

## 2022 Individual Support Grant Spotlights

The Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation has been awarding grants to mature, creative visual artists since 1976. These awards are intended to recognize the talents of many individuals around the world who have dedicated long careers to making art and hopes to alleviate some of the financial burdens on those artists so they can devote more of their time and energies to their creative endeavors.

Out of the 705 artists who applied this year, 20 were awarded a cash grant of \$25,000.

This month's spotlight grant recipients are

**Hiromitsu Kuroo** and **George Lorio**



Hiromitsu Kuroo

Yokohama, Japan

*Bleach Painting "Tower of Red"*

2021

Bleach and acrylic paint on linen canvas

18 x 15 inches

Hiromitsu Kuroo was born in Yokohama, Japan 1972. Rejecting the rigid and competitive world of his youth, he embraced the artistic world, where creativity, individuality, and self-expression are held in high esteem. A Japanese expatriate in Brooklyn until 2021, Kuroo struggled with his cultural identity and his New York existence. Through his work, he attempts to bridge these two very different worlds. He has won several major art prizes, including The Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant in 2019 & 2011, He participated in the Golden Foundation for the Arts residency program in 2019. In addition to solo exhibitions at The Bronx Community College, MIKIMOTO NY, and Gloria Kennedy Gallery, he participated in many group exhibitions in the US.

"Currently, artists of many genres are active, but I consider myself a painter. I want to continue to explore the expression of current paintings by inheriting the long-standing system of paintings using canvases and paints. I have two current work projects: "Folding painting", in which the canvas is folded and pasted, hinting to Japanese traditional Origami, and "Bleach painting", which I started during last year's pandemic when I was looking for a substitute for paint around me because of the ban on going out and the lack of painting materials. The common theme is to use something that is everywhere and express it from a different perspective and method."



George Lorio  
Rockville, MD  
*Vestige*  
2021

Found twigs, branches & bark on constructed armature  
16.5 x 21 x 18 inches (Pedestal placement)

"I was born and raised, through my teenage years, in New Orleans. It framed my vision of life. It was and continues to be a place of extremes: beauty and decay, religion and ritual, custom and iconoclasm. From that experience, I acquired an excitement for visual matters: colors, forms, and even artifacts. Having lived on the border with Mexico for ten years changed my view of contemporary culture and our collective social responsibility. Viewing the ambient drug wars, the desperation of immigrants, and the collapsing Mexican democracy due to endemic political corruption and perceiving the curious lack of commitment to dialogue to offer solutions for the growing racial division, wealth inequality, and environmental decline in my own nation, I changed my insular focus of my art to embrace more topical issues.

I use a narrative of social concern to engage dialogue. My sculptures convey my comments on ecological destruction and renewal; they present the value of nature's provision of trees as they are the source of human shelter, oxygen, and avian refuge. I enjoy the physicality of materials. I am fascinated by found matter. Following that inclination, I am presently using twigs from neighboring gardens and parks to construct fictions of trees, stumps, and logs; they are not renderings but reinterpretations of living forms."