NXTHVN is pleased to announce its seven 2020 Studio Fellows: Allana Clarke, Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack, Jeffrey Meris, Esteban Ramón Pérez, Ilana Savdie, Alisa Sikelianos-Carter, and Vincent Valdez; and its two 2020 Curatorial Fellows: Claire Kim and Michelle Phuong Ting (pictured from top left to bottom right). The 2020 fellowship year runs from 6 January through 20 December 2020.

Embarking on its second year of fellowships, NXTHVN received no less than 250 applications for its Studio and Curatorial programs. The selection committee was comprised of experts Denise Markonish (MASS MoCA), Christie Neptune (2019 NXTHVN Studio Fellow), Kristina Newman-Scott (BRIC), Keely Orgeman (Yale University Art Gallery), and NXTHVN’s executive leadership team.
Nico Wheadon, NXTHVN’s Executive Director states, “On the heels of a prolific, inaugural year, we are excited to welcome these incredible artists and curators to the NXTHVN family! We look forward to learning from their unique interpretations of the world around us, and are honored to help nurture their professional growth and development.”

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Studio Fellows each receive a 600–1,000 square foot private studio with 24hr key access, and Curatorial Fellows are provided dedicated workspace and unrestricted access to NXTHVN’s resource library.

NXTHVN’s holistic program emphasizes both the theoretical and practical components necessary for establishing and nurturing a sustainable art practice. The curriculum features bi-monthly workshops and seminars led by recognized leaders and practitioners in the field. These workshops and seminars range from administrative topics such as Strategic Planning, Money Management, Contracts (Art and Law) and Grants Writing, to Public Speaking, and Online Portfolio Design and Development. NXTHVN also organizes frequent Visiting Curator Discussions and Critiques, Professional Artist Talks, as well as Gallery and Collection Tours.

Because NXTHVN strongly believes in intergenerational learning and community building, each fellow also mentors a local high school student in the NXTHVN Apprenticeship program to provide them with valuable insights into running a studio, making art, and building a career in the arts.

Support for NXTHVN’s Curatorial Fellowships is provided in part by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Three Studio Fellowships each year are supported by the TOY family in memory of Yves (1988–2011).

ABOUT NXTHVN

Founded by Titus Kaphar, Jason Price, and Jonathan Brand, NXTHVN is an ambitious art space housed in two former manufacturing plants in the Dixwell neighborhood of New Haven, Connecticut. Its mission is to cultivate a sustainable creative community immersed in the area’s rich intersection of art, academia, and history. NXTHVN’s exhibition gallery, black box theater, and co-working spaces further establish an atmosphere of collaboration, inclusion, and social engagement with the goal of attracting and retaining local and international creatives.

Founder and President Titus Kaphar explains NXTHVN’s vision stating, “As an artist, creativity is my primary resource. I do not believe that art can solve all of the world’s problems, but I do know that creativity is the wellspring of innovative solutions.”
Founders Jonathan Brand, Jason Price, and I established NXTHVN to incubate the professional careers of artists, curators, and fellow creatives from New Haven and abroad, and to nurture their talent to further enrich the Dixwell, Newhallville and Greater New Haven areas."

Deborah Berke Partners redesigned, connected, and expanded a former laboratory supplies manufacturing plant with the neighboring defunct ice cream factory to construct a contemporary multi-use space that is particularly suited for innovative, creative work and community building. Preserving the humble, functional characteristics of the original buildings, Deborah Berke Partners infused the site with light, adapting industrial working spaces into flexible forms for public, accessible use.

2020 STUDIO FELLOWS

Allana Clarke is a Trinidanian-American artist whose practice is built upon a foundation of uncertainty, curiosity, a will to heal, and an insistence upon freedom. Fluidly moving through video, performance, photography, and text, her research-based practice incorporates socio-political and art historical texts, to contend with ideas of Blackness, the binding nature of bodily signification, and of the possibility to create non-totalizing identifying structures. Clarke received her BFA in photography from New Jersey City University in 2011 and an MFA in Interdisciplinary Practice from MICA's Mount Royal School of Art in 2014. Clarke has been an artist in residence at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, The Vermont Studio Center, Lighthouse Works, and Yaddo. She has also received several grants including the Toby Devan Lewis Fellowship, Franklin Furnace Fund, and a Puffin Foundation Grant.

Daniel T. Gaitor-Lomack is a completely self-taught artist living and working in Los Angeles. Gaitor-Lomack’s practice can be defined as walking a fine line comprised of DNA, time-honored existence, and poetic totality, unveiling a window of artmaking for the viewer to look through. Baring all, Daniel picks up where his battles leave off, ritualizing narratives and embodying cultural legacies that he is influenced by or subconsciously led to produce. Materials are sourced from the mundane, environments, communities, landscape, the unknown, bridging a variety of media.

In 2018, Daniel was a grant recipient of the Rema Hort Mann Foundation (Los Angeles). Daniel was a shifting pillar in a traveling exhibition (BBQLA AFA) throughout the US, the first of its kind, spanning over 3 months, 14 different states/cities, and over 7,000 miles. He has exhibited at art fairs and at artist-run, international, alternative, commercial, and museum galleries such as: BBQLA, Night Gallery, ltd los angeles, LAXART, Transmission (UK), Torrance Art Museum, and NADA Miami.
Jeffrey Meris is an artist born in Haiti and raised in the Bahamas. Meris's work considers the impacts of naturalization, (dis)placement, and racial interpellation while considering transcendence. His work disturbs the notion of geographically-based identity and investigates spaces where presupposed structures of that identity fail both the individual and the collective. Central to Jeffrey’s complicated relationship with state and states is his interest in the subversion of the understanding of the interdependency of space and place. Meris holds an MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University in 2019, a BFA in Sculpture from Temple University in 2015, and an AA in Arts and Crafts from the College of The Bahamas in 2012. Meris is a Harry C. Moore Lyford Cay Foundation Scholar and an alumnus of Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture 2019, among other residencies. He has shown at the Wallach Gallery at Columbia University, NY; the Jewish Museum, NY; Halle 14, Leipzig, Germany; Leroy Neiman Gallery, NY; and the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas, amongst others.

Esteban Ramón Pérez is an interdisciplinary artist who is from the greater Los Angeles area, and is currently living and working in New Haven, CT. His studio practice is concerned with the intersections of materiality and iconography within American cultures, their implications, and their relationship to subcultures, labor practices, social classes, and socio-political histories. The content in each of his works is meant to be multifaceted, usually containing aspects of art histories, subjectivity, spirituality, and social issues. Perez received his BFA in Art from the California Institute of the Arts in 2017, and his MFA in Painting & Printmaking from Yale University’s School of Art in 2019.

Ilana Savdie was raised in Barranquilla, Colombia and is now based in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2018 and her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2008. Savdie had her first solo show in New York with ltd los angeles in 2019 and has been included in numerous group exhibitions nationally and internationally including recent shows at Golestani Gallery in Düsseldorf, Germany; Museum aan de Stroom and CASSTL gallery in Antwerp, Belgium; Jack Baret gallery in New York; and ltd los angeles in Los Angeles. Savdie will be an artist in residence at Palazzo Monti in Brescia, Italy in 2021.

Alisa Sikelianos-Carter is a mixed media visual artist living and working in upstate New York. Sikelianos-Carter has been awarded residencies at the Millay Colony for the Arts, Vermont Studio Center, The Wassaic Project and Yaddo. Her recent exhibitions include group shows at The Tang Teaching Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY and The Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, NY. She has exhibited nationally at Collar Works, Troy, NY; Wa Na Wari Gallery, Seattle; Paradice Palase, Brooklyn; Ori Gallery, Portland, OR; Iridian Gallery, Richmond, VA; Archer Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, WA; and White Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, OR. She earned her BA and MA from SUNY Albany in Painting and Drawing.
Sikelianos-Carter’s body of work asserts that Black features are a manifestation of a sacred and divine technology that have served as a means of survival, both physically and metaphysically. She envisions a cosmically luminous world that celebrates and pays homage to ancestral majesty, power, and aesthetics. Inspired by traditionally Black hairstyles, Sikelianos-Carter uses web- and catalogue- sourced images to construct new archetypes. With her opulent, large-scale paintings she is creating a mythology that is centered on Black resistance and utilizes the body as a sight of alchemy and divinity.

Vincent Valdez was raised in San Antonio, TX and is now based in Houston, TX. He is most recognized for his monumental portrayal of the contemporary figure. His drawn and painted subjects remark on a universal struggle within various socio-political arenas and eras. Of his work, Valdez states, “My aim is to incite public remembrance and to impede distorted realities that I witness, like the social amnesia that surrounds me.”


**2020 CURATORIAL FELLOWS**

Claire Kim is an independent curator and arts administrator based in New York City. She is a recent graduate of Fordham University, where she studied English Literature and Art History. Kim has worked in curation, museum education, and programming with numerous arts institutions and organizations, including the New Museum, the Asian American Arts Alliance, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, MoCADA and BRIC. She graduated from the Downtown Brooklyn Arts Management Fellowship in August 2017. Kim currently works as the Special Assistant to the President at BRIC in addition to her upcoming position as a 2020 NXTHVN Curatorial Fellow.

Michelle Phuong Ting is a cultural worker and poet based in New Haven, CT. Ting’s curatorial practice is informed by her upbringing by Vietnamese refugee parents; through her curatorial and poetic practice, she seeks to build structures of language, feeling, and shared life that make a home for refugees, exiles, and all others who cannot be processed into triumphant narratives or nations. She co-curated Kearny Street Workshop’s 2019 APAture Festival and currently serves as an organizer for The Racial Imaginary Institute.
Ting’s writing has been nominated for the “Best American Essays” series and most recently appeared in Wildness and Tupelo Quarterly. A Tin House alum, Ting has received fellowships and support from Brooklyn Poets, Omnidawn, Fine Arts Works Center in Provincetown, and the Lighthouse Writers Workshop. With a background in museum education and public programs at Stanford’s Cantor Arts Center and Yale University Art Gallery, Ting is thrilled to join the NXTHVN Fellowship cohort.

SUPPORT

“We are thankful to have the early financial support of amazing partners such as Stonesthrow Fund and the RISC Foundation, Inc. They took a chance on supporting a mere concept, and their partnership has ensured that NXTHVN can become everything we knew it could be. NXTHVN, Titus, Jonathan and I are forever grateful.”

— Jason Price, Founder & Chairman of the Board

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For further inquiries, please contact NXTHVN at hello@nxthvn.com.
For more information, visit www.nxthvn.com.