

Design Arts – Ramon Tejada

Thank you for allowing me to serve as a juror for the Design Arts category of the Utah Artist Fellowship Program. It is rewarding and inspiring to see and read how designers work, expand, and evolve what design is and can be in so many rich and varied ways, and what it can mean for us today. It is enriching to spend time with these artists via their work and words in relation to what motivates their imaginations and how this helps them create work that speaks to and invites others into collective conversations.

The five selected fellows – **Zak Jensen, Kimo Watanabe, Matthew Pedersen, Alise Anderson,** and **Laura Boardman** – work in expansive and considered approaches and mediums. Through their work, each explores unique ways their work shifts, invites, elevates, resists, tells, survives, reconsiders, and/or supports, not just in their personal practices but their broader communities. They use their imaginative and artistic perspectives to facilitate, through their work, shared and collective experiences that ask questions and challenge norms with joy, love, and respect.