



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**January 24, 2023**

# new now 23

On view February 4, 2023–March 11, 2023

**Opening reception: Saturday, February 4, 2023, 5-7pm**  
**1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009**

Washington, DC: Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present *new.now.*, our annual group exhibition debuting the work of Hamiltonian's distinguished 2022–2024 fellows—artists **Misha Ilin, Edgar Reyes, Madyha J. Leghari, Abed Elmajid Shalabi, and Isabella Whitfield**. Each year, *new.now.* serves as a snapshot of the five newest Hamiltonian artists' creative practices, exhibiting the work they plan to expand upon during their two year fellowship.

This year the group exhibition sorts through various systems of order/disorder, grappling with what is left. New technologies emerge, languages are lost, oceans rise, and empires fall. Through video, sculpture, digital collage, performance, and installation, each artist engages a shared line of inquiry: what remnants do we hold on to, and attempt to make new? what gets shoved under the rug, rather than thrown away for good?

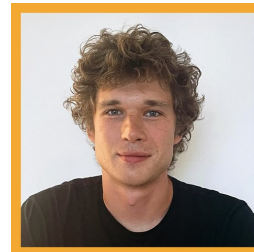
The predominantly multinational group of artists—who now reside in the region between Richmond and Baltimore—are also breaking new ground in the history of Hamiltonian Artists' fellowship program. We look forward to presenting works that, in conversation, reflect various areas of common ground across diasporic perspectives, from Guadalajara, Mexico, to Lahore, Pakistan.

The 2022–2024 Fellows were selected by an independent jury of arts professionals—Thomas F. James, independent curator and Executive Director of the Last Resort Artist Retreat; Joyce Yu-Jean Lee, visual artist, Hamiltonian Artists alumnus, and Assistant Professor of Art & Digital Media at Marist College; Ada Pinkston, multimedia artist, educator, and organizer; Siobhan Rigg, artist, writer, professor at the George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, and resident artist at Red Dirt Studio; and Adriel Luis, artist, curator, community organizer, and Curator of Digital & Emerging Practice at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center in Los Angeles.

**A virtual artist talk will be presented on Thursday, February 23, 6pm–8pm. Link to [register here](#).** Visit Hamiltonian Artists' [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information about corresponding public programs. Details to be announced.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

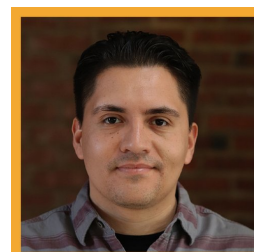
**Misha Ilin** (b. 1985; Protvino, Russia) earned a Master's in Mathematics and Informatics from the National University of Science and Technology, Moscow, Russia. In 2016 he moved to the United States and received his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Ilin's recent exhibitions include *wish the past never to repeat itself*, the kitchen, Berlin, Germany; *inquisitive instructions*, Modern Art Museum, Shanghai, China; *Artist-As-Organizer*, Washington Project for Arts, Washington, DC; *hospitality*, Baltimore, MD; and *order of things*, Homme Gallery, DC.



**Madyha J. Leghari** (b. 1991) is a visual artist, writer, and educator working between Lahore and Washington, DC. She earned a BFA at the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan, in 2013, and an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2018 on a Fulbright Scholarship. Her practice explores the possibilities and limitations of language and explores themes of translation, cultural friction, and semantic lacunae. She has exhibited her works internationally at the Pera Museum, Sea Foundation, The Institute for Experimental Arts, Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Nottingham Arts Mela, 17th Athens Digital Arts Festival, Antimatter, and others across the Americas, Asia, and Europe.



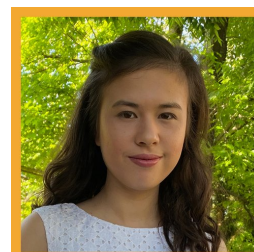
**Edgar Reyes** (b. 1990; Guadalajara, Mexico) is a multimedia artist and educator based in the Washington, DC, area. His work invites viewers to think about the people, places, and connections they carry with them, drawing on his family's Mexican, Latinx, and Indigenous roots to explore shared experiences of resettlement and migration. Reyes earned his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and has taught at nonprofit organizations, universities, and museums. His work has been featured in galleries and public spaces across the United States, including large scale installations at the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore's Light City Festival (2017) and VisArts' Make It Visible project (2021). Recent honors include the Rubys Artist Grant (2021) and Bresler Resident Artist at VisArts (2021).



**Abed Elmajid Shalabi** (b. 1991) is a Palestinian Israeli artist, living and working in Richmond, Virginia. Shalabi joined the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture in 2022, and he earned an MFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University (2021) and a BFA in Fine Arts from the Berlin University of Arts, and the Shenkar College of Engineering, Design, and Art, Tel Aviv, Israel (2019). Shalabi was awarded the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Graduate Fellowship (2020–2021) and the Paul F. Miller Graduate Scholarship in Sculpture (2020). Shalabi's work has been exhibited in Tel Aviv, Berlin, and Richmond, VA. Shalabi's presentation at "New. Now." was supported, in part, by a Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant.



**Isabella Whitfield** (b. 1998; Centreville, VA) is a multidisciplinary artist who works in collaboration with natural and manufactured environments. After earning her BA in Studio Art and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia (UVA) in 2020, she completed a year-long postgraduate program as an Aunspaugh Fellow in UVA's Department of Art. Whitfield has exhibited major works at New City Arts, Ruffin Gallery, the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum, and InLight 2021 with 1708 Gallery. She has participated in residencies with the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, Ox-Bow School of Art, and Pyramid Atlantic Art Center.





#### **ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS:**

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to build a dynamic community of innovative artists and effective visual art leaders by providing professional development opportunities to early-career artists and by advancing their entrepreneurial success. In 2007, Paul So, an avid painter and a physics professor at George Mason University, founded Hamiltonian Artists and Hamiltonian Gallery with the vision of creating an innovative career incubator program for emerging visual artists. In 2019, the Board of Directors of Hamiltonian Artists chose to merge the two organizations into a single 501c3 nonprofit to better serve the mission.

Today, Hamiltonian Artists is a dynamic catalyst for DC's creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in Washington, DC. Through its unique investment into the next generation of cutting-edge artists, Hamiltonian helps artists to develop important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career. Through a two-year artist fellowship, artist talks, public events and its membership program, the organization contributes to the vitality of DC's burgeoning arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

#### **HOW TO VISIT:**

The exhibition is on view at Hamiltonian Gallery, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. **Gallery open Thursday through Saturday 11 am – 6 pm.** Masks are suggested.

For more information visit <https://www.hamiltonianartists.org>.

#### **CONTACT:**

**For press inquiries and additional info contact Anisa Olufemi, Fellowship Manager.**

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