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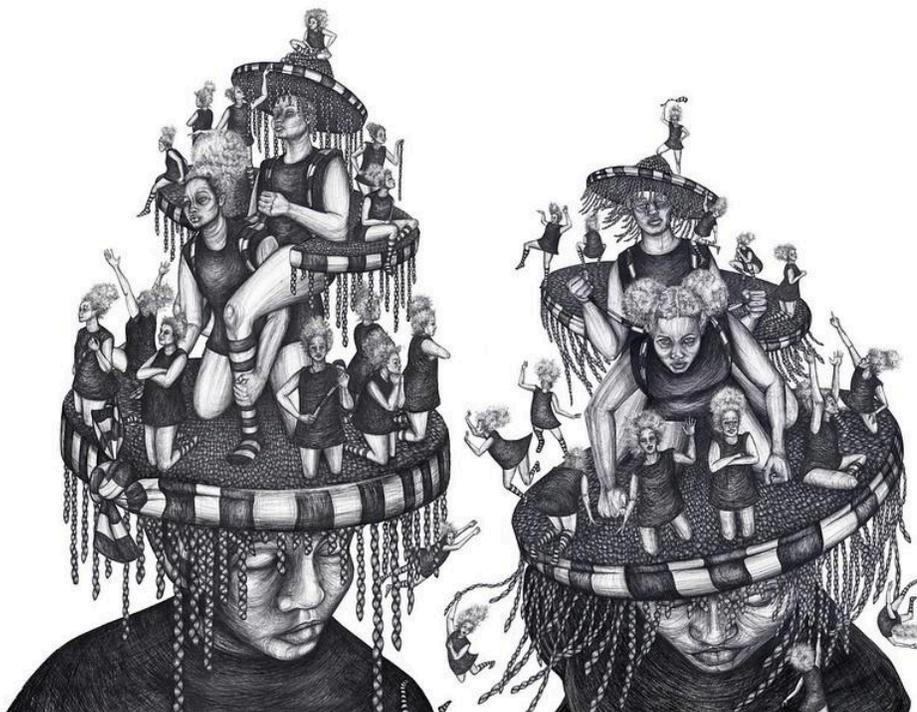
Contact:

Buffalo Arts Studio

sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org

716-833-4450 x114

www.buffaloartsstudio.org



Sammantha Modder, *JAGUNJAGUN*, 2024, photo courtesy of the artist

Buffalo Arts Studio Presents *Of All the Worlds We Could Have Dreamed* by Samantha Modder

On View August 22 – November 7, 2025

Opening Reception: Friday, August 22, 2025, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main

Buffalo, NY — Buffalo Arts Studio is proud to present *Of All the Worlds We Could Have Dreamed*, a solo exhibition by Tampa-based artist Samantha Modder, on view from August 22 through November 7, 2025. The opening reception will take place Friday, August 22, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm as part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main.

Samantha Modder's work centers the Black imaginary as a creative and liberating force. Drawing from personal experience and diasporic memory, *Of All the Worlds We Could Have Dreamed* features a powerful series of portraits that resist erasure and reclaim identity through speculative storytelling. These bold, figurative works challenge dominant narratives and open space for imagined futures, emotional complexity, and cultural visibility.

As a child growing up Black in Southeast Asia, Modder became hyper-aware of her otherness. Her artistic practice confronts that early marginalization and transforms it into affirmation. Through pen drawings, collage, and digital compositions, she constructs larger-than-life figures that embody an unapologetic presence. These characters carry narratives that reach beyond the here and now, inviting viewers into alternate spaces where joy, resistance, and empowerment coexist.

Modder's process combines traditional and digital techniques. She begins with intricate pen drawings, often rendered with an attention that reflects personal rituals of self-care, such as detangling curls. These hand-drawn elements are scanned and reassembled into striking digital collages that borrow from the visual language of comics. In each work, hair is a central motif—a symbol of beauty, rebellion, and connection. It becomes a way to both comfort and confront, challenging imposed standards while celebrating cultural resilience.

In her most recent series, Modder presents a subjective Black woman's fairytale to process interlocking structures of oppression. Like a storybook turned mural, the installations are digitally manipulated ballpoint pen drawings that follow a Black woman in her nightdress and striped socks in a world made up of only her and her duplicates. The work is an allegory for our contemporary condition, confronting questions of power, exploitation, and resistance.

Through *Of All the Worlds We Could Have Dreamed*, Modder creates a visual sanctuary where Black women can see themselves fully—expansive, complex, and free. The exhibition is a testament to the transformative power of imagination and a call to build new realities through artistic vision and collective dreaming.

About the Artist

Samantha Modder is a multidisciplinary artist based in Tampa, Florida. Her work explores themes of identity, race, gender, and belonging through self-portraiture, speculative imagery, and digital collage. Drawing from her Nigerian and Sri Lankan heritage, as well as her lived experiences across continents, Modder's art exists at the intersection of the personal and the political. She holds an MFA in Studio Art from the University of South Florida and has exhibited across the U.S.

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.

This exhibition is generously supported by The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funds, M&T Bank, Ovation Stand for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and through the New York State Council for the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

Buffalo Arts Studio is located in Suite 500 of the Tri-Main Center at 2495 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214. For media inquiries, interview requests, or high-resolution images, please contact: sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org or 716-833-4450 x 114.