



IT'S OFFICIAL!

MARGO SAWYER IS A 2018 GUGGENHEIM FELLOW

Margo Sawyer's artistic practice investigates the relationship between space and transcendence; the places where architecture and ritual converge to create transcendent qualities that encourage a state of contemplation within the viewer. The central actor in her work is color. Sawyer's practice bridges site-specific installations and public art to transform mundane architectural structures into euphoric icons, join exquisite objects and materials into domestic spaces, and turn large public spaces into intimate refuges. Sawyer's art unites the complex and unexpected, where the physical, material, perceptual, and psychological effects of color interact.

Sawyer's most celebrated works are *Synchronicity of Color, Red & Blue* (2008) at Discovery Green in Houston, Texas. These works transform two utilitarian structures into jubilant quilts of color, where the scale and physicality of colors draw you in. *Synchronicity of Color, Red & Blue* was honored in *Public Art in Review* (2009) by America for the Arts & Public Art Network, for exemplary commitment and leadership in the field of public art, and the works soon became an icon for the city of Houston. Sawyer's art unites color in a way that celebrates and honors our multicultural/multidimensional world. Sawyer continues to research what makes a place sublime, and focuses on creating immersive structures that foster an awareness of the contemplative self.

Sawyer received numerous grants and awards including: Fulbright Research Fellowship (India 1982-83) (Japan 1995-96), Rome Prize (1987), National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Individual Artists (1987), New York State Council for the Arts Grant for Public Art (1987), Grants Fund for Artists (1994), through the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts International for research in India and Myanmar, Japan Foundation Visual Arts Fellowship (1996), Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award (2001), Dora Maar Fellowship (2016) from the Brown Foundation & the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and in 2015 Sawyer was honored by the 52nd Texas Legislator Honor Texas Artist Laureate. Sawyer exhibits nationally and internationally in locations such as Japan, India, Italy, United Kingdom and the United States, with solo exhibitions at Sagacho Exhibit Space, Tokyo, Japan, Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, P.S.1. Museum, Barbara Toll Fine Arts, NYC and the Blaffer Art Museum in Houston. Sawyer has created many large public artworks cities such as London, UK, New York City, and Indianapolis, Indiana. In the state of Texas, she has permanent artworks in Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston.

Sawyer received her M.F.A from Yale University and a B.A. Honors Degree from Chelsea School of Art / London, UK. She is a Professor of Sculpture & Extended Media in the Department of Art & Art History at the University of Texas at Austin, and is represented by Holly Johnson Gallery in Dallas, Texas.

<https://www.gf.org/fellows/all-fellows/margo-sawyer/>

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

United States Senator Simon Guggenheim and his wife established the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in 1925 as a memorial to a son who died April 26, 1922. The Foundation offers Fellowships to further the development of scholars and artists by assisting them to engage in research in any field of knowledge and creation in any of the arts, under the freest possible conditions and irrespective of race, color, or creed.

Guggenheim Fellowships are intended for individuals who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.

Fellowships are awarded through two annual competitions: one open to citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada, and the other open to citizens and permanent residents of Latin America and the Caribbean. Candidates must apply to the Guggenheim Foundation in order to be considered in either of these competitions.

The Foundation receives approximately 3,000 applications each year. Although no one who applies is guaranteed success in the competition, there is no prescreening: all applications are reviewed. Approximately 175 Fellowships are awarded each year.

During the rigorous selection process, applicants will first be pooled with others working in the same field, and examined by experts in that field: the work of artists will be reviewed by artists, that of scientists by scientists, that of historians by historians, and so on. The Foundation has a network of several hundred advisers, who either meet at the Foundation offices to look at applicants' work, or receive application materials to read offsite. These advisers, all of whom are themselves former Guggenheim Fellows, then submit reports critiquing and ranking the applications in their respective fields. Their recommendations are then forwarded to and weighed by a Committee of Selection, which then determines the number of awards to be made in each area. Occasionally, no application in a given area is considered strong enough to merit a Fellowship.

The Committee of Selection then forwards its recommendations to the Board of Trustees for final approval. The successful candidates in the United States and Canada competition are announced in early April; those in the Latin America and Caribbean competition, in early June.

We guarantee our advisers and Committee of Selection members, as well as those who submit letters of reference, absolute confidentiality. Therefore, under no circumstances will the reasons for the rejection of an application be provided.