THE ELLIES

The Ellies celebrate the individual artists who are the backbone of Miami’s visual arts community. The winners of the 2018 The Ellies Creator Award have been announced. Congratulations to all 11 of our CARTA family winners!

JILLIAN MAYER
Alumna

$15,000
Installation

Mayer will create a mobile artist residency that also doubles as a survivalist shelter, focusing on sustainability and off-the-grid living inspired by prepper culture. The solar-powered residency will have a rooftop garden, be outfitted with a steel shutter system for times of extreme weather and will attach to a towing vehicle in order to seek safer ground in times of natural or man-made catastrophes.

KEVIN ARROW
Alumnus

$10,000
Audiovisual Installation

Arrow will reimagine abstract cinema classics inspired by Oskar Fischinger’s “An Optical Poem” and others for a multifaceted audiovisual presentation.

LEO CASTANEDA
Visiting faculty in Department of Art + Art History

$10,000
“Levels and Bosses,” - videogame

Levels and Bosses is a fine art video game that deconstructs the binaries and hierarchies pervasive throughout not only game design, but also our world. Subverting traditional boundaries between the environment and the individual, antagonist and protagonist, abstraction and representation, Levels and Bosses offers new models for imagining the future.

MICHELLE LISA POLISSAINT
Alumna

$10,000
“Moonshine Moanin” – performance

Moonshine Moanin is an exploration of the artist’s queer identity as it relates to being raised in the South. The work will consist of public performances inviting viewers to watch the artist perform the personas of female black queer jazz singers from the 1920s and 30s such as Ma Rainey and Bessie Smith, who spoke openly and unapologetically about their queerness in their work.

PEPE MAR
Alumnus

$10,000
Museum Exhibition - 2D/Painting

Mar will use funding toward his first, major museum solo exhibition at the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh. Informed by his 14-year collage practice, the museum solo show will incorporate artifacts, gay ephemera and Mar’s personal archive mining the identity of queer spaces.

FERESHTEH TOOSI
Assistant Professor of Art + Art History

$6,000
“Water Radio” – mixed media

“Water Radio” is a series of participatory performances during kayak outings along Miami’s canals, where underwater microphones and environmental sensors transmit sound art. Paddlers will explore this hidden ecology as an environmental habitat, transportation alternative and recreational space.

RAYMOND ELMAN
Inspicio, Founding Editor-in-Chief

$5,000
2D/Painting

Elman is creating a series of large-scale portraits of both African-American icons and local residents who frequented the Historic Hampton House in Brownsville in the 1950s and 60s during segregation. Being created in partnership with the Hampton House, these portraits will be donated to the historic site and will hang throughout the building.

JUSTIN LONG
Art Education Program Alumnus

$5,000
Boat Building School - Sculpture

Long will attend the Wooden Boat Building School in Maine, where he will experiment with new techniques in creating three-dimensional forms that he can pass on to the students in his sculpture class.

LOURDES FULLER
Art Education Program Alumna

$5,000
Mosaic Studies

Fuller will go to Spain to study mosaics, a simple yet intricate ancient art form that teaches patience and harmony. Then she will work with students to create mosaic projects that can help students understand cooperation and build community.

MIRENA SUAREZ
Art Education Program Alumna

$5,000
Renaissance Studies

Suarez will go to Italy to learn about the Renaissance and the grand masters of the art world through the “Italy Through Art” study abroad program at Florida International University.

SUSAN FELICIANO
Art Education Program Alumna

$5,000
“American Women Artists”

Feliciano will travel to Santa Fe, New Mexico, New York City and Washington, DC to research and develop an art curricula for K-12 students entitled “American Women Artists.” This set of lesson plans will focus on the lives and works of five American woman artists and the contributions they made in shaping the history of art.