

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR PRILLA SMITH BRACKETT AWARD

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College is proud to announce the return of the biennial Prilla Smith Brackett Award. The inaugural award was bestowed in September 2019, and due to the global pandemic, the second iteration was postponed until 2022. The award honors an outstanding female-identified visual artist based in the Greater Boston area.



The award, funded by Prilla Smith Brackett, will go to the artist whose work demonstrates extraordinary artistic vision, talent, and skill. The inaugural winner in 2019 was [Yu-Wen Wu](#), whose [Leavings/Belongings](#) gives voice to individual immigrants and refugees who make it to the United States. The artwork brings small groups of immigrants together to make symbolic bundles, which call attention to material objects left behind. Wu will serve on the four-person jury for the 2022 award.

“There is a dearth of funding for individual artists in the greater Boston area,” says Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37

Director of the Davis Museum. “We are so proud to be a part of Prilla Smith Brackett’s vision for more robust direct philanthropy, and we are delighted to steward this opportunity in support of our vibrant local community of artists.”

“The 2019 inauguration of this award was so gratifying, and I am excited that, after the delay due to Covid-19, we are on track to identify the second awardee,” said Prilla Smith Brackett, the benefactor of the award. “My hope is that over time the award will go to people who identify as female in various stages of their careers, and that awardees will represent diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, and national origin. May it help her with what she most needs in her practice and life.”

The second Prilla Smith Brackett Award winner will be announced in September 2022, and will be featured in a virtual exhibition on the Davis Museum’s website and honored in a virtual award ceremony in October 2022. The \$15,000 cash award may be used at the artist’s discretion, such as to assist in career advancement through support for travel, research, early project development, project completion, studio costs, childcare costs, catalogue production, and other related expenses.

### Eligibility and Award Application

To be eligible, applicants must: live in the Greater Boston area (all towns east of Interstate 495); identify as female (including cis women, trans women, femme/feminine-identifying genderqueer, and non-binary folks); work in the mediums of painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, photography, film, video, and/or new media arts. Artists at any career stage beyond the first five years

of professional practice and of all ages, sexual orientations, and racial, ethnic, national, and religious identities are encouraged to apply. The review process will identify three finalists for a studio visit by the jury members, a crucial step in determining the ultimate award recipient.

Application guidelines for the Prilla Smith Brackett Award will be available on Friday, April 15, 2022 via the Davis Museum website at [www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum/news](http://www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum/news). The application portal goes live on Sunday, May 1, 2022. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Any interested parties may email [psb\\_award@wellesley.edu](mailto:psb_award@wellesley.edu) for additional information.



### **About Prilla Smith Brackett**

[Prilla Smith Brackett](#) is an artist known for working with landscape conceptually, depicting more than a description of a place.

Brackett has exhibited throughout the eastern US, including a solo show traveling to eight venues in New England and the mid-Atlantic States. Other venues include DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, MA, National Academy of Sciences, DC, The Art Complex Museum, MA, and Hanoi Contemporary Art Center, Vietnam. Her work is in the collections of Harvard University Art Museums, New Britain Museum of American Art, Danforth Art Museum, Worcester Art Museum, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Brackett's honors include a finalist award in painting from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Ragdale Foundation, an award and residency at the Ucross Foundation, an Earthwatch Artist award in Madagascar, and a fellowship in painting at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College.

Born in New Orleans, Brackett has social science degrees from Sarah Lawrence College and the University of California/Berkeley following two years at Wellesley College. She earned her MFA in drawing and painting from the University of Nebraska/Lincoln. She added printmaking to her practice in 2003. Brackett lives and works in Boston, MA.

### **ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM**

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical, and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

### **ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS**

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College's liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today's leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena,

Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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Image credits:

Yu-Wen Wu, *Leavings/Belongings*, 2019, Fabric, thread, string, and fiberfill. Installation view of the culminating exhibition as the 2019 Artist in Residence at the Pao Arts Center, Boston, MA.

Prilla Smith Brackett in her studio, Courtesy Prilla Smith Brackett

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*High-resolution images and interviews available upon request.*