

**FY2017**  
**Interdisciplinary**  
**Panel Biographies**

**Rick Delaney** has been a practicing visual artist for over 25 years, the majority of those years incorporating computer-based technology in his artwork.

He has exhibited in solo and group shows, and worked collaboratively with artists, choreographers, and musicians throughout the United States. Some of his major collaborations in the late 90's were the Austin, Texas with multi-media group Circus of Fools. Delaney was also a founding member of gorilla-based performance and video group Army of Clowns.

**Mei-ling Hom** Mei-ling Hom is an artist based in Philadelphia whose art works explore Asian ideas from her American cultural perspective. She received an MFA in Sculpture from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University (1987) and has garnered numerous prestigious awards such as the Pew Fellowship in Visual Arts (1998), an NEA Visual Artist Fellowship (1994), a Joan Mitchell Foundation Visual Artist Grant (2005), and a Fulbright Research Fellowship to South Korea (2007). Her commissioned installation at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institute (2005) entitled Floating Mountains Singing Clouds was the first such commission for an Asian American. Her two large-scale public art commissions are at the Philadelphia International Airport (2010) and the Raleigh Durham International Airport (2011).

Other residency and fellowship opportunities include an artist residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans (2013); Civitella Ranieri Fellowship in Umbria, Italy (2002); a US/Japan Creative Artists Exchange Fellowship in Japan (1996); a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Arts International Residency in Thailand(1992); two Cite Internationale Des Arts residencies in Paris, France(1989,1992); Headlands Center for the Arts in California(1990, 1993); and a Seminario de Sargadelos Residency in Cervo, Galicia Spain(1989); among others.

She has also been in demand for commissioned works, guest lectures and workshops including her commissioned ChinaWedge installation at the Pennsylvania Convention Center; as an invited artist in Dialogues with Asian American Artists at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, DC; as a College Art Association panelist speaking on Public Art; and as a guest lecturer at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC, the Tokyo School of Art in Japan, the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, and the Faculty of Fine Arts at Chiang Mai University in Thailand. Her workshops include an Installation workshop in Berlin, Germany; and a sculptural books workshop at the Women's Studio Workshop in New York.

Since 2010 her work has brought together her interests in both farming and artmaking. A 2013 residency at the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans produced woven straw sculptures inoculated with oyster mushrooms. These sculptures produced an edible food and over time biodegraded into a

beneficial soil amendment. As artist in residence at the Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Clermont, Kentucky her straw sculptures for the Edible Garden were inoculated with endo mycorrhizal fungi to boost the growth of the vascular plants. In 2015/16 she was Environmental Artist in Residence at the McColl Center for Art + Innovation in Charlotte, North Carolina. Working with David McClelland, she created a mycofiltration installation of mycelia inoculated straw sculptures sited on the creekside of Anita Stroud Park in Charlotte. The myceliated sculptures were installed to filter out bacteria, excess nitrogen, phosphorous, and hydrocarbons from runoff water.

**Juana Valdes'** work traces, recollects, and records her own personal experience of migration. Her artwork is informed by her Afro-Cuban ethnicity and the experience of growing up in America. Throughout her career, Valdes has participated in a range of exhibitions and residencies most currently at the European Ceramic Work Center in the Netherlands (2012), the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning (2009), the Artist Residency at the Center for Book Arts (2007), and the Smack Mellon Studio Program (2004). Past exhibitions include a solo show at SENSEI Gallery as part of the *SENSEI Exchange Series Part 008: In the Fold* in New York (2013), and travelling exhibitions *Multiplicity: Contemporary Ceramic Sculpture* (2007-08) and *Multiple, Limited, Unique: Selections from the Permanent Collection of the Center for Book Arts* (2011-13).

Along with the above recognition, Juana has been the recipient of residencies that include the Atlantic Center for the Arts, the Lower EastSide Printshop, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center International and National Studio Residency Program, and a recipient of the National Association of Latinos Arts and Culture, Visual Artists (2009). Her work has been seen in a series of public art projects such as the Off Axis in St. Barbara, CA. (2006), *Accessibility 2005* in Sumter, SC., the *Jamaica Flux: Workspace & Window* (2004) and the Brewster Project in upstate New York (2001). She is a recipient of the New York Foundation for the Arts, Sculpture (2011), the Cuban Artist Fund Grant, the Pollack-Krasner Grant, and a finalist of the Cintas Foundation. She was awarded the Cosby Fellowship to attend Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture (1995).

Her artwork which began as small individual sculptures has expanded to large installation room size works. In New York, her work has been exhibited at a combination of alternative spaces, galleries and museums, including: Hudson River Museum, Art in General, El Museo del Barrio, WhiteBox Gallery, Bronx River Art Center, P.S.1 Contemporary Art, Center and Paul Sharpe Contemporary Art, and Nohra Haime Gallery. She was one of a four artist exhibition at the Newark Museum, *The Caribbean Abroad: Contemporary Artists and Latino Migration*. She has participated in international exhibitions like *Un-staged* at Arti et Amicitiae in Amsterdam, *D'ailleurs – I Won't Play Other to Your Same* at Galerie Art & Essai, University Rennes, France. Her artwork has also been showcased in exhibitions in Holland, Germany, Australia, Belgium, France, and Poland. Juana's work can be seen at the Newark Museum in their permanent collection and in private collections throughout the US.

Juana Valdes completed her M.F.A. in Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts in 1993 and her B.F.A. in Sculpture at Parsons School of Design in 1991. She was born in Cabañas, Pinar Del Rio, Cuba and

came to the United States in 1971. She currently teaches as an Assistant Professor of Printmaking in the Art Department, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Humanities and Fine Arts.