

Sandow Birk receives \$50,000 fellowship

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**SF**

248 Utah Street  
SF, CA 94103  
+ 415 399 1439

**NY**

313 W 14th Street 2F  
New York, NY  
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### \$50,000 for Meshell Ndegeocello and 33 Other U.S.A. Fellows

By Felicia R. Lee, October 13, 2014

The singer and songwriter Meshell Ndegeocello, the painter and sculptor Edouard Duval-Carrié, the filmmakers Ryan White and Ben Cotner and the artist Wangechi Mutu are among 34 people who have been awarded \$50,000 and named U.S.A. fellows for 2014. The unrestricted awards, announced Monday, are from the United States Artists program, a grant-making organization funded by philanthropic foundations and individuals to support creativity. The 16 women and 18 men were selected by experts in their fields and were among 116 nominated artists living in the United States.

“U.S.A. Fellowships are awarded to innovative artists of all ages and at all stages of their careers, who are nominated for their commitment to excellence and the enduring potential of their work,” Carolina Garcia Jayaram, the chief executive of U.S.A. said in a statement.

The awards were given in architecture and design, crafts and traditional arts, dance, literature, media, music, theater and visual arts. A complete list of winners can be found at [www.unitedstatesartists.org/2014fellows](http://www.unitedstatesartists.org/2014fellows).

Founded in 2006 by the Ford, Rockefeller, Rasmuson and Prudential Foundations, U.S.A. is currently funded by several philanthropic foundations and individuals, including the Bloomberg Foundation and the Knight Foundation. Each artist’s fellowship is named for the foundation or individual supporting him or her. Since its founding, the fellows program has given \$19.1 million to 405 artists. Past recipients include Kara Walker, Meredith Monk, Jason Moran, Benjamin Millepied and Bill T. Jones.