

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Davis Museum at Wellesley College Announces Finalists for  
2022 Prilla Smith Brackett Award**

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College has selected three finalists for the 2022 Prilla Smith Brackett Award: **Lynne Allen, Maria Molteni, and Allison Maria Rodriguez.** The second iteration of the biennial award honors an outstanding female-identified visual artist based in the Greater Boston area. The winner, to be announced in October 2022, will be featured in a virtual exhibition on the Davis Museum’s website and honored in a virtual award ceremony.

“The Prilla Smith Brackett Award is a much-needed opportunity to highlight the amazing diversity of inventive artistic practices among artists local to the Boston area,” says Dr. Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37 Director of the Davis Museum. “The jury continues to be surprised and delighted by the applicants, who comprise the visual arts community writ large. We are excited to embark on the next phase of the award process—virtual studio visits with the finalists—to select the 2022 awardee.”

**The Finalists**

**Lynne Allen**

[www.lynneallen.com](http://www.lynneallen.com)



Lynne Allen sees her art making as a love affair with the forsaken. In material, this means the use of discarded remnants of culture, like rusted bottle caps, fish hooks, lead sinkers and old moving blankets. It also embraces neglected traditions, such as the use of embroidery, beading, and woven porcupine quills. Allen centers subjects that history has often marginalized or erased: animals that have become extinct, Native traditions, the homeless, prisoners, and myths about how the west was won. The artist’s subjects act in concert with a variety of non-traditional players. Sculptures feature Native American texts woven into arrow bags, moccasins, and wall hangings.

## **Maria Molteni**

[www.mariamolteni.com](http://www.mariamolteni.com)

Molteni enjoys tactile and tactical problem solving, giving shape to the unseen. From fiber to found-object sculpture, textile to video, performance to publication, they choose media that combine conceptual rigor, formal satisfaction and spiritual depth. Their intuitive practice spans movement-based and diagrammatic ritual alchemy, astrology, tarot, dreamwork, and color magic. Molteni pictures themselves as a Phys Ed coach for visionary communities like Shakers, the Bauhaus, or Black Mountain College.

Molteni's painting practice has long darted back and forth between a traditional lineage and a more innovative practice of creating site-specific ground works. This practice has largely occupied (and pioneered) vibrant athletic spaces, a marriage of the artist's personal history as an athlete/dancer combined with their desire to make painting more embodied and accessible to the public.



## **Allison Maria Rodriguez**

[www.allisonmariarodriguez.com](http://www.allisonmariarodriguez.com)

Allison Maria Rodriguez is a Cuban-American interdisciplinary artist working predominantly in video installation and new media. Focusing extensively on climate change, species extinction and the interconnectivity of existence, Rodriguez creates immersive experiential spaces that challenge conventional ways of knowing and understanding the world. Through video, performance, digital animation, photography, drawing, collage, and installation, the artist merges, and blends mediums to create new pictorial spaces for aesthetic, emotional, and conceptual exploration. Rodriguez uses art to communicate

beyond language – to open up a space of possibility for the viewer to encounter alternative ways of connecting to the emotional realities of others.

## **About the Prilla Smith Brackett Award**

[Prilla Smith Brackett](#) is an artist known for working conceptually with landscape, depicting more than a description of a place. She has exhibited throughout the eastern US, including a solo show traveling to eight venues in New England and the mid-Atlantic States. Other solo exhibitions have been held at the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, MA; National

Academy of Sciences, DC; The Art Complex Museum, MA; and Hanoi Contemporary Art Center, Vietnam.

The biennial Prilla Smith Brackett Award supports a female-identified artist whose work and exhibition record demonstrate extraordinary artistic vision, talent, and skill. Recipients will receive a \$15,000 cash award to be used for travel, research, project development, or any other expenses related to career advancement.

### **Award Jury Members**

The applications were reviewed by a four-person jury comprised of Yu-Wen Wu, the recipient of the inaugural Prilla Smith Brackett award, Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum, Amanda Gilvin, Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator of Collections and Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Davis Museum, and David Teng-Olsen, Associate Professor of Art at Wellesley College. The jury members will conduct virtual studio visits with each of the three finalists, as the next step in the process of determining the ultimate award recipient.

### **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:**

Allen, Lynne, *Excuse me While I Disappear Moccasins* (2017) (image of Allen's great grandmother)

Etching on handmade paper, linen thread, handwork, rubber stamp.

Approximately 4" x 7" x 3"

Courtesy of the artist.

Molteni, Maria, *A Sea Bird* (video detail) (2021)

Medium: Industrial concrete/ground paint, colors mixed by hand, hand painted with brushes by

Molteni  
Dimensions: 2,000 sq ft.  
Courtesy of the artist.

Rodriguez, Allison Maria, *'Legends Breathe – In My Own Backyard'*, (video installation documentation), Fountain Street Gallery, 2019  
Installation size: 101" x 73" x 63"  
Courtesy of the artist.

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*High-resolution images and interviews available upon request*