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***THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB ANNOUNCES 10 ARTIST FELLOWS FOR 2020***

*Second cohort of Fellows includes artists working in photography, light, storytelling, sound, and other mediums*

**New York, NY** — The National Arts Club (NAC) is proud to announce the selection of 10 Artist Fellows for 2020. The NAC Artist Fellowship program provides a select number of artists with one year of full membership to the historic club, situated on Gramercy Park in New York City. Fellows are encouraged to take advantage of the Club’s meeting spaces, engage with other members, and participate in the more than 150 public programs offered throughout the year. They also have access to overnight accommodations and dining options. The fellowship officially begins on Monday, January 6, 2020.

“The Artist Fellows program continues our Club’s 121-year history of supporting the arts and artists,” said Linda Zagaria, President of The National Arts Club. “We are proud to welcome this talented and diverse crop of creators, who are working in a wide array of mediums, and hope that this opportunity will further their artistic careers.”

“I am thrilled and honored to be selected as a Fellow,” said Lara Knutson, one of the selected artists. “I look forward to utilizing the Club’s beautiful spaces and being a member of this passionate community of artists and arts lovers.”

The 2020 NAC Artist Fellows are:

- [Lara Knutson](#), an artist, industrial designer, and architect based in Long Island City. Designer and Architect who works in Long Island City near MoMA PS1. Her work is informed by the interplay of light, space, materials and structure that unite these two disciplines
- [Kala Pierson](#), a composer and sound artist. Her music is vivid, full-throated, and rooted in the joy and urgency of communication.
- **Makeba Rainey**, a Harlem-born self-taught artist best known for her digital collage portraits of contemporary and historical Black icons. Her creative practice focuses on the transformative healing power within community building and incorporates the themes of self-determination, creative problem-solving, cooperative economics and restorative justice as seen in social movements such as the Black Arts Movement of the 60s/70s and the more recent BLM Movement.
- [Duke Riley](#), an interdisciplinary artist exploring maritime history and events around urban waterways. His signature style interweaves historical and contemporary events with elements of fiction and myth to create allegorical histories. His re-imagined narratives comment on a range of issues from the cultural impact of over development and environmental destruction of waterfront communities to contradictions within political ideologies and the role of the artist in society.
- [Aliza Shvarts](#), an artist and writer who works in performance, video, and installation. Her art and writing explore queer and feminist understandings of reproduction and duration.
- [Brea Souders](#), a multidisciplinary artist working primarily with the medium of photography. Using materials such as film cut-ups from her archives, photographic chemicals, paint, personal effects, and objects from places ranging from Marnay-sur-Seine, France to the Atacama Desert in Chile to her parents' attic in Philadelphia, she shapes and compresses time and place in works that serve as reservoirs for layered subjects and abstract concepts.

- [Shani Jamila](#), a Brooklyn-based artist whose work explores identity, genealogy and the idea of home. Her travels to nearly 50 countries deeply inform her painting, photography, and collage practice.
- [Carol Salmanson](#), a Brooklyn-based light artist working with LEDs and reflective materials to create installations, light sculptures, wall pieces, and public art.
- [Rachel Elizabeth Seed](#), a London-born, Brooklyn-based nonfiction storyteller working in film, photography, and writing. She has been a contributing writer for the Sundance Institute and No Film School, a photography and film curator, and is Executive Director/Co-Founder of the Brooklyn Documentary Club, a filmmaker collective that meets monthly in Brooklyn, NY.
- [Sugar Vendil](#), a composer, pianist, and interdisciplinary artist based in New York City. Her artistic practice is strongly rooted in rigorous discipline as a musician and gradually expanded into performance that integrates music, movement, and unconventional approaches to the piano.

Fellows were selected by a committee made up of Tracy Hyter-Suffern, Executive Director of The National Jazz Museum in Harlem; John Mhiripiri, Executive Director of Anthology Film Archives; and Linda C. Harrison, Executive Director and CEO of the Newark Museum of Art; as well as Ben Hartley, Executive Director of The National Arts Club; and Charlotte Kent, Assistant Professor of Visual Culture and Program Director for Art History at Montclair State University, in addition to serving as a Board Member and Co-Chair of The National Arts Club's Education Committee.

This is the second year of the NAC Artist Fellowship program. The 2019 Fellows were composer [Sarah Kirkland Snider](#), writer and editor [Emily Nemens](#), fashion designer [Natalia Fedner](#), visual artist [Kyle Staver](#), and performance artist [Sahra Motalebi](#).

### **About The National Arts Club**

Founded in 1898, The National Arts Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to stimulate, foster, and promote public interest in the arts and to educate the American people in the fine arts. Annually, the Club offers more than 150 free programs to the public, including exhibitions, theatrical and musical performances, lectures and readings, attracting an audience of over 25,000 members and guests. Feature programs focus on all disciplines of the arts. For a full list of events or to learn more, please visit [nationalartsclub.org](http://nationalartsclub.org).

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