; Wickerham & Lomax (Baltimore, MD) in 2015; FORCE: Upsetting Rape Culture (Baltimore, MD) in 2016; Cindy Cheng (Baltimore, MD) in 2017; Erick Antonio Benitez (Baltimore, MD) in 2018; Akea Brionne Brown (Baltimore, MD) in 2019; LaToya M. Hobbs (Baltimore, MD) in 2020; and Hae Won Sohn (Baltimore, MD) in 2021.

Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize Estimated Timeline

Announcement of Finalists: Mid-April 2022

Finalist Studio Visits with Exhibition Curators: April–May 2022

Finalist Exhibition Press Preview: Mid-July 2022 (Tuesday)

Finalist Exhibition: Mid-July–September 18, 2022

Finalist Interviews & Awards Announcement: Mid-July (Saturday)

The finalists' exhibition will be on view at the **Walters Art Museum**, located at 600 N. Charles Street, beginning in July. Admission to the exhibition is free. The day the exhibition opens, the jurors will meet with each artist for up to 30 minutes in their exhibition space for a final interview. After the interviews, the jurors will meet and decide the prize winner and the recipient of each residency. The awards will be announced later that evening at the award reception. In the case of COVID-19 restrictions not allowing for in-person exhibitions, BOPA will utilize the online platform Kunstmatrix, with assistance from the Walters' curatorial staff. Juror interviews with each finalist will take place online, and BOPA will coordinate a virtual award ceremony.

2022 Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize Jurors

Catherine Morris is an established independent curator who has organized projects and exhibitions for such institutions as Sculpture Center, Long Island City; M.I.T. List Visual Arts Center; and White Columns, New York. In 2004, Morris received a Penny McCall Foundation Award for Independent Curating and Writing. From 2004–2009, she was Adjunct Curator of Contemporary Art for the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she curated shows of Josiah McElheny, Lucy Gunning, and Cameron Martin. Since 2009, Morris has curated a number of exhibitions for the Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, where she is a senior curator.

Jean Shin is an accomplished artist whose innovative work has been widely exhibited in over 150 major museums and cultural institutions. She recently completed a landmark commission for the MTA's Second Ave Subway at the 63rd Street Station in New York City. In recognition of excellence, Shin has received numerous awards, including two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in Architecture/Environmental Structures (2008) and Sculpture (2003), Korea Arts Foundation of America, Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Asian Cultural Council, and Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation

Biennial Art Award. Shin is a tenured Adjunct Professor of Fine Art at Pratt Institute, President of Joan Mitchell Foundation, and serves on the Board of YoungArts, The National Foundation for the Advancement of Artists. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, and in Hudson Valley.

Kambui Olujimi creates bodies of work spanning sculpture, installation, photography, writing, video, and performance. Born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn, Olujimi received his MFA from Columbia University in New York City. His works have premiered nationally at The Sundance Film Festival, Studio Museum in Harlem, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Mass MoCA, as well as internationally. Olujimi has been awarded residencies from Black Rock Senegal, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and MacDowell, and has received grants and commissions from numerous prestigious institutions.

Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize

The Sondheim Art Prize is named in honor of **Janet & Walter Sondheim**, both of whom were instrumental in furthering arts & culture in Baltimore City. Walter Sondheim, Jr. was one of Baltimore's most important civic leaders for over 50 years. He oversaw the desegregation of the Baltimore City Public Schools in 1954 when he was president of the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore City. Later, he was deeply involved in the development of Charles Center and the Inner Harbor. He continued to be active in civic and educational activities in the city and state and served as the senior advisor to the Greater Baltimore Committee until his death in February 2007. Janet Sondheim danced with the pioneering Denishawn Dancers, a legendary dance troupe founded by Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn. Later, she turned to teaching where she spent 15 years at the Children's Guild working with children with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. After retirement, she was a volunteer tutor at Highlandtown Elementary School. She married Walter in 1934, and they were together until her death in 1992.

The 17th annual Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize is produced by the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts in partnership with the Walters Art Museum. Learn more about the Janet & Walter Sondheim Art Prize at www.promotionandarts.org. To see **bios and artwork samples** of this year's semifinalists, follow BOPA on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter: @promoandarts

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.