

Introducing the 10 Shortlisted Ghetto Film School Fellows for the Inaugural Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award 2020

Today Frieze and Deutsche Bank announce the ten shortlisted fellows that will headline the inaugural **Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award**. Presented in partnership with award-winning, non-profit film academy **Ghetto Film School (GFS)**, the initiative offers a platform and development program for ten emerging, Los Angeles-based filmmakers aged 20-34 years old. Frieze Los Angeles takes place **February 14 – 16, 2020** at **Paramount Pictures Studios in Hollywood**. Launched in 2019, Frieze Los Angeles brings together more than 70 galleries from around the world and is supported by global lead partner Deutsche Bank for the second consecutive year.

The ten shortlisted fellows are as follows: **Danielle Boyd, Mya Dodson, Michelle Jihyon Kim, Nabeer Khan, Silvia Lara, Alima Lee, Timothy Offor, Toryn Seabrooks, Noah Sellman** and **Nicole L. Thompson**. The recipient of the award, selected by a jury of leading art and entertainment figures including **Doug Aitken, Shari Frilot, Jeremy Kagan, Sam Taylor Johnson** and **Hamza Walker** will be announced at a ceremony on **February 13** at **Paramount Pictures Theatre** and receive a \$10,000 prize.

Selected from an open call throughout Los Angeles, the ten shortlisted fellows completed an intensive three-month program at **GFS** each producing a short film in response to Los Angeles' vibrant art, culture and social landscape. The resulting 10 short films will be screened at the Paramount Pictures Theatre throughout the fair, **February 14-16, 2020**.



Stosh Mintek, C.E.O, Ghetto Film School said: “We are so proud to partner with Frieze and Deutsche Bank Wealth Management to provide young storytellers meaningful support in their journey towards a successful career in the film industry. The Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award is a truly inspiring accomplishment that signifies the growth and dedication this recipient has undergone during their intensive three-month program with Ghetto Film School.”

Excerpts of the films and information about the fellows will be showcased in the Deutsche Bank Wealth Management Lounge at Frieze Los Angeles. Deutsche Bank is the global lead partner of Frieze Los Angeles for the second consecutive year, continuing a shared commitment to the culture of Los Angeles and to recognizing significant artistic achievement around the world.

FURTHER INFORMATION

To keep up-to-date on all the latest news from Frieze, sign up to our newsletter at frieze.com, and follow @FriezeArtFair on Instagram, Twitter and Frieze Art Fairs on Facebook. #FriezeArtFair #FriezeLA #FriezeWeek

–End.

Press Contacts:

US (excl. New York):
Third Eye
Darius Sabbaghzadeh
www.hellothirdeye.com
tel: +1 (213) 277 5797
darius@hellothirdeye.com

New York:
Resnicow & Associates

Sarah Morris

www.resnicow.com

tel: +1 212 671 5165

frieze@resnicow.com

UK, Europe & ROW:

Scott & Co

Carlotta Dennis-Lovaglio

www.scott-andco.com

tel: + 44 (0)20 3487 0077

carlotta@scott-andco.com

Frieze Los Angeles 2020 Opening Hours:

Thursday Preview, February 13 (invitation only)

Friday Preview & Private View, February 14

Saturday, February 15

Sunday, February 16

Tickets for Frieze Los Angeles 2020 will be released on www.frieze.com on Friday, December 20, 2019.

Notes to Editors

Shortlisted Fellows:

Danielle Boyd is a writer/director based in LA. She has produced several short films including *The Hooligans* (2015). Her first music video *Visions 20/20* screened at the Los Angeles Music Video Festival. Danielle's senior thesis film, *The Princess and The Pea*, was part of the Palm Springs International Short Film Market and screened at the 2018 Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner. More recently, her latest project *Platinum Dream* premiered on the Fader. *Platinum Dream* was an official selection of the Austin Music Video Festival. She is currently in Rwanda where her first feature is being shot.

Mya Dodson is a filmmaker hailing from Fayetteville, North Carolina, whose work aims to explore the nuanced emotional and spiritual intersections of the Black human experience. Dodson is a graduate of GFS (2018), where she acted as cinematographer on writer-director Luna Garcia's short, *Charley Horse* - shot on location in Tel Aviv, Israel and screened internationally including Geena Davis' Bentonville Film Festival. Presently, Mya is a Community Representative at non-profit, Free the Work, co-hosts *Moongaze: The Kid Cudi Podcast*, makes dance videos, and directs music videos.

Michelle Jihyon Kim is a filmmaker and painter who is currently studying Art at the University of California, Los Angeles. Kim has been able to create and work on several shorts through GFS including the program's Tel Aviv-based thesis film *Charley Horse*. Since completing the program, she has gone on to intern at Karga Seven Pictures and A24. Kim also co-directs the Hammer Museum's student publication *GRAPHITE Journal*. Lately, she's been working on writing her first feature and a series of paintings that investigate the uncanniness of West Los Angeles.

Nabeer Khan was born in Manhattan and raised in Arizona. While studying Psychology and Neuroscience at Princeton University, he also led a dance company, a role in which he choreographed, designed lighting and costumes, and curated each of the biannual shows while also writing, directing, and acting in comedic sketches for each show. Now living in Los Angeles, he uses his experience and identity as a Pakistani-American Muslim working in a predominantly uniform entertainment industry to inform his filmmaking and finds that he gravitates towards stories in which subjects are placed in unexpected settings.

Silvia Lara is a filmmaker born in Chihuahua, Mexico and raised back and forth in both Mexico and Whittier, a city within Los Angeles county that borders Orange County. Narrative filmmaking is Lara's forte, in her work, she strives to visually map the ebbs and flows in emotion and tone

provided by a story in order to depict as honest a portrayal of the human condition as possible. Her complete body of work includes narrative, music video, documentary, commercial and experimental projects in a variety of formats.

Alima Lee is a transdisciplinary artist from New York and is currently based in LA. Her work explores themes of identity and intersectionality. Currently co-host of a monthly show, *Rave Reparations* on NTS, her film work has been presented at the Tate Modern, MOCA, Art + Practice, Smithsonian African American Museum, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, and ICA Boston.

Timothy Offor is a filmmaker from Brooklyn, NY. His films have played at several film festivals, including, the Blackstar film festival, the Houston International film festival, the Gasparilla International film festival, the Queens World film festival, the Martha's Vineyard African American film festival, Cannes, and the Palm Springs ShortFest amongst several others. Offor earned BA in Media Studies and English from the Pennsylvania State University. He later earned his MFA in Film & Television Production from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts in the Fall of 2016. He recently completed a successful film festival run playing in over 20 festivals around the country with his thesis film, *Cal & V*, which he wrote and directed.

Toryn Seabrooks is a director, screenwriter, producer, and the founder of the content creation company NovaRay Entertainment. Toryn received her BFA from NYU Tisch School of Film and Television and was the recipient of the Tisch Dean's Scholars Award. She was also chosen by Tisch to represent the Film & TV department during her 2017 Commencement Ceremony at Yankee Stadium. After graduating, Toryn became the Showrunner's Assistant of Freeform's Original series, *Grownish* and supported the Showrunner in the inception of the show. She is now the Field Logger on *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* and records the daily lives of the hit family around the world. Toryn has

guest-spoken on podcasts, spearheaded fully funded Indiegogo campaigns, and has screened her films at high schools and festivals.

Noah Sellman is a Colorado born filmmaker, raised in the rural farming community of the San Luis Valley. After graduating high school, he left his rural town for Wesleyan University where he graduated with a BA in Film Studies with Honors. After graduating, Sellman flew to Shenzhen, China, as an artist-in-residence with UNI, a small local studio which focuses on a mix of commercial and artistic content. He has since moved to Los Angeles where he has been able to truly turn his focus to creating and sharing stories based in the rural myths and tales and express the unique world of his upbringing.

Nicole L. Thompson is a filmmaker from Newark, New Jersey. She received her BA from The College of New Jersey and has also studied filmmaking at Northumbria University, UK. She recently graduated from the University of Southern California with an MFA in Film & TV Production where she served as the president of the African American Cinema Society for two years. NBA All Star Kyrie Irving hired Thompson as his personal cinematographer. Thompson was selected out of hundreds of directing applicants to pitch a project to ABC Executives, as an Ideas United ABC Women's Initiative Top 10 Finalist. She is being mentored by award-winning filmmaker Nina Yang Bongiovi through her non-profit Metta Collective.

Jury Members:

Doug Aitken is widely regarded for an extensive interdisciplinary body of artwork that spans photography, sculpture, architecture, narrative films and video installations, print media, and live performance. Aitken's artwork often explores the modern condition and his installations create immersive cinematic experiences. Aitken's eye leads us into a world where time, space, and memory are fluid concepts. His work has been featured in exhibitions around the world, in such institutions as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden of the Smithsonian Institution,

The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the Vienna Secession, the Serpentine Gallery in London and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. Aitken earned the International Prize at the Venice Biennale for the installation *electric earth*, the 2012 Nam June Paik Art Center Prize, the 2013 Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award: Visual Arts, and the 2017 Frontier Art Prize.

Claudio de Sanctis is Global Head of Deutsche Bank Wealth Management. He is also Chief Country Officer for Switzerland. He joined the bank in December 2018.

Shari Frilot is Senior Programmer of Sundance Film Festival, having joined the programming team in 1998, and currently focuses on American and World Cinema dramatic features, as well as films that experiment and push the boundaries of conventional storytelling. She is also the Chief Curator and driving creative force behind New Frontier at Sundance, a program highlighting work that expands cinema culture through the convergence of film, art and new media technology.

As Co-Director of Programming for Outfest from 1998-2001, she founded the Platinum section, which introduced cinematic installation and performance to the festival. From 1993-1996, Frilot served as Festival Director of MIX: The New York Experimental Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. During that time, she also co-founded the first gay Latin American film festivals, MIX BRASIL and MIX MÉXICO. Shari is a filmmaker and recipient of multiple grants from institutions including the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Media Arts Foundation. She is a graduate of Harvard/Radcliffe & the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program.

Jeremy Kagan is a director, writer, and producer of feature films and television and a full tenured professor at School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, where he founded the Change Making Media Lab - www.cmml-usc.org – which studies and produces media for

social change. His most recent dramatic feature *SHOT* is about what one bullet does to many lives. Among his other 11 dramatic features are *Heroes*; *The Big Fix*; *The Chosen* and *The Journey of Natty Gann*.

His television credits include the Directors Guild of America Award-nominated *Crown Heights*; *Conspiracy: The Trial of The Chicago 8* (ACE Award); *Katherine*, *The Making of an American Revolutionary*, and the Golden Globe-nominated Roswell: *The UFO Cover-up*. He has also directed popular series including *The West Wing* and he received a Primetime Directing Emmy. Jeremy chairs the DGA Special Projects Committee that provides the 17,000 members with educational and cultural events. He has written *Directors Close Up* vol 1 and vol 2 and the online eTextbook *Keys To Directing*.

Bettina Korek: Executive Director of Frieze Los Angeles. Korek is also founder of ForYourArt, a Los Angeles-based organization that produces projects with artists, promotes information about exhibitions and events, and works with diverse stakeholders to encourage patronage, engagement and collaboration. ForYourArt produced the Participating Gallery program for both of the Getty's Pacific Standard Time 2012 and 2017 initiatives. ForYourArt's role as liaison connecting different corners of the art world inspired artist John Baldessari to describe the organization as "special and unique because it is a neutral space." ForYourArt has published a trusted free art guide to Los Angeles for over 10 years. ForYourArt is developing a report on the state of arts patronage. Korek is a member of the of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Sam Taylor Johnson was born in London in 1967. She started working in photography and film in the 1990s, alongside fellow Young British Artists, Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin. She exhibited at Venice Biennale 1997, winning the Illy Café Prize for Most Promising Young Artist, and receiving a Turner Prize nomination in 1998. She has exhibited at the Guggenheim, with solo exhibitions at The Hirshhorn Museum, Museum

of Contemporary Art Sydney, Museum of Contemporary Art Houston, Walker Art Center Minneapolis among many other prestigious museums.

In 2008, Taylor Johnson directed the BAFTA and Palme d'Or nominated, Sundance-winning short film, *Love You More*. Followed by her debut feature film *Nowhere Boy* (2009) which was nominated for four BAFTAs, including Outstanding Debut. Her adaptation of best-selling novel *Fifty Shades of Grey* (2015) broke records for the biggest opening for a female director. Most recently, she has adapted James Frey's *A Million Little Pieces* starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton, Juliette Lewis, Odessa Young and Charlie Hunnam.

Stosh Mintek is a graduate of Yale University with a double-major in English and Film Studies, Stosh Mintek is CEO of Ghetto Film School (GFS). He oversees GFS' international operations in NYC, LA and London, and works with board leadership to secure resources, execute strategic plans, and actualise GFS' mission: to educate, develop and celebrate the next generation of great storytellers. As an independent filmmaker, Stosh has written, shot, directed, edited and produced numerous short films, music videos, animations, and documentaries that have screened in national and international film festivals. He is an alumnus of Columbia Business School's Institute for Non-profit Management, and a DeVos Institute Fellow.

Thorsten Strauss, Global Head Deutsche Bank Art, Culture & Sports. Since 2016 he has been globally responsible for all of the Art, Culture and Sports engagement of Deutsche Bank as well as being on the Management Committee of Deutsche Bank in Germany.

Hamza Walker is the Director of the Los Angeles non-profit art space LAXART and an adjunct professor at the School of Art Institute of Chicago. Prior to joining LAXART in 2016, was director of education and associate curator at the Renaissance Society, a non-collecting contemporary art museum in Chicago, for 22 years where he organized

numerous shows and public programming and wrote extensively on the field of contemporary art.

Notable shows at the Renaissance Society include “Suicide Narcissus” (2013), “Black Is, Black Ain’t” (2008) and “New Video, New Europe” (2004). In addition to his work at the Renaissance Society, Walker also co-curated the Made in L.A. 2016 biennial. He has won the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement in 2014 and the prestigious Ordway Prize in 2010 for his significant impact on the field of contemporary art.

Frieze is the world’s leading platform for modern and contemporary art for scholars, connoisseurs, collectors and the general public alike. Frieze comprises three magazines—*frieze*, *Frieze Masters Magazine* and *Frieze Week*— and four international art fairs—Frieze London, Frieze Masters, Frieze New York and Frieze Los Angeles.

Frieze was founded in 1991 by Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, with the launch of *frieze* magazine, the leading international magazine of contemporary art and culture. In 2003, Sharp and Slotover launched Frieze London art fair, which takes place each October in The Regent’s Park, London. In 2012, they launched Frieze New York, which occurs each May in Randall’s Island Park, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London in October and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern. In 2018, Frieze launched Frieze Los Angeles, which opened February 14–17, 2019 at Paramount Pictures Studios, Los Angeles. In 2016 Frieze entered into a strategic partnership with Endeavor, a global entertainment, sports and content company.

Endeavor is a global entertainment, sports and content company, home to the world’s most dynamic and engaging storytellers, brands, live events and experiences. The company is comprised of industry leaders including entertainment agency WME; sports, fashion, events and media company IMG; and premier mixed martial arts organization UFC. The Endeavor network specializes in talent representation; marketing and

licensing; content development, distribution and sales; event management; and a number of direct-to-consumer offerings.

Ghetto Film School (GFS) is an award-winning non-profit founded in 2000 to educate, develop and celebrate the next generation of great American storytellers. With locations in New York City, Los Angeles and London, GFS is the most elite and inclusive film academy in the world, equipping students for top universities and careers in the creative industries through two tracks: an introductory education program for high school students and early-career support for alumni and young professionals. GFS annually serves over 6,000 individuals, 14-34 years of age.

Deutsche Bank is proud to be the Global Lead Partner of Frieze Art Fairs for the 17th consecutive year. At the second edition of Frieze Los Angeles the bank is launching a new initiative with Frieze, entitled Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award, which will support upcoming filmmakers in the city. The shortlisted 'fellows' work will be showcased in the Deutsche Bank Wealth Management lounge at the fair and the winner will be announced in a special ceremony in the Paramount Theatre on preview day of Frieze Los Angeles.

Deutsche Bank's continuing and developing partnership with Frieze illustrates its commitment to encouraging excellence and new artistic talents from around the world. The bank has been supporting the work of cutting-edge, international artists and their galleries for 40 years and has distinguished itself as a global leader in the corporate art programs that are part of the bank's Art, Culture and Sports department. Other examples of Deutsche Bank's commitment to making a positive impact through art, culture and sports are its 30 year global partnership with the Berlin Philharmonic and its program at the 'Palais Populaire', the bank's dedicated cultural centre in the heart of Berlin.

Deutsche Bank is Germany's leading bank, with a strong position in Europe and a significant presence in the Americas and Asia Pacific. It

provides commercial and investment banking, retail banking, transaction banking and asset and wealth management products and services to corporations, governments, institutional investors, small and medium sized businesses, and private individuals.

Paramount Pictures Corporation (PPC), a global producer and distributor of filmed entertainment, is a unit of ViacomCBS (NASDAQ: VIAC; VIACA), a leading content company with prominent and respected film, television and digital entertainment brands. Paramount controls a collection of some of the most powerful brands in filmed entertainment, including Paramount Pictures, Paramount Animation, Paramount Television, and Paramount Players. PPC operations also include Paramount Home Entertainment, Paramount Pictures International, Paramount Licensing Inc., and Paramount Studio Group.