

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2025

Contact: Louis Chavez, studio@chavezlouis.com

New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Contact: Amy Aronoff, aaronoff@nyfa.org

New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Contact: Ann Marie Sekeres,
AnnMarie.Sekeres@arts.ny.gov

**LOUIS CHAVEZ AWARDED A
2025 NYSCA/NYFA ARTIST FELLOWSHIP IN PHOTOGRAPHY**

**\$753,000 Total Distributed to 99 New York State Artists Working in
Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design, Choreography, Music/Sound,
Photography, and Playwriting/Screenwriting**

ROCHESTER, NY – Louis Chavez, photographer and visual artist, is one of 99 New York State artists to be recognized with a [2025 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship](#). Chavez's creative work contends with queer social histories through archival research and experimental photographic practices. The NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Program, administered by [New York Foundation for the Arts](#) (NYFA) with leadership support from the [New York State Council on the Arts](#) (NYSCA), makes unrestricted cash grants of \$8,000 to artists working in 15 disciplines, recognizing five disciplines per year on a triennial basis.

This year, NYFA has awarded a total of \$753,000 to 99 artists (including 7 collaborations) throughout New York State in the following disciplines: Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design, Choreography, Music/Sound, Photography, and Playwriting/Screenwriting. Finalists were also recognized with unrestricted cash grants of \$1,000. The program is highly competitive, and this year's recipients and finalists were selected from 3,672 applicants in discipline-specific peer-review panels.

The full lists of recipients, finalists, and industry panelists who made the selections [can be found here](#).

Louis Chavez is an artist and curator based in Rochester, New York. Their creative and research interests include queer activism and art practices, conceptual modes in photography, experimental cinema, and artist's books. Their work has been featured in *Der Greif*, *Contact Sheet*, and *Contrafotografia*, and included in exhibitions at The Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY (2025), Light Work, Syracuse, NY (2024), Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Xiamen, China (2023), PeepSpace, Tarrytown, NY (2023), Le Petit Versailles, New York, NY (2022), The Harnett Gallery at the University of Rochester (2021), and The Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA (2020). Chavez was a selected participant in the 2024 Impromptu Photobook Workshop, hosted by the independent photography publisher Void, and a 2023 Project Space artist-in-residence at Visual Studies Workshop. Chavez holds an M.F.A. in Photography and Related Media from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a B.S. from SUNY Brockport.

Since it was launched in 1985, the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship program has awarded over \$36.5+ million to 5,611 artists. [Esteemed alumni](#) from this year's recognized disciplines include Kyle Abraham (Choreography '10), Vito Acconci (Architecture/Environmental Structures '00), Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio (Architecture '85, '87, '98), Elliot Goldenthal (Music Composition '89), Eli Keszler (Music/Sound '16), Tony Kushner (Playwriting/Screenwriting '87), Deana Lawson (Photography '06), Zhou Long (Music Composition '00), Meredith Monk (Music Composition '85, Choreography '96), Shirin Neshat (Photography '96), Lynn Nottage (Playwriting/Screenwriting '94, '00), Pauline Oliveros (Music Composition '89), Sarah Oppenheimer (Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design '06, '10, '16), Suzan-Lori Parks (Playwriting/Screenwriting '90), Justin Peck (Choreography '13), J.T. Rogers (Playwriting/Screenwriting '04, '08, '16), Swoon (Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design '13), Carmelita Tropicana (Playwriting/Screenwriting '91), and Hank Willis Thomas (Photography '06).

Each year, the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship provides a lens for contemporary artistic expression. The themes, ideas, and materials used by the 2025 Fellows reflect and respond to the larger social, political, and economic issues of our day. Artists across categories are exploring topics including diasporic and immigrant identity; gender, race, and sexuality; environmental and disability justice; and civic engagement.

In addition to no-strings-attached financial support, the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship provides encouragement for artists at all career stages and creative disciplines to continue making work.

###

The New York Foundation for the Arts: [The New York Foundation for the Arts \(NYFA\)](#) was established in 1971 to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives. Today, the nonprofit organization's programs and services are far-reaching and are rooted in a wealth of physical and online resources. Each year, NYFA awards more than \$4 million in cash grants to individual visual, performing, and literary artists throughout the United States. NYFA's Fiscal Sponsorship program, one of the oldest and most reputable in the country, helps national artists and arts organizations raise and manage an average of \$4 million annually. NYFA's Learning programs, including its Artist as Entrepreneur and Immigrant Artist Mentoring Program, provide thousands of artists, creatives, and arts administrators with professional development training and support. NYFA's website, [NYFA.org](#), is used by more than 1 million people and features more than 20,000 opportunities and resources available to artists in all disciplines.

About the New York State Council on the Arts

The mission of the New York State Council on the Arts is to foster and advance the full breadth of New York State's arts, culture and creativity for all. For FY 2026, the Council on the Arts will award over \$161 million, serving organizations and artists across all 10 of the state's regions. The Council on the Arts further advances New York's creative culture by convening leaders in the field and providing organizational and professional development opportunities and informational resources. Created by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 and continued with

the support of Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature, the Council is an agency that is part of the Executive Branch. For more information on NYSCA, please visit arts.ny.gov/SOAFellow, and follow [NYSCA's Facebook page](#), on [X @NYSCArts](#) and [Instagram @NYSCouncilontheArts](#).