

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2019

**Davis Museum at Wellesley College Announces Finalists for
Inaugural Prilla Smith Brackett Award**

WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College has selected the three finalists for the inaugural Prilla Smith Brackett Award: **Lilly Evelet**, **Arghavan Khosravi**, and **Yu-Wen Wu**. The new biennial award honors an outstanding female visual artist based in the Greater Boston area and recognizes her exceptional contributions to the field and region. The winner will be announced in early September and the Davis Museum will host an event on September 23rd to celebrate the work of the award winner. The Davis will also feature the winning artist on its website.

“The Prilla Smith Brackett Award creates an exciting new opportunity in support of artists on the local scene. We received nearly 150 extremely powerful and thought-provoking applications, representing a wide diversity of practices,” says Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37 Director of the Davis Museum. “The committee ultimately chose the projects by Lilly Evelet, Arghavan Khosravi, and Yu-Wen Wu for their outstanding and distinctive merit on aesthetic, conceptual, and material levels.”

The Finalists:



Lilly Evelet

<https://www.wovenwomxn.com/>

Lilly Evelet is a diverse heritage Indigenous mixed media artist known for her emotionally-excavating artworks and performances. Deeply rooted in Choctaw and Anishinaabe traditions, she draws from her personal journeys to create pieces that offer safe spaces for decolonial dialogue, intimate connections, and new ways of being. The project that Evelet submitted to represent her practice, called **Seven Womxn**, is a seven-piece mixed-media series that depicts the experiences and expressions of womxnhood in settler-colonial culture through a visual arts multimedia platform.

Arghavan Khosravi

<https://www.arghavankhosravi.com/>

Painter Arghavan Khosravi was raised in Tehran, Iran. Khosravi's work is deeply connected to her own personal experience of the culture and politics of her homeland that probe both personal and political experiences by integrating historical motifs with imagery taken from popular culture and contemporary media. The project Khosravi submitted to represent her practice is a series of large “mythic” paintings on fabric that depict fluid and serpentine armatures. The painting *She Had a Dream* involves her thoughts about the female body, patriarchy, and her life experiences under Iran’s repressive regime.



Yu-Wen Yu

www.yuwenyu.com

Born in Taipei Taiwan, Yu-Wen Wu’s subjectivity as an immigrant is central to her artwork. Positioned at the crossroads of art, science, politics, and cultural issues, her projects include large-scale drawings, site-specific video installations, community engaged projects, and public art. Her most recent ongoing project,

Leavings/Belongings (2016 to current) 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.

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. The applications were reviewed by a four-person jury comprised of Laylah Ali, the Francis Christopher Oakley Third Century Professor of Art at Williams College, Lisa Fischman, the Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director at the Davis Museum, Amanda Gilvin, the Sonja Novak Koerner '51 Senior Curator of Collections and Assistant Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Davis Museum, and Claire Whitner, the Director of Curatorial Affairs and the James A. Welu Curator of European Art at the

Worcester Art Museum. The jury members will conduct a studio visit 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:

Evelet Lilly, *Family Portrait* (2019)

Mixed Media: acrylic paint, balsa wood, embroidery floss, molotov markers.

Courtesy of the artist.

Arghavan Khosravi, *She Had a Dream* (2018)

Acrylic on found wood block printed fabric and cotton canvas mounted on two separate wood panels.

Courtesy of the artist.

Yu-Wen Wu, *Leavings/Belongings* (studio installation view), (2017 to current)

Fabric, thread, string, fiberfill.

Courtesy of the artist.

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request