

2024 NYFA IAP Mentorship Program: Mentee Bios

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[Agustina Markez](#)

Agustina Markez (b. 1998) is an Argentine immigrant artist, currently based in Brooklyn, NY. Her work examines the merging of politics, constructed environments and feelings of home rendered in sculpture, installation, video, experimental film and performance. She received a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelors of Art in Visual Arts and Art History at SUNY Purchase. Most recently, Agustina received an MFA in Sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been exhibited in various institutions such as, Microscope Gallery, Attleboro Arts Museum, Kates-Ferri Project and the RISD Museum.



[Alassane Sy](#)

Assane, based in Brooklyn, New York, hails from Northern Senegal. Driven by a desire to document the evolution, and rapport between tradition, culture, and self, his work has been regarded as an influential attempt to craft a distinct visual language for a new and emerging generation of photographers. Holding photography and fashion as primary prisms in his artistic contemplation, Assane is a coveted alumnus of the International Center of Photography, MOMA and ArtsConnection.

With a deep care for the subjects he photographs, and their relationship with the physical and temporal spaces they occupy, Assane explores through his work the subjectivity and influence of communities who, though fully rooted in a mix of local and international cultural references, are often deprived of an opportunity to define and name their valuable contribution to the world. Assane's work has been exhibited at The Brooklyn Museum, The Africa Center, the International Center of Photography, PhotoVille, the Soho House, the Costandino Gallery, the Der Grief Gallery, the WildProject Gallery, Static Art Collective, ArtsConnection, Soho Photo Gallery, Savant Studios Gallery.

Emerging from a Toucouleur and Senegalese cultural context, Assane is now rooted in an American reality from where he enlists his relationship with the local and the global to inform his exploration of self, offering a new take on the plural and the multiple. Assane is a 1/2 co-founder of a non-profit called Jollof Films which aims to commemorate the pioneers of African filmmaking in hopes of inciting inspiration to inspire the African diaspora to be strongly rooted in the African reality. He also is 1/3 co-founder of a collective called WESHHH which can be described as a multi-disciplinary entity, in which all ten members operate interdependently.



[Anahita Bagheri](#)

Anahita Bagheri is an Iranian interdisciplinary artist based in NYC. Solid and malleable materials papier-mache, sound, video, and words find their way into her practice through sculpture, artist book, multimedia installation, and performance. She navigates between the rawness, refinement, and destruction of materials, challenging conventional norms through juxtapositions of texture, representation, and abstraction.

She completed her MFA at Parsons School of Design where she was awarded a full presidential scholarship. Bagheri has had exhibitions at biennials, art fairs, and galleries, including; The 2nd Iran Contemporary Art Biennale, Bon-gah Art Book Fair, O Gallery, Etemad Gallery, and Soo Contemporary Gallery in Tehran; Arsenal Contemporary Gallery, Transmitter Gallery, and BravinLee Programs in NYC. She has been granted residencies at Vermont Studio Center, Ucross Foundation, Blue Mountain Center, Kala Art Institute, and Virginia Center For the Creative Arts (VCCA).



[Dai Asano](#)

Dai Asano (b.1996, Japan) is an artist working with time and space. His work delves into the experience of time rooted in Kitaro Nishida's "Pure Experience," Asano's theoretical approach explores the state before the separation into self and object. He is a fellow for NYFA 2025 Immigrant Artist Program. He has participated in the International Summer Residency at the Watermill Center in New York and presented his work at the Annual Summer Benefit at the Watermill Center, Microscope Gallery, the dye house, and so on. Asano received an MFA in Photography from Rhode Island School of Design and a B.A. in Business Ethics from Keio University in Tokyo, Japan.

Danielle Alhassid

Danielle Alhassid is an artist and an educator based in Brooklyn, NYC. She received her MFA from Hunter College (2024) NYC and a BFA from Gerrit Rietveld Academie (2020), Amsterdam, NL. Her works involve stop motion animation, print and performance and focuses on the intersection of memory, femininity and urban experience. Her work appeared, among others, at the Brooklyn museum, Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery, 14stY theater, the OYG projects, 205 Gallery, Hunter college, New York, The Holocaust Museum, Ron Mandos Gallery, the Het Ham Exhibition Hall, Amsterdam and Casa Ardet, Barcelona. Her work was commissioned by the Amsterdam museum, the Tel-Aviv city museum, Azrieli gallery and was sold to private collectors. She has been a speaker at various institutions, including "CCNY Talks" at City College NY (2024), "After Dark" at 14Y Street, NYC (2023), and "The Precious Stones" at Liebling Haus, Tel Aviv (2022) .Her film "Song of the Stone" won first place in the student film competition, Musraramix festival (2020), Jerusalem. She is the recipient of the Naomi Anolic Visual Arts Award (2024) and has received fellowships such as The Neighborhood BK (2023), LABA NYC (2023) and Vermont Studio Center (2023), Asylum Arts Grant (2023) and The Interlude Artist Support Grant (2024) and ProjectArt, NYC, (2024).



Elisa Lutteral

Elisa Lutteral (born 1992, NY, U.S) is an Argentinean/American multidisciplinary artist based in New York, U.S. Lutteral attended the University of Buenos Aires (FADU, 2015). She holds an MFA in Textiles from Parsons, The New School for Design (2023). Elisa has participated in the Sakata Orimono residency in Hirokawa, Fukuoka, Japan, the Emma Kreativzentrum Pforzheim Residencia, Pforzheim, Germany, the NYLAAT residency program, New York, U.S., and HDTS(High Desert Test Sites) residency, in Joshua Tree, U.S. Lutteral has recently received the VSC/Windgate Artist Fellowship and attended Vermont Studio Center residency, in Johnson, Vermont, U.S. In 2025 she will participate in the NYFA Mentoring Program for Immigrant Artists. Her work has been exhibited at Talente in Munich, Germany, Laguna Mexico during Mexico Art Week and Super Gallery, Vienna, Austria. Her work has also been exhibited at L Space Gallery, Picture Theory Gallery, 1923 Gallery, and PTM Contemporary in New York, U.S.



[Eli Farinango](#)

Eli Farinango is a Kichwa-Otavalo artist and visual storyteller, born in Quito, Ecuador and raised in Ottawa, Canada. Through her practice she seeks to reclaim her ancestral memory and create spaces for knowledge sharing with those she photographs. Her work delves into Indigenous healing practices, Kichwa identity, Indigenous mobility across borders, and community building practices.

Her work appears in the Women Photographers International Archive, British Journal of Photography, The New Republic, NPR, Where The Leaves Fall, Terremoto Magazine, and has been exhibited in various venues across North America including Photoville, Toronto Media Arts Center, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, ICP, and Leica Gallery Miami.

She is a graduate of the International Center of Photography's Documentary Practice and Visual Journalism program, she has attended residencies at the Banff Centre for the Arts, and the Center for Photography in Woodstock. In 2023, she was selected as the "Ones to Watch" by the British Journal of Photography, her project Wilkay received the 2023 Leica Women Foto Award. Her work has received support from the Ontario Arts Council, Women Photograph, and Indigenous Photograph, Bertha Foundation and she is a National Geographic Explorer.

She is a member of Indigenous Photograph, Women Photograph and Kichwa Hatari.

She is currently based between New York City and Otavalo, Ecuador.



[Jae Hi Ahn](#)

Jae Hi Ahn is a Korean born, New York based artist. Ahn's work has been presented widely in New York at venues that include Sunroom Project Space at Wave Hill, Bronx; Chashama, NYC; Steinhardt Conservatory Gallery at Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Broadway Windows at NYU; The Field Sculpture Park at Art Omi, Ghent; Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, NYC; LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island; Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Cazenovia, NY, and Nathan Cummings Foundation, NYC. She has been awarded grants from Queens Arts Fund, The Puffin Foundation, Brooklyn Arts Council Community Arts Regrant (NYCDCA), Urban Artist Initiative Fellowship, NYC, and has participated in residencies at LMCC Swing Space, NYC; Ragdale, Lake Forest, IL; VCCA, Amherst, VA; I-Park, East Haddam, CT; Hambidge Center, Rabun Gap, GA, and Sculpture Space, Utica, NY. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, The L Magazine, The Brooklyn Paper, The Brooklyn Rail, and Untapped New York. Her work is currently included for the Curated Artist Registry at White Columns, NYC. She holds a BFA in Sculpture from Chungnam National University, South Korea, and MFA from LIU Post, NY.



[Karen \(Karena\) Bravo](#)

Karena Bravo is a multidisciplinary artist from Colombia whose work celebrates the diversity of women and their unique experiences worldwide. Drawing inspiration from nature and its connection to feminine energy, her art is rooted in the vibrant blend of her African and Latin heritage. Starting her creative journey with a degree in graphic design, she worked for fashion brands and community projects in her home country.

In 2016, Karena moved to Melbourne, Australia, where she explored various artistic techniques and disciplines, exhibited her work, and collaborated with other artists. By 2021, while in Melbourne, she began her career as a mural artist for a leading hand-painted advertising company. In 2023, she moved to Barcelona, Spain, to further her skills, studying a postgraduate degree in Illustration and teaching in a painting studio.

Now based in New Jersey, Karena has worked on projects with organizations like the Museum of Urban Arts and Artolution and participated in her first group show with the Art Groove Collective in Chelsea, NY. Passionate about murals, she aims to share her vibrant worldview in large-scale works that leave a lasting impact on viewers.

[Kriston Banfield](#)

Kriston Banfield is a self-taught artist born on the twin island of Trinidad and Tobago and is currently based in New York City. His work is concerned with ideas of community and belonging, often referencing the process of finding one's sense of place. By drawing heavily on elements of myth and spirituality he seeks to examine lived experiences and to question how social and economic disparities directly police the human experience, more so one's availability to opportunity, power and stratification. His work takes the form of painting, drawing, sculpture and installation. To date, he has participated in a number of self produced exhibitions over a span of 7 years as part of an artists' collective in his home territory and has had his work included in the 5th Ghetto Biennale in Port au Prince, Haiti and in the 19th Asian Biennale 2022 as well as he is a member of the LMCC Artist's residency cohort of 2022.



[Liza Domingues](#)

Liza Domingues is a Brooklyn-based artist whose practice explores the interplay of material, form, color, and space, using geometric shapes as a representation of human creativity and imagination. She experiments with materials such as wood, canvas, acrylic, sand, and 3D-printed forms, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern techniques to create dimensional works that transcend the flat surface.

The bold chromatic sensibilities in her work reflect her Brazilian heritage, where dynamic, expressive palettes are woven into everyday life. Liza's works emphasize the tangible, incorporating tridimensional elements and textures to create immersive, evolving encounters that reward interaction and shifting perspectives.

Mei Seva

MEI SEVA (b. 1996, Elbasan, Albania) is a photographer & visual artist based in New York City.

Her practice falls into the post-documentary space, bringing a more lyrical and at times subjective perspective to sociopolitical issues. Her work utilizes vibrant and surreal color schemes and stark compositions to visualize and complexify questions of inequality, marginalization, and dominant cultures and politics.

Seva seeks to join the dialogue of how art can be a force of change. She has an academic background in political science with a focus on political movements, revolutions, and global inequality. This knowledge serves as a lens through which she sees the world and is a vital component of her artistic practice.

Seva graduated from Hampshire College with a B.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies and Art. She was a 2024 Lucie Foundation Finalist in Photojournalism/Documentary - Emerging Photographers and selected for the 2025 NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program. She is the Studio Manager for international photography community The Raw Society, and Deputy Editor of the annual Raw Society Magazine.

Her work has been exhibited at First Street Gallery (NYC), Gallery 114 (Portland, Oregon), the Sawmill River Arts Gallery (Massachusetts), Boomer Gallery (London), Janice Charach Gallery (Michigan), and published in Flora Fiction, Hand Magazine, The Raw Society Stories, and the Hampshire Daily Gazette. In 2022, Seva was an Amherst Arts Council grantee and created an outdoor public art installation sharing refugee stories through photography.



[Michelle Wu](#)

Michelle Mong Qi Wu (b. 1996) is a creative technologist and emerging new media artist born in Fremont, California, raised in Shenzhen, China, and based in New York City.

Michelle makes artwork that invites interactivity and participation, where audience engagement is essential to the completion of the piece. Her practice explores playfulness, absurdity, fleeting emotions, and the subtleties of everyday moments, often challenging conventional perspectives on technology and its role in society. Utilizing physical computing, robotics, fabrication, and creative coding, Michelle produces work that span interactive installations to experimental performances.



Michelle holds a Masters of Professional Studies from the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Music from Wellesley College.



[Pavlos Liaretidis](#)

Pavlos Liaretidis (b. 1999, Thessaloniki, Greece) completed his Integrated Master studies with emphasis in sculpture at the School of Fine Arts of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and in 2024 he obtained an MFA degree from the Rinehart School of Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD. Based in New York City, his work is thematically driven by current social and political injustices that plague local and global communities, and addressed visually in multidisciplinary installations that reflect an in-depth research of material and form. While living in the US, his Greek origin still resonates in his work, either as a source of inspiration or as an element of reference.

Qiqing Lin

Lin Qiqing 林 绮晴
(b. 1991, Guangdong, China)

Qiqing (pronounced Chi-Ching) is a textile artist based in New York City. As a former award-winning journalist from China, she tells stories about human relationships, gender, immigration, and language through her distinctive figurative weaving with hand-spun paper yarn and paper collage.

She graduated with a BA in journalism in 2014 and an MFA in Textiles at Parsons School of Design in 2023.



Qiqing has participated in the NYFA Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program (2025), and residencies at Residency Unlimited (2024), Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild (2024), the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (2023). Her works have been exhibited at The Brooklyn Artists Exhibition of Brooklyn Museum, All Street Gallery, Surface Design Association, and New York Textile Month.

[Rujuta Rao](#)

Born in Goa, India, in 1989, Rujuta Rao completed her MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from Parsons School of Design, New York (2014), and her BFA in Sculpture from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (2011). Rao's work spans sculpture, installation, performance, book art, sound art, and conceptual garments. Her research-led practice relates to place, family history, and hospitality.

Rao has participated in residencies and fellowships globally, including the Center for Book Arts Residency (NY); Asia Art Archive in America's Leadership Camp (NY); CCA Islands Travel Fellowship (Japan); Civita Institute Fellowship (Italy); The Rejoinders Residency (UK); ISSP Riga Residency (Latvia); Chennai Photo Biennale Residency Phase I (India); and CONA Foundation Residency (India). In 2025, she is scheduled to participate in the Bemis Center residency in Omaha, Nebraska.

In the United States, Rao's work has been exhibited at The Kitchen, Printed Matter / St. Marks, Tufts University Art Galleries, Anthology Film Archives, The Film-Makers' Cooperative, Parent Company, Bungee Space, Mana Contemporary, and Rubus Discolor Project. In India, her work has been showcased at Experimenter Gallery, 1ShanthiRoad, Kolkata Centre for Creativity, Serendipity Arts Festival, and Srishti Institute of Art, Design, and Technology. Her work has been exhibited internationally, with a recent highlight being the State of Fashion Biennale 2024 in Arnhem, NL. Rao has participated in publishing fairs such as Press Play at Pioneer Works, BookSmart Fair at Art on Paper, and the Brooklyn Art Book Fair.

Features in India include Vogue, Elle, Voice of Fashion, Platform Magazine, The Telegraph, and Mint, as well as publications by the Museum of Art and Photography and Experimenter Gallery. In the United States, Rao's work was featured in The Amp and Unbag Magazine.

Rao's works are housed in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Center for Book Arts, and Letra Muerta Inc. in New York.

Rao lives and works in the New York metropolitan area.



[Shishir Giri](#)

Shishir Giri is a Nepali photographer based in New York. He is a street photographer based in New York, capturing everyday life against the urban environment. His work focuses on people, places, and their interactions with the world around them. As a storyteller, he aims to document individual stories and social issues. He often photographs artists and craftsmen, showing their work process and how they create.



[Shu Wang](#)

Shu Wang (she/they) graduated from Cinema Studies program at New York University and is currently a Distribution & Exhibition Associate at Third World Newsreel. She was also a TWN 2023 Production Workshop Fellow. Shu harbors great interest in B&W photography and filmmaking. Her artistic works focus on exile diaspora and collective/historical trauma.

[Siyu Chen](#)

Siyu Chen was born in Shanghai, China, raised in Shanghai and Singapore, based in New York. She is a multidisciplinary artist working primarily with drawing, video, and text. Her work interweave obsession, loss, and humor to reflect on the psychological experiences of migration. She has exhibited at tutu Gallery (New York), FJORD (Philadelphia), Arts Letters and Number (Upstate New York), am art space (Shanghai), Studio Gallery (Shanghai) and Bumpodo Gallery (Tokyo). She has recently launched her first curation project “Meandering, Spiraling, Unraveling” at Accent Sisters (Jersey City). In addition, she has taught courses and workshops in studio art and digital tools at Parsons, The New School (New York), Tongji University (Shanghai) and Xinchejian (Shanghai).



[Talita do Nascimento Cabral](#)

Talita do Nascimento Cabral is a Brazilian interdisciplinary artist and educator. Her work explores the intersection of nature, memory, and materiality through textiles, natural pigments, and organic and or found materials. Her practice draws inspiration from the cycles of growth and decay in the natural world, often incorporating elements from her own garden. A former fashion industry professional, Talita challenges her environmental impact by reusing materials and embracing her family’s ethos of resourcefulness. As the founder of Upcycle Coalition, she fosters environmental awareness through workshops on circularity and creative reuse. Her work has been exhibited at Deep Space Gallery and Smush Gallery.

Won Young Chang

Won Young Chang, originally from Seoul, Korea, lives and works in New Jersey, USA. She earned her BFA from Seoul National University, Korea, in 2011, and her MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art, London, UK, in 2018.

Her solo exhibitions include "At My Place," Space Kyeol, Seoul, Korea (2023); "Afterimages," CICA Museum, Gimpo, Korea (2019); and "That Night," Gallery Laon, Seoul, Korea (2015).

She has also exhibited in collaborative duo shows, including "Strange Vase: Strange Chat," Coso, Seoul, Korea (2024); and "What is Dust/Dust is What/Dust is Dust," Project Space Yeongdeungpo, Seoul, Korea (2023), alongside ceramic artist Eunjung Suh. Additionally, she has participated in numerous international group exhibitions, such as "Color," Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition, New York, USA (2019); and the "Summer Exhibition," Royal Academy, London, UK (2018).



Won is a participant in the 2025 Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program by the New York Foundation for the Arts. In 2018, she took part in the Óbvia Residency in Portugal and the Lumen Atina Residency in Italy.

Won's paintings interweave memories, blending reality with imagination, abstraction with figurativeness, different places, and the distortions of time.