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BUFFALO, NY – Buffalo Arts Studio is pleased to announce two upcoming exhibitions - Obsidian Bellis, *Apothecary For Sis* and Annie Bielski, *Joels & Anns* - each of which runs from April 6-May 3, 2019 with an Artist Reception on April Fourth Friday, April 26, 2019 from 5-8pm. Each artist will be speaking about their work promptly at 6:00pm. Both solo exhibitions are guest curated by Emily Owen, a MA candidate in the Department of Art at the University at Buffalo.

Raised on the East Side of Buffalo NY, **Obsidian Bellis** has 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. A majority of Bellis's artistry has developed through self-teaching and mentorship. Bellis often bounces between mediums and finds freedom in the ability to tell intimate stories from the places they imagine and their navigation of personal freedom. They have established a creative brand entitled *Maybe Heaven* which makes prints, wearable designs, and accessories of their original work available for purchase (find more [here](#)).

"Apothecary for Sis" is an exploration of the nostalgic energy of objects. The exhibition exudes a magical spirituality on a journey that honors healing through art. The exhibition presents as a collection of reliquaries of sorts. The objects and their energies represent relationships in Bellis's life that have helped form them. While recognizing the energy of these objects, Bellis also invites the public to make their own connections. Underpinnings of racism, colonialism, and gender are intrinsic in *"Apothecary for Sis"* just as they are inherent in the past and present. The embroidery, quilt making, and herbs all pay homage to the magic of domestic talents and their perceived femininity. Such talents were largely demonized in the wake of colonization and disregarded

because of the gender and race of the people who labored over their creation. Through the exhibition, Bellis creates space to share, honor, and heal, and through their intimate yet universal story.

Annie Bielski works across mediums, using painting, sewing, and writing 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. Using materials of both industrial and domestic spaces like canvas, curtains, towels, tarps, bricks and polyethylene, Bielski also plays with the dichotomy of commercial and cultural presentation.

In *“Joes & Anns,”* Bielski un-constructs and reconstructs her materials, using gestural seams bearing the flaws of heavy pedal foot. She sews with a joyful abandon that results in puckers and pockets that serve her composition. The unstructured wall pieces often allude to figures and garments whereas the stretched canvases recall the abstract expressionists of the last century. By placing these objects together in the gallery, she draws attention the economic and cultural disparity in the often gendered labor that produces each. *“Joes and Anns”* is Bielski’s thesis exhibition for the University at Buffalo MFA program.

Annie Bielski is an artist, writer, and performer. She currently lives and works in Buffalo, NY and is a MFA candidate at the University at Buffalo (SUNY). She received a BFA with an emphasis in Painting and Drawing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has been exhibited in cities like Portland, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Mexico City.



Obsidian Bellis, *Apothecary For Sis*, Mixed media assemblage, 2019.



Annie Bielski, *TEST*, Acrylic, ink, sticker on sewn canvas, 2017-19.

High-resolution images are available upon request

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Buffalo Arts Studio is a not-for-profit arts organization whose mission is to provide affordable studio space and regular public exposure for regional, national, and international artists through exhibitions, and to enrich the community with art classes, mural programs, and public art. Buffalo Arts Studio is located at 2495 Main Street, Suite 500, Buffalo, NY 14214. The gallery is open Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Buffalo Arts Studio receives major support from:

Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Children's Foundation of Erie County, City of Buffalo, Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funding, Emerging Philanthropists of Color, Garman Family Foundation, John R. Oishei Foundation, Josephine Goodyear Foundation, Simple Gifts Fund, M&T Bank, Open Buffalo, Rigidized Metals, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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