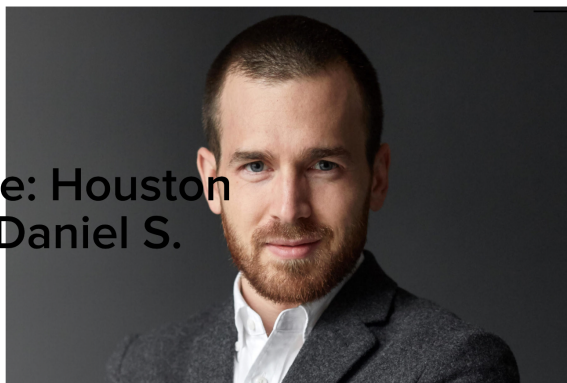


Art & Dialogue: Houston Summary by Daniel S. Palmer



In August 2020, Artadia invited Daniel S. Palmer, Curator at Public Art Fund, to conduct virtual studio visits with Houston Artadia Awardees as part of our program Art & Dialogue: Houston. Read a summary of Daniel's experience below!

[\[Link to Full Text\]](#)

Excerpt:

“Eileen Maxson’s work is witty and humorous, but in a way that also simultaneously makes me realize that we’re all pretty much doomed and that maybe there isn’t very much we can do about it. After we finished speaking, I thought about how I needed to update an odd truth about television that has always troubled me; TV shows and other programming are just there to fill the time between advertisements. What happens to that sad reality when we can’t switch off the program because it has come to permeate every aspect of our lives? The internet has become a platform to consume content or share asinine things about ourselves, but it has also become something we can’t escape from and which controls and mediates nearly every aspect of our existence. Eileen’s art confronts that by working within the system, using its language and even its platforms to highlight and analyze its functions and operations. Rather than simply do this in a nihilistic way, her art gives us an opportunity to laugh a little while we are shown the dark inner workings. She demonstrates how the concept of progress through accumulation has been exacerbated by the algorithmic targeting of the internet, but also doesn’t shy away from using its vernacular and admitting its control over her too. I’m particularly intrigued by her experiments with targeting audiences on social media platforms, which I think have the potential to be a real breakthrough in how we conceive of an experience of art. I think they will also lead to an artwork that produces a feeling that I can’t exactly articulate, but I’m sure german has a word for – something between humor, shame, and enlightenment.”