

**EMBARGOED UNTIL  
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## **Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance Announces 2021 Baker Artist Awardees**

(Baltimore, MD) The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA) and William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund are excited to announce the 2021 Baker Artist Awardees. This year, 36 artists have been awarded prizes of \$2500 each. Six artists in each of the six award categories were selected by an anonymous jury from over 600 Baltimore-region artists who created a free, online Baker Artist Portfolio at [www.bakerartist.org](http://www.bakerartist.org). Selected artists exemplify excellence in three areas: mastery of craft, depth of artistic exploration, and a unique vision. Past Baker Artist Awards have ranged from \$1,000 up to \$50,000. Since 2009, the Baker Artist Portfolios have distributed over \$1 million in prizes to nearly 150 artists in the Baltimore region.

This year's award structure was specifically modified to address the needs of artists working in the region, almost all of whom have been affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, while maintaining the rigorous standards of the adjudication process, and the program's commitment to recognizing excellence. Along with early distribution of monetary prizes, 2021 Awardees will receive enhanced promotional support and showcase opportunities.

"Responding to the needs of the community, and with encouragement from the Board of Governors of the William G. Baker, Jr. Fund, we are thrilled to recognize and support our largest pool of awardees ever. This incredible group of artists represent just a fraction of the excellent artistic work being produced in Baltimore," says Connie Imboden, President of the Board of Governors of the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund.

The 2021 Awardees will be featured in a series of virtual showcase events from April – June of this year, and will also be celebrated on the annual Baker Artist Awards episode of Maryland Public Television's (MPT) *Artworks* program, hosted by past Baker Artist Awardee Wendel Patrick (2015 Mary Sawyers Baker Awardee). The MPT *Artworks* broadcast, which is currently scheduled for September 2021, will include short profiles of the 36 awardees, offering insight into their creative practice.

"At a time when artists are both greatly in need and greatly needed, GBCA is proud that the Baker Artists Awards can provide recognition and support to so many," says Jeannie L. Howe, Executive Director of the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. "These 36 creative individuals are shining examples of the diverse and exceptional work being done in the Baltimore region. I hope that everyone will take time to explore their work and that of the hundreds of other artists represented in the Baker Artist Portfolios."

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## **2021 Baker Artist Awardees**

The 36 artists who received a 2021 Baker Artist Award were selected by an anonymous jury from among 600 Baltimore-region artists who created a Baker Artist Portfolio at [www.bakerartist.org](http://www.bakerartist.org). An anonymous jury of local, regional and national experts review portfolios and make their selections based on excellence in three areas: mastery of craft, depth of artistic exploration, and a unique compelling vision.

### **Film/ Video**

[Khalid Ali](#), [Eric Cotten](#), [Dina Fiascorano](#), [Chung Wei Huang](#), [Corey Hughes](#),  
[Jonna McKone](#)

### **Interdisciplinary**

[Rahne Alexander](#), [ellen cherry](#), [Hoesy Corona](#), [Katherine Fahey](#), [Strikeware Collective](#),  
[Pamela Woolford](#)

### **Music**

[Abdu Ali](#), [Lura Johnson](#), [Outcalls Band](#), [Meng Su](#), [Letitia VanSant](#), [Von Vargas](#)

### **Performance**

[Anna Fitzgerald](#), [Colette Krogol](#), [Lola B. Pierson](#), [Glenn Ricci](#), [Vincent Thomas](#),  
[Allen Xing](#)

### **Visual Arts**

[Larry Poncho Brown](#), [Mina Cheon](#), [Christine Neill](#), [Ernest Shaw](#), [Rene Trevino](#),  
[McKinley Wallace](#)

### **Literary Arts**

[Maria Adelman](#), [James Arthur](#), [Kathy Flann](#), [Elizabeth Hazen](#), [Pat Montley](#)

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## ABOUT

### **Baker Artist Portfolios**

The Baker Artist Portfolios were created to support artists and promote Greater Baltimore as a strong creative community. The online portfolios are open to artists working in all disciplines who live and work in Baltimore City and its five surrounding counties. The portfolios expose area artists' work to regional, national and international audiences. The site has been viewed by hundreds of thousands of art lovers, critics, gallery owners, academics, and leaders in creative business in nearly every country around the globe. The program serves artists of all disciplines.

The portfolio website and awards are a program of the [Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance](#) and are managed in partnership with, and funded by [The William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund](#).

### **Baker Artist Awards**

Artists who create a Baker Artist Portfolio are automatically eligible for one of six Baker Artist Awards, which include monetary prizes, exhibition and showcase opportunities, as well as a feature on Maryland Public Television's Artworks program. Each year, selected artists share a total of \$90,000 in prize money.

These prizes are awarded to artists who demonstrate excellence. Portfolios are reviewed by an anonymous jury in three areas: mastery of craft, depth of artistic exploration, and unique vision.

### **Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance (GBCA)**

[The Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance](#) nurtures and promotes a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable arts and cultural community embraced by all as accessible, relevant, and essential to the region's quality of life. GBCA connects artists and groups to one another and to vital resources, and advocates for the strategic issues facing the cultural community and the continued visibility and financial strength of the sector.

### **William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund**

[The William G. Baker Jr. Memorial Fund](#) commits its resources to enhance the region's economy and quality of life by making investments in arts and culture. Its grants support artistic and cultural organizations and their partners through initiatives that enhance an individual's sense of self and pleasure and make Baltimore a more attractive place to live and work.



GREATER BALTIMORE CULTURAL ALLIANCE

B A K E R  
artist portfolios

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