

students and graduates who participate in our Jump Start Extension program. Students chose the title in reference to their personal and professional journeys as artists and individuals.

Jump Start works with middle and high school students who show a strong ability and deep interest in the visual arts, and guides them along their college and career path. Jump Start is an essential part of Buffalo Arts Studio's larger mission of cultural access, providing high-quality art instruction, professional development, portfolio preparation, exhibiting experience, and individual mentorship to students across Western New York, regardless of their ability to pay.

"As the Education Director at Buffalo Arts Studio, I have had the pleasure of working on seven biennial Jump Start exhibitions, with this year's *Envision* promising to be the most diverse in terms of artworks. Since its conception, our program has focused on drawing, painting, and ceramics; however, over the years, students have shown interest in exploring more non-traditional materials and methods. We have responded with workshops that focus on these concepts. As a result, at this year's show, viewers will see artwork created by "drawing machines" students created, experiments with alcohol inks, and recycled materials. What has not changed over time is the need for them to share their creativity, ideas, and work with a wider audience." — Jayne Hughes, Education Director

"The Jump Start program has impacted me as an artist by pushing my creativity and imagination to the limit. The program has helped me meet other artists and introduced me to art styles that help me see into the future of my career, opening my eyes to endless possibilities." — Abigail Rae, Jump Start Student

Buffalo Arts Studio is also hosting the Buffalo Public Schools Arts Teachers' Exhibition, *el·e·men·tal*, curated by Michele Agosto, Director of Arts, Buffalo Public Schools. *el·e·men·tal* will feature over 20 original works in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, fiber, and digital design. The community is invited to see the talented individuals shaping our future artists.

"Recognizing art teachers as artists, not only acknowledges teachers' talents and skills, it also offers inspiration to their students as they develop into creatives; working on problem-solving skills, finding their unique voice, and building stamina and grit; all things students can use in any part of their personal and professional lives. Additionally, an exhibition such as the one Buffalo Arts Studio will be hosting for the Buffalo Public Schools reinforces the importance of art(s) education, provides students with a powerful model of lifelong learning and creative exploration, and actively engages the community they serve by using art to build valuable connections and jumpstart important conversations." —Dr. Michele Agosto, Director of Arts for Buffalo Public Schools

"Buffalo Public School art teacher's upcoming exhibition, *el·e·men·tal*, offers a window into the creative practices of those helping shape the next generation. Our strong partnership goes back to the start of this organization. There is a special beauty in showcasing their work alongside that of our Jump Start youth program, as we share a commitment to nurturing creativity, inspiring young minds, and ensuring that the transformative power of art touches every corner of our community." —Alma Carrillo, Executive Director

About Buffalo Arts Studio

Buffalo Arts Studio (BAS) connects diverse communities through visual arts, offering inclusive exhibitions, educational programs, mentorships, and public art initiatives. BAS provides vital resources for visual artists,

including affordable studio space and paid opportunities. Through its programs, BAS serves as a catalyst for self-empowerment, innovation, and regional enhancement.

Buffalo Arts Studio is located in Suite 500 of the Tri-Main Center at 2495 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214.

This exhibition is supported by The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Children's Foundation of Erie County, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funds, Garman Family Foundation, John R. Oishei Foundation, Josephine Goodyear Foundation, M&T Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Ovation Stand for the Arts, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Arts & Culture Initiative, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds, Simple Gifts Fund, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the New York State Council for the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, and through Arts Services Inc.'s Creative Impact Fund program thanks to a New York State Senate Initiative supported by the NYS Legislature and the Office of the Governor, and administered by the New York State Council on the Arts.

For more information, please visit www.buffaloartsstudio.org or contact us at sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org.