



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2018

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**Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts
Announces Selection of 2019 and 2020 Artists in Residence**



L'Merchie Frazier

Carolyn Shadid Lewis

The Eliot School of Fine & Applied Arts, the 342-year-old Boston-based art center, has selected its next two Artists in Residence: L'Merchie Frazier, a public fiber artist, innovator, poet and holographer, for 2019 and Carolyn Shadid Lewis, a multimedia artist and filmmaker, for 2020. Each year's Artist in Residence will collaborate with second-year youth in the Eliot School's Teen Bridge program to plan and make art, engage the larger community and produce a culminating event all focused on a theme that is relevant to their lives.

A panel of Teen Bridge participants, Eliot School staff and board members, as well as members of the wider Eliot School community, reviewed proposals and selected the 2019 and 2020 Boston-based artists. Each artist will receive a stipend of \$10,000 along with a project budget for materials.

2019 Artist-in-Residence L'Merchie Frazier: "New Urban Monuments: Stand Up Inside Yourself"

Reflecting the voices of youth and people in the community, *New Urban Monuments* is a collaborative and interactive fiber arts project that will suggest new public monuments that embody the things participants want to remember. *New Urban Monuments: Stand Up Inside Yourself* will engage and empower diverse audiences from Boston neighborhoods through a series of workshops as they design fiber sculpture models. Artist L'Merchie Frazier and Teen Bridge interns will also incorporate and utilize spoken and written word to express and document components of social justice, equity and public memory.

L'Merchie Frazier's fiber works document history, memory and social justice, often incorporating innovative technology. Her art is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Art and Design, the Smithsonian Institute and the White House. Frazier is a member of Women of Color Quilter's Network and a resident artist of African American Artists in Residence Program (AAMARP) at Northeastern University and at Fairmount Innovation and South End Technology Center's Learn2Teach MIT FABLabs. She works as Director of Education and Interpretation for the Museum of African American History, Boston/Nantucket.

Frazier has enjoyed residencies through the City of Boston's AIR program, New England Foundation for the Arts Creative City, and Northeastern University Law Lab Stable Ground. L'Merchie serves on the Massachusetts Council on History and Social Studies advisory commission for public schools. She recently was invited to speak at the Boston Public Library on the subject of public monuments.

2020 Artist-in-Residence Carolyn Shadid Lewis: "InterGeneration"

InterGeneration is a series of conversations and a joint creation between teens and elders that will enliven memory and hope through audio recordings and hand-made, stop-motion animation. Artist Carolyn Shadid Lewis will occupy the period leading up to the 2020 election as she brings these two generations together through storytelling, attentive listening and collaborative creation. The word "generation" refers to different age groups, but it also refers to art making, production and invention. Through animating stories of the past and expectations for the future, *InterGeneration* will initiate creative ways of seeing our current moment.

Carolyn Shadid Lewis records oral histories with individuals who have a personal and political story to tell. Lewis' art gains inspiration from her family's military history, from her Irish and Lebanese ancestry and from her experiences growing up and working on military bases. She exhibits her work nationally and internationally, including venues such as Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh, Ireland, Attleboro Arts Museum in Attleboro, MA, and The National Military Cemetery in Fort Leavenworth, KS. Her debut film, *From Twilight til Dawn*, won the award for best documentary at Boston's Glovebox Short Film and Animation Festival (2015). Additional awards include the St. Botolph Emerging Artist Award (2012), Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship in Film/Video (2011) and Puffin Foundation Artist Award (2010).

About the Eliot School

Inspiring lifelong learning in craftsmanship and creativity, the Eliot School teaches 3,500 people each year, including 2,000 children in Boston's public schools and community centers. Named Best of Boston twice by Boston Magazine, the school's areas of focus include woodworking, sewing and fashion, fiber arts, book arts, painting, drawing, and programs for children and teens.

About Teen Bridge

Teen Bridge is a year-round, intensive multi-year for teens from 8th grade through high school, recruited from the Eliot School's partner schools. Teen Bridge engages a small group of teens in a strong visual and manual arts program outside of school that combines skill building, mentorship, job training, employment and exposure to artists and intensive art enrichment opportunities.