



Buffalo Arts Studio

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Jozef Bajus, *White Buttons*, 2025, photo courtesy of the artist

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**Buffalo Arts Studio presents “Everything Stays” by Jozef Bajus**

**On View September 26 – November 7, 2025**

**Opening Reception: Friday, September 26, 2025, 5:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main**

Buffalo, NY — Buffalo Arts Studio is pleased to present *Everything Stays*, a solo exhibition by Buffalo-based artist Jozef Bajus, on view from September 26 through November 7, 2025. An opening reception will be held on Friday, September 26, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm as part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main.

Originally conceived as a reimagining of studio materials collected over the past twenty years, the direction of *Everything Stays* shifted dramatically following a personal loss. While preparing for the exhibition, Bajus’s father, a highly skilled and respected tailor in Slovakia, passed away. His father’s craftsmanship had profoundly influenced Bajus’s artistic journey, and after his passing, the artist spent time in his father’s workshop surrounded by the tools and remnants of a life dedicated to making.

Reflecting on his childhood, Bajus recalls:

"As a young boy, I used to play in my dad's workshop. The magical world of multi-colored threads and fabrics filled with the smell of ironing and the droning engine of a sewing machine felt both interesting and natural. I remember pins stuck in unfinished seams, basting stitches in semi-finished jackets, and the contrast of white thread on linen or shiny lining cloth. Under my father's hands, these stitches became pads, pockets, and collars. I was fascinated by removing stitches, and my father gladly entrusted me with this small but important task."

In the wake of his father's passing, Bajus returned to that workshop and found himself surrounded by unfinished garments, zippers, buttons, threads, pins, needles, and fabric scraps—materials waiting for transformation. Unable to leave them behind in Slovakia, he brought many of these items back to his studio in Western New York, incorporating them into new works that honor his father's artistry and legacy.

Additional materials came from the closing of a friend's clothing store on Allen Street, where Bajus was invited to take what remained—boxes of hangers, fabrics, and supplies. Together, these elements formed a natural and meaningful connection between personal memory, community ties, and the practice of reuse.

*Everything Stays* serves as both a memorial to Bajus's father and a broader meditation on the act of making. By uniting discarded objects with deeply personal remnants, Bajus underscores the poetry of transformation, the value of memory, and the creative potential inherent in what others leave behind.

### **About the Artist**

Jozef Bajus is a visual artist and educator based in Buffalo, New York. Originally from Slovakia, he has exhibited extensively across the United States and internationally. Bajus received a 2025 New York State Council for the Arts Support for Artists Grant for his work. Bajus is known for his innovative work with fiber and mixed media, often incorporating found and industrial materials to address environmental and social concerns. He served as Associate Professor of Design at Buffalo State University, where he inspired generations of students with his dedication to craft, concept, and sustainability. Bajus's work has been recognized with numerous awards and has been featured in solo and group exhibitions throughout Europe and North America.

### **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 O'Shei at [sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org](mailto:sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org) or 716-833-4450 x 114.