Steven Zorrilla Named 2026 Recipient of the YoungArts Ashley Longshore Excellence in the Arts Award

$25,000 unrestricted prize, supported by fine artist Ashley Longshore, is among the numerous resources YoungArts provides artists throughout their careers



MIAMI (November 20, 2026) – **YoungArts** announces that **Steven Zorrilla** has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the **Ashley Longshore Excellence in the Arts Award**. The $25,000 unrestricted prize was created in partnership with and funded by painter, sculptor, and entrepreneur Ashley Longshore to support artists in the disciplines of Theater, Photography, and Visual Arts. The award is one of the numerous grants, awards, and professional development opportunities that YoungArts provides artists year-round and throughout the entirety of their careers.

Zorrilla (2013 YoungArts winner in Visual Arts) is a Colombian-American fashion designer based in New York whose bold, deeply personal work explores queerness and the immigrant experience. After a decade working as a designer and product developer for brands including Telfar, Hood By Air, and Pyer Moss, he launched EILIEN, an apparel and accessories brand that celebrates queer identity and alternative beauty through a distinctive brutalist approach to design.

“YoungArts exists to invest in artists not just once, but for life,” said **Clive Chang, YoungArts President and CEO**. “As we mark our 45th anniversary, we’re deepening that commitment through direct funding and a community that drives collaboration, innovation, and career-defining opportunities. We’re grateful to Ashley Longshore for helping make that commitment tangible for artists like Steven Zorrilla, whose fearless self-expression is shaping a singular voice in fashion.”

“There is nothing more valuable than self-expression... especially right now... ESPECIALLY RIGHT NOW!!” said **Ashley Longshore**. “Creating opportunities for emerging artists to express their identity is crucial to our identity as humans and as Americans. Self-expression should be our cornerstone. I know it is mine!”

“I’m so grateful to YoungArts and Ashley Longshore for this recognition and the generous support and encouragement to keep creating,” said **Steven Zorrilla**. “As an independent designer, you’re always fighting for your ideas to be seen, and this award makes all that effort feel worth it. It will have a lasting impact on my career.”

The Ashley Longshore Excellence in the Arts Award is open to YoungArts Award winners aged 25 years and older who exemplify ambition, excellence, a love of their craft, and an active interest in furthering the arts in their community. Each year, eligible artists from the YoungArts community of over 24,000 are invited to apply for the award, one of the many opportunities the organization offers artists throughout their lifetimes. Past recipients of the Ashley Longshore Excellence in the Arts Award include **Katerina McCrimmon** (2025), distinguished for her expressive theatrical talent; **Ackeem Salmon** (2024), recognized for their visual and multimedia artistry; **Daveed Baptiste** (2023), awarded for excellence in photography; and **Blaine Krauss** (2022), inaugural recipient for his work in musical theater.

About Steven Zorrilla

Born in Colombia and raised in the United States, Steven Zorrilla is a fashion designer based in New York whose work explores identity, queerness, and the immigrant experience through fashion. After 10 years working as a designer and product developer for culturally impactful brands such as Telfar, Hood By Air, and Pyer Moss, among others, he launched EILIEN, an apparel and accessories brand centering queer identity and alternative beauty through its brutalist approach to design.

EILIEN’s second collection ventures into experimentation with unconventional materials, turning industrial metals and plastics into wearable, sculptural textiles through painstaking handcraft: chainmail made of keyrings embellished with thousands of zip ties to create quill-like textures, laser-cut stainless steel plates crocheted together into articulated armatures and miles of nylon paracord woven into a structural mesh that molds to the body. The collection consists of 30 genderless silhouettes and is the brand’s debut runway presentation.

About Ashley Longshore

Ashley Longshore is a Southern-born, self-taught painter, sculptor, and entrepreneur. Dubbed the “feminist Andy Warhol,” Ashley challenged the traditional business model of art galleries by building her own pop art empire. Armed with a powerhouse personality, an irreverent sense of humor, and an early knack for social media, she used her platform to encourage positivity, authenticity, and creativity and exploded into a global brand. Longshore’s works traffic in the exploration of pop culture, feminism, American consumerism, and Hollywood and have been

exhibited/collected around the globe. Labeled "Fashion's Latest Art Darling" by *The New York Times*, Ashley made history as Bergdorf Goodman's first female artist solo exhibit in its 100-plus-year history when she was featured in their iconic Fifth Avenue window display and designed the retailer's "Palette at BG" cafe. Other career milestones include artist residencies at IMG's New York Fashion Week, The Peninsula Beverly Hills, an infamous appearance on Bravo's *Project Runway,* and inspiring (and appearing in) Christian Siriano's Fall 2019 runway collection. She's also authored five books, four of them with Rizzoli, including the latest book *Politics Is A Drag*. Collaborators include Gucci, Porsche, and Maybelline with collectors ranging from Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively to NFL quarterback Eli Manning, Pink, Salma Hayek, Diane Von Furstenberg, Penelope Cruz, and Wall Street's elite. Ultimately, Longshore will leave her mark as a prolific and celebrated pop artist who, through the development of her foundation, The Ashley Longshore Charitable Trust, will leave a vital capsule of her collection of works. Ashley is a New York-based fine artist and the owner of the Longshore Studio Gallery, located in Tribeca.

About YoungArts

YoungArts is the only national organization that champions artists throughout their lifetimes and across all art forms, fueling the ongoing vitality of the arts nationwide. Building on 45 years of impact, the organization is galvanizing a dynamic ecosystem of support with hundreds of world-class cultural institutions across the country, enabling artists to more effectively shape and sustain their careers. Artists gain lifelong access to critical resources—including funding, incubation and presentation opportunities, mentorship, and professional development—beginning with early recognition as YoungArts Award winners. Through an intergenerational and interdisciplinary network of 24,000 artists, YoungArts cultivates community and drives innovation, collaboration, and career-defining opportunities.

For more information, visit **youngarts.org**, **Instagram**, **YouTube**, and **Facebook**.

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