

Buffalo Arts Studio

Tri-Main Center
2495 Main Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 833-4450
www.buffaloartsstudio.org
Gallery hours: Tuesday - Friday 11am-5pm



Tricia Butski is a fine artist currently living and working in Buffalo, NY. Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Butski holds a BFA from Fredonia State University and an MFA from the University at Buffalo's Department of Art. Butski is currently an instructor at Niagara County Community College and Erie Community College.



Dorothy Fitzgerald lives and works in Lyndonville, NY, where she paints in a studio yurt she calls "Kansas" with Lake Ontario to the North and cornfields to the South. She has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions through Erie and Niagara County. She holds a MA from the State University College at Buffalo and a BS, State University College at Buffalo.

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Council on the Arts

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Tricia Butski,
Semblance



Dorothy Fitzgerald,
Committed to Memory

March 25-May 6, 2016
Opening Reception: Friday, April 1, 2016

Tricia Butski, *Semblance*

Tricia Butski's most recent work examines issues related to memory. Through fixed portraiture, Butski explores both the profound limitations and the constant flux of consciousness. Her use of charcoal provides a material analog for the mind's impermanence, fragility, and malleability. By challenging the boundaries between representation and abstraction while questioning the relationship between fluctuation and constancy, the works become as entangled and bewildered as our memories, thriving off of a natural yearning for clarity and drawing meaning out of partiality.

Butski's process begins with photographs which she manipulates through an intentional alternation of high and low-tech methods. She stretches plastic film coated with Vaseline over a digital screen, distorting and obscuring the images. Butski re-photographs the image, often hundreds of times, repeating the cycle of manipulation and documentation. The final digital image functions as the reference for the drawing, only realized through the activity of drawing, creating a representation that is neither real nor imagined. This process forms a conceptual procedure that mirrors the experience of recalling, reconstructing, and re-imagining that is at the center of what we call "remembering."

Cover image: Tricia Butski, *untitled*, charcoal on paper, 2015



Untitled, charcoal on paper, 2016



Unsalted Butter, multi-media on canvas, 2015

Dorothy Fitzgerald, *Committed to Memory*

Dorothy Fitzgerald's works are emotional responses to her life as a woman, a mother, and an artist. For this exhibition, she continues to explore the female figure, merging representational elements with expressive abstraction. She includes imagery alluding to the feminine and female sexuality in a way mass media does not conventionally allow. She juxtaposes her own renderings of female figures, all of who meet the viewer's gaze directly, with commercial images of young women and girls used to sell a variety of products. Both her works on paper and on canvas combine found objects, text, marks, and personal symbols through which she challenges and re-orders this commercial narrative.

Many of the objects and images she chooses are deeply connected to the feminine. Needlework and textiles including price tags and copyrights allude to the undervaluing of such traditionally female handiwork. Quoting the world of commercial art, Fitzgerald's artwork seduces with color, whispers through the use of line, twists and turns through layering, and yell with text. She uses images from a stockpile of memories that are often contradictory, reflecting the uncomfortable realities of life. Through fragmented images, symbols and colors, Fitzgerald recalls a past both personal and universal.

Cover image: Dorothy Fitzgerald, *Let's Dance*, multi-media on canvas, 2015