Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Buffalo Arts Studio Community,

I write this report still estatic from our first Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City held on June 21, 2019. Around 1,000 people joined us to see six new site-specific art installation projects from eight local, regional, and international artists. The following weekend we took a bus full of Jump Start students and friends around the city to see public art and talk with a number of the artists. Both events were such a success - we have begun to plan follow-up events for next year.

Throughout the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, our programs flourished with strong partnerships. We expanded arts accessibility for underserved audiences through programming partnerships with Aspire of Western New York’s iXpress, Buffalo Collegiate Charter School, People’s Park, and Journey’s End Refugee Services. Students from Buffalo Collegiate Charter School joined us weekly during their school year for arts instruction and Journey’s End Making a Connection (MAC) program; Adult English Language (ELL) and ELL Intermediate joined us once a month.

We have welcomed several new Studio Artists over the past year, including Claudia Carballada, Cheryl Jackson, Matt Kenyon, and Edreys Wajed. Although Daniel Galas, Bill Koch, Mary Ellen Bossert, Karen Buchner, and Meaghann O’Brien are no longer part of our cohort of Studio Artists, they are still part of us, and will always be members of the Buffalo Arts Studio family.

This report will include exhibition, educational, and event highlights that will likely spark enjoyable memories of numerous artworks, artists, conversations, and programs. We are still honored and humbled by the incredible artist and community support to make this year’s Plates & Pasta such a success. Thank you!

You continue to help us grow as a welcoming and meaningful visual arts space for all audiences. Your ongoing feedback has helped the staff and board define our strategic plan for the next three years, and we are inspired and energized by our organization’s direction. It is our great pleasure to share our biggest accomplishments at Buffalo Arts Studio over the last year with you all, and I sincerely hope you will join us for all of the exhibitions, educational programming, and special events we will offer in 2019, 2020, and beyond.

With gratitude,

Alma Carrillo
Executive Director
Our Leadership

Jayne Hughes
Education Director

Shirley Tokash Verrico
Curator

Dana Tyrrell
Marketing & Community Development Coordinator

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Our Mission
Buffalo Arts Studio provides inclusive community cultural connections through exhibitions, educational programs, mentorships, and public art as well as affordable studio art space, exposure and development opportunities for visual artists.

Our Vision
Buffalo is a compelling place for budding and experienced artists because it offers an abundance of opportunities to develop skills and careers while enriching and participating in the community's continual growth.

Guests interact with Untitled (Solstice Field) by rhizomedas xxx, as part of Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Studio Artist Muhammad Z Zaman leads a youth workshop in People’s Park with students from the Salvation Army
Our Studio Artists

Our Studio Artists continue to be the heart of who we are as an organization. From our mission and our vision, to our mentorship and arts access, Buffalo Arts Studio has a dedicated core of Studio Artists working beyond and within the disciplines of painting, drawing, ceramics, printmaking, and installation art.

Studio Artists are regularly on hand to speak about their work to tour groups, exhibition visitors, and are called upon to lead public art projects and community-based arts initiatives. They are also active as a group leading open critiques and hosting potlucks, all designed to strengthen the bonds of the Buffalo Arts Studio community.

Current Studio Artists

- Jozef Bajus
- Dennis Bertram
- David Buck
- Tricia Butski
- Claudia Carballada
- Linda Chodos
- Michael Degnan
- Melanie Fisher
- Partick Foran
- Fotini Galanes
- Allan Hebeler
- Bryan Hopkins
- Cheryl Jackson
- Matt Kenyon
- George Mai
- Andrew McGarva
- Roberto Pacheco
- Andrea Pawarski
- Tim Patch
- Betty Pitts Foster
- Kathleen Sherin
- Deborah Stewart
- Dolores Ann Stievater
- Nancy Thayer
- Phyllis Thompson
- Linda Toomey
- Dana Tyrrell
- Katie Virag
- Edreys Wajed
- Muhammad Z Zaman

Studio Artist Spotlight: Fotini Galanes

“My studio is sanctuary for me. It is where I draw and build. Here I have access to share ideas, ask for advice and share the energy of other artists. Even if it is to just enter their studios in the quiet to see their growth. Buffalo Arts Studio is my connection to sculptors, painters, printers, educators, grant writers, and curators who are a part of this community.”

- Fotini Galanes
Our Exhibitions Program

Installation view of Reinhard Reitzenstein’s solo exhibition, WTF (Where’s the Forest), on view May 24-June 28, 2019. Photograph courtesy of Natalie Dilenno.

Our Exhibition Program presents new works by emerging and established artists that address critical contemporary issues and attract over 13,000 visitors each year. Our 2018-2019 season included a series of exhibitions that revealed the diverse community housed within Tri-Main Center. Liz Lessner (Baltimore, MD) worked with social service organizations and their clients during her residency and exhibition, common wealth. Muhammad Z. Zaman (Bangladesh; Buffalo, NY) presented Lux, an exhibition of paintings that carry message of harmony and mutual understanding across faiths and nationalities. Jozef Bajus (Slovakia; Buffalo, NY) constructed original objects from remnants of light industries inside Tri-Main in Gold Rush. Kurt Treeby (Buffalo, NY) presented Re-Model, which included a meticulously rendered fiber model of Tri-Main in plastic canvas and yarn.

A new series of exhibitions also examined issues of social, economic, representational, and environmental justice. In Apothecary for Sis, Obsidian Bellis (Buffalo, NY), used their art to navigate their feelings of otherness that result from the intersections of their identity as a Black American, non-binary, femme person. In Joes & Anns, Anne Bielski (TX and Buffalo, NY), worked across mediums, using painting, sewing, and text to construct objects that explore the hierarchies of gender, production, and consumption, while noting ways that these structures flow through both retail and art spaces. In WTF (Where’s the Forest), Reinhard Reitzenstein (Hamilton, ON and Buffalo, NY) brought the remains of a full tree covered in yellow beeswax and suspended it from the ceiling to point out the complicity of the industrial past and gentrified present in the production of greenhouse gasses and eradication of green spaces WTF led to a panel conversation, Seeds of Change.

Finally, Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City marked an ambitious expansion of exhibition programming beyond the walls of Tri-Main Center. This one-night event attracted nearly 1,000 people to see six site-specific installations that engaged the unique Silo City environment while also supporting the exploration of new materials, media, and installation possibilities.

FY 2018-2019 Exhibitions

Muhammad Z. Zaman, Lux, July 27-September 7, 2018
Liz Lessner, common wealth- salves for precarious times, the interstices of labor and care, July 27-September 7, 2018
Jozef Bajus, Gold Rush, September 28-November 1, 2018
Kurt Treeby, Re-Model, September 28-November 1, 2018
Annual Studio Artist Exhibition and Sale, November 17-December 22, 2018
Lee Hoag, Amalgams, January 25-March 2, 2019
Sheila Barcik, From the Core, January 25-March 2, 2019
Obsidian Bellis, Apothecary for Sis, April 6-May 3, 2019
Annie Bielski, Joes & Anns, April 6-May 3, 2019
Reinhard Reitzenstein, WTF (Where’s the Forest), May 24-June 28, 2019
Exhibiting Artist Spotlight: Obsidian Bellis

“In terms of my experience putting together my exhibition, I feel as though Buffalo Art Studio’s staff truly held space for me as an artist and as an individual. Outside of working with BAS, I am met with kindness, humor, professionalism and concern for my creative practice and my livelihood. It’s really nice to be in a creative community where I feel genuinely supported, I believe that’s when makers can be their best self.”

- Obsidian Bellis

Raised on the east side of Buffalo, Obsidian Bellis (they/them pronouns) was always enamored with drawing. A majority of Bellis’s artistry has developed through self-teaching and mentorship.

They move between mediums and find freedom in the ability to tell stories from the places they imagine and their navigation of personal freedom. Bellis’s exhibition, Apothecary for Sis, was on view at Buffalo Arts Studio from April 6-May 3, 2019.
Our Education Program

Buffalo Arts Studio provides art instruction for youth, adults, and community programs ranging from one-day workshops to multi-week classes. Our classes provide paid work opportunities for artists while offering professional arts instruction for community members.

Classes are offered on weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. A variety of media are taught such as ceramics, drawing, painting, and more. The instructors are foremost in their fields and include artists, college professors, and New York State certified high school art teachers from the region.

Over the course of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, Buffalo Arts Studio was able to run 34 classes across three terms with enrollment totaling 301 individuals. This number is comprised of 81 youth enrollments, 220 adult enrollments, and represents endless hours of individual discovery and cultivation of visual/spatial abilities as well as critical thinking skills across a wide age range.

Buffalo Arts studio continues to deepen its ties to fellow arts and cultural organizations through educational programming and outreach. Program partners for FY 2018-2019 include the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo Collegiate Charter School, Daemen Exhibiting artist Reinhard Reitzenstein leads a tour and workshop related to his exhibition, WTF (Where’s the Forest), for a group of students from Buffalo Collegiate Charter School.

Adult Student Spotlight: Christa Hobart

“I really enjoyed spending a few hours a week at Buffalo Arts Studio tapping into my creative side. Our oil painting instructor, Sara Zak, shared her great depth of knowledge and techniques putting paint to canvas in an easy to understand way, even for a beginner like me.”

“Each class I looked forward to discovering new perspectives not only with paint but within the creative process.”

- Crista Hobart

Exhibiting artist Reinhard Reitzenstein leads a tour and workshop related to his exhibition, WTF (Where’s the Forest), for a group of students from Buffalo Collegiate Charter School.

Crista Hobart and her son attending “Plates and Pasta 2019.”
Our Jump Start Program

Our unique Jump Start program offers artistic instruction to middle and high school students who display an exceptional interest in the arts, including those who may have limited access to advanced art instruction in their schools. The program empowers youth to explore careers in the arts, develop a portfolio, and prepare for entry into college. On average, students receive 42 hours of formal instruction, 20 hours of studio advisement and 10 hours of professional development each year. Many Jump Start Students come from low-income households. For qualifying students, we provide financial assistance to cover all course tuition, fees, and supplies.

Currently Buffalo Arts Studio’s Jump Start program has 26 active students, and 7 college students who participate in Jump Start-adjacent activities. For the high school seniors participating in Jump Start, 100% will graduate on time, and plan to attend colleges and universities across New York State.

Additionally, Buffalo Arts Studio’s Jump Start program offers a variety of “Development Days,” which includes extracurricular intensive time with professional artists and arts professionals with the goal of cultivating student’s individual skill sets and set them on a path for higher education and provide professional experience for future careers within the visual arts.

Jump Start Student Spotlight: Isaac Vazquez

“Jump Start helped me tremendously with my growth as an artist. The classes and workshops they provide are varied and they give you an opportunity to try something new. Overall if it wasn’t for the art program, I’d probably wouldn’t have a passion to draw to this day.”

- Isaac Vazquez Jr., Sophomore, Daemen College
Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City

Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City arose as part of an exciting new partnership between Buffalo Arts Studio and Silo City. The opening reception on June 21, 2019 drew one-thousand attendees to the silos site to experience this innovative new collaboration and the resulting artwork on the longest day of the year.

This project featured six site-specific installations by regional and national artists, including Avye Alexandres, Brandon Geissmann, Justina Dziama, Landon Moreis, Michael Camillaci, and Sara Svisco, and rhizomedas xxx: a collaboration between ALM (Andrea Lee McCullough) and SXZ (Stephen X. Zimmerer).

This project engaged the unique Silo City environment while also supporting the exploration of new materials, media, and installation possibilities. All of the artwork was site-specific and took into consideration the changing sunlight that moves across Silo City on the longest day of the year.

Both Buffalo Arts Studio and Silo City have a long history of supporting the creation of site-specific visual artwork. Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City provided audiences the opportunity to experience art, architecture, and the environment in new and meaningful ways.

Guests interact with Untitled (Sols) by Michael Camillaci and Sara Svisco as part of Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City.

Buffalo Arts Studio Mural Tour 2019

On Saturday June 29, 2019, 38 Jump Start students, educators, education funders, and adults loaded up on a bus to tour 12 murals throughout Buffalo. Paige Melin from Explore Buffalo spoke about the history of each neighborhood as the bus traversed various sites. During each stop local mural historian Claudia Carballada (formerly of the Albright-Knox) spoke about the artists and inspiration for each project. At the Ray of Light mural, mosaic artist Megan McElfresh talked about her work on the mural and the positive impact the project had on the community.

Mural Tour participants also heard from and asked questions to artist Muhammad Z Zaman at his mural Our Colors Make Us Beautiful. Exit surveys showed that the participants understood how the murals related to the environment and felt more confident in talking with others about the process and meanings behind the murals.
Plates and Pasta 2019

Buffalo Arts Studio’s signature fundraiser, Plates and Pasta 2019, was transformed into a stations-based party with sweet and savory tasting stations, wine, beer, soft drinks, live music, interactive demonstrations, open studios, and a silent auction. **Plates and Pasta 2019 featured unique artwork by more than 130 artists that were hand-painted or transferred onto glazed ceramic plates and pasta bowls.** Every ticket holder chose a unique plate created by one of the 130 artists to take home as part of the event.

**Participating Artists for Plates and Pasta 2019:**


**Sponsors for Plates and Pasta 2019:**

Benderson Development Co., LLC, BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York, Buffalo Spree, Erie County Medical Center, Hodgson Russ, LLP, Marketing Tech, Mower, Morgan Linen Service, Nash Connors, P.C., Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC, Tri-Main Development, Twisted Rope, Wegmans, White Bicycle, and 716 China, with additional support from Bruce Supernault & Anna Laba.
Our Sponsors

Major Funding Provided by:
The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Children’s Foundation of Erie County, Erie County Cultural Funding, Fatta Foundation, Garman Foundation, M&T Bank, John R. Oishei Foundation, Open Buffalo, Simple Gifts Fund, Vogt Family Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Additional Support:
Ashkers, the Lunch Box, and Individual Donors
Our Individual Donors

Annual Appeal Contributors and Honorees, Fiscal Year 2018-2019


Back Cover: A guest interacts with Avye Alexandre’s installation, Nowhere on Earth, as part of Buffalo Arts Studio Summer Solstice at Silo City. Photograph courtesy of Alex Shapiro.
Contact Us:
2495 Main Street, Suite #500
Buffalo, New York 14214
T: 716-833-4450
E: info@buffaloartsstudio.org

Connect With Us: