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*Anonymous Was A Woman Award*

**Ten Distinguished Women Artists Over 40 Years of Age  
Recognized for Originality and Potential**

Anonymous Was A Woman is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2016 Award. Each year, the Award recognizes women artists over 40 years of age who have made significant contributions in their fields to date, while continuing to exhibit originality and creative potential through ongoing work.

**2016 Award Winners**

Shiva Ahmadi  
Laura Anderson Barbata  
Tania Bruguera  
Sonya Clark  
Simone Leigh  
Medrie MacPhee  
Eiko Otake  
Rona Pondick  
Lourdes Portillo  
Shinique Smith

Winners are chosen from among a competitive pool of applicants selected by a group of distinguished art historians, curators, writers, and artists who serve as anonymous nominators. This year's list of winners consists of ten artists between the ages of 41 and 72 working in painting, sculpture, film, social practice, and performance. Five of this year's awardees were born abroad, in Mexico, Iran, Cuba, Canada, and Japan. Images and information about each artist can be found at: <http://www.anonymouswasawoman.org/>

Recipients of the Anonymous Was A Woman Award receive a "no strings-attached" grant of \$25,000 intended to provide them freedom to continue development of their creative vision. The only requirement of the award is that recipients inform the program how the gift affected their life or work. A complete list of past winners can be found at <http://www.anonymouswasawoman.org/past-award-winners.html>.

Lauren Shenfield, director of the program, explains, “Anonymous Was A Woman Awards provide important recognition to artists on the spectrum between ‘emerging and established.’ The grants fuel both personal and artistic development. The financial gift helps artists buy time, space, materials, and equipment, often at early stages of a new project, as well as important emotional support. Perhaps most importantly, the Award offers an opportunity for women artists of inordinate talent and accomplishment to achieve greater recognition.”

*“This is truly a country where the dreams come true,” said Shiva Ahmadi, born in Iran, on learning of the Award. Lourdes Portillo, 72 and born in Mexico, reiterated the program’s mission: “There is not a lot of appreciation for women artists of this age,” she said. “This gives me the impulse to keep going and will inspire other women of age, wisdom and experience.”*

The name of the grant program refers to a line in Virginia Woolf’s *A Room of One’s Own*. As the name implies, nominators and those associated with the program are unnamed. After 21 years of grant-making and 210 awards totaling over \$5 million, the program’s donor remains anonymous.

Anonymous Was A Woman, a program of FJC-A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds, is administered by Philanthropy Advisors, LLC, a comprehensive consulting and management organization for private philanthropy.

For more information please visit [www.anonymouswasawoman.org](http://www.anonymouswasawoman.org).

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*Women supporting women...as natural as breathing.*

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