

# Miami Herald

Miami artists share \$491,000 in awards.  
Winners include a life-size cardboard MiG  
jet



International renowned Haitian artist Edouard Duval-Carrie sits in his studio in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood. For the past five years, Duval-Carrie , artistic director of the Haitian Cultural Arts Alliance, has exhibited "Global Caribbean" inside the Little Haiti Cultural Center during Basel. The EDC Art Complex includes the non-profit Little Haiti Cultural Arts Alliance along with his studio. Little Haiti is an oasis with artists, restaurants, and local vendors whom have set-up shops creating an authentic Haitian cultural experiences for both locals and visitors alike. CARL JUSTE [cjuste@miamiherald.com](mailto:cjuste@miamiherald.com)

**VISUAL ARTS**

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Miami visual artist [Edouard Duval-Carrie](#) has won the Michael Richards Award, which includes \$75,000 and a commission for a work to be exhibited at [The Bass](#), in the inaugural presentation of [The Ellie awards](#).

More than 500 artists and art teachers submitted applications for The Ellies, created by [ArtCenter/South Florida](#) to recognize and elevate the careers of Miami visual artists. The awards are named in honor of ArtCenter founder Ellie Schneiderman, who transformed several rundown Lincoln Road buildings in 1984 into artist studios. Awards were judged by a jury of independent art experts familiar with the Miami arts scene.

The 44 winners in this year's program will share a total of \$491,000, funded from the sale of one of ArtCenter's buildings. The highest award is named for Michael Richards, an ArtCenter alumnus who died in the 2001 World Trade Center attack. It goes to an artist who has sustained excellence over a long period of time.

"I am more than ecstatic," said Duval-Carrie, who came to Miami more than 20 years ago and works from a studio at the Little Haiti Cultural Center. "I love this city. It's grown since I came here; we've grown together I hope. I feel very humbled and very touched. I work and I work, and when this happens it makes me feel like it's not all in vain."

The awards' monetary value "has moved ArtCenter into national status. It's a very substantial amount and very indicative of where the city is," he said

ArtCenter President and CEO Dennis Scholl said he was surprised by the response to the ArtCenter's call for submissions last spring.

"We were only looking at visual arts and we were only looking at Miami-Dade County. To imagine we would get over 500 responses in that limited discipline — I was astounded. It reminded me that Miami-Dade really is a visual arts community."

He was also struck by the strength of the ideas, he said. "Quantity is one thing. The quality was also so strong that the [ArtCenter] board has already agreed to renew the awards for a second year."

Creator Awards of \$2,500 to \$25,000 were given to 38 artists to realize specific projects that include a commemoration of victims of police shootings, the transformation of concrete from a demolished housing project into monumental sculptures around Liberty City, and a documentary film on a group of gay men who arrived in the 1980 Mariel Boat Lift.

Teacher Travel Grants of \$5,000 each were awarded to five local teachers. Each will travel in the U.S. to create teaching curricula.

The winners were announced Wednesday night. They are:

### **Creator Awards**

**Kevin Arrow**, \$10,000, for an audiovisual installation of abstract cinema classics inspired by Oskar Fischinger's "An Optical Poem."

**Jenna Balfe**, \$10,000, for a performance work "Transnaturism," based on the Transhumanism movement that explores the cyclic disconnection between people, the environment and spirituality.

**Marcus Blake**, \$6,000, for the “MiamiLith” public art installation in Liberty City created from concrete slabs from the demolition of the old Liberty Square housing complex.

**Joe Cardona**, \$25,000, for “The Gay Men of Mariel” documentary film.

**Leo Castaneda**, \$10,000, for “Levels and Bosses,” a fine art video game offering new models for imagining the future.

**Thom Wheeler Castillo**, \$8,000, for “Mangroove,” an exploration of the sounds of Miami estuaries.

**Lou Anne Colodny**, \$10,000, “Consumption Personified,” a book about Miami photographer Rafael Salazar.

**Franky Cruz**, \$6,000, for “Vivarium Meconium Laboratory” encompassing a lab and a series of large-scale paintings made with a substance secreted after a butterfly emerges from its cocoon.

**Woosler Delisfort**, \$15,000, for “This is Little Haiti” film about this fast-changing neighborhood and its cultural legacy.

**Cara Despain**, \$8,000, “Earthbound Objects” video installation and narrative film on the man holding the Guinness Book record for the most lightning strikes.

**April Dobbins**, \$10,000, for “ALABAMALAND,” a feature-length documentary about African-American land ownership in the rural South.

**Bo Droga**, \$2,500, for “Concrete Landscapes Miami” transformation of Metrorail pillars into dominoes.

**Ray Elman**, \$5,000, for large-scale portraits of frequent 1950s and 1960s guests to the Historic Hampton House in Brownsville.

**Asif Farooq**, \$15,000, for “Balalaika,” a slightly larger-than-life-size, fully detailed paper airplane sculpture based on the Russian MiG fighter jet.

**Guadalupe Figueras**, \$8,000, for ( V ) | T . <3 (www.cvnt.love // [www.cvnt.tv](http://www.cvnt.tv)) an online streaming platform and digital magazine.

**Julie Fliegenspan**, \$10,000, for a documentary based on audio clippings from her conversations with Lily Gaier, a 90-year-old Holocaust survivor.

**Dara Friedman**, \$25,000, for “FIGHT,” a series of 30-second public service announcements examining confrontation and negotiation.

**Gonzalo Fuenmayor**, \$8,000, a series of large-scale charcoal drawings exploring gesture and erasure.

**Rosa Naday Garmendia**, \$8,000, “Rituals of Commemoration” public art work commemorating victims of police misconduct.

**GeoVanna Gonzalez**, \$5,000, for Supplement Projects, an alternative space in Little Haiti.

**Adler Guerrier**, \$15,000, for a film about spaces identified with immigrant groups.

**Nicolas Lobo**, \$15,000, to create a modeling salon and wellness center offering experiences based on the human senses.

**Pepe Mar**, \$10,000, for his first major museum solo exhibition at the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh.

**Jillian Mayer**, \$15,000, for a mobile artist residency that doubles as a survivalist shelter.

**Ricardo Mor**, \$6,000, for “Assembly,” a public art sculpture based on protest deterrents, used here to encourage public dissent.

**Michelle Lisa Polissaint**, \$10,000, for “Moonshine Moanin’ ” performance exploring the artist’s queer identity as it relates to her Southern upbringing.

**Johanne Rahaman**, \$20,000, for “Water Rights” installation examining the African Diaspora’s relationship to water.

**Alina Rodriguez**, \$10,000, for “Retra-Tablos” outreach program to immigrant children and their traditions of textile art.

**Silvia Ros**, \$10,000, for “Cuban Architects at Home and in Exile: The Modernist Generation,” photographic exhibition.

**Lydia Rubio**, \$6,000, for “Tarnished Nature, Erasable Art” series of large-scale, interactive and erasable works focused on the impermanence of our ecosystems.

**Onajide Shabaka**, \$8,000, for “Alusogbe” photographic project examining Colonial era and contemporary ethnobotany.

**Stuart Sheldon**, \$2,500, installation and social media campaign to encourage conversation about gun safety policy.

**Troy Simmons**, \$5,000, for transformation of demolished buildings to artwork to put focus on gentrification.

**Ayesha Singh**, \$10,000, for “Provisional Obstruction,” a series of collaborative works with artist Misael Soto provoking discourse on impermanence.

**Symone Titania**, \$8,000, for “NOTES TO MY YOUNGER SELF/Women’s Photo Documentary exhibit” about innovative women of Miami-Dade County.

**Fereshteh Toosi**, \$6,000, for Water Radio, participatory performances during kayak outings along Miami’s canals.

**Juana Valdes**, \$18,000, for “Rest Ashore,” an installation on migration and the global refugee crisis.

**Tom Virgin**, \$12,000, for a collaboration between artists and writers on pressing community issues.

### **Teacher Travel Grants**

**Juana Meneses**, New World School of the Arts, for a trip to Berlin to develop her skills in publishing art books.

**Susan Feliciano**, Robert Morgan Education Center High School, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Washington, D.C., to research an art curriculum about women artists.

**Lourdes Fuller**, Shenandoah Middle School, to Spain to study mosaics.

**Justin Long**, New World School of the Arts, to Maine to attend the Wooden Boat Building School for his sculpture class.

**Mirena Suarez**, Ada Merritt K-8, to Italy for an FIU art study program in the Renaissance.