

# 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



Liz Lessner is a sculptor and installation artist whose work combines traditional fabrication techniques and emerging technologies to create sensory experiences that reframe common occurrences and routine encounters. She is currently the Studio Fellow at VisArts in Rockville, Maryland. Lessner has had solo shows at Honfleur Gallery in Washington, D.C.; Big Orbit Gallery in Buffalo, NY; and the University at Buffalo Visual Studies Gallery in Buffalo, NY. She has also exhibited nationally and internationally at the Guapamacáaro Center for Art and Ecology in Michoacán, Mexico, A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn, NY, and Everard Read's Circa Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa. She holds an MFA in Media Study from the University at Buffalo. Her research has been supported by grants like the Mark Diamond Research Fund, fellowships like the Eyeo Artists Fellowship, and awards like a 2019 Fulbright Research Award to Brazil.



Muhammad Z. Zaman is a Buffalo-based artist specializing in calligraphy. He is a Resident Artist with Buffalo Arts Studio. In 2018, Zaman was selected as the Open Buffalo Emerging Artist and was also awarded a New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Individual Artist Grant. Zaman has experience in both public and community-based art making with the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, People's Park, and Silo City. He is also active in local Muslim community groups including Crescent Village Community Center and both the Lackawanna and South Buffalo locations of Access of Western New York. He was also a member of Common Ground Connections, part of a nationwide interfaith campaign that invited communities to local open houses to bring people together through the arts.

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Liz Lessner  
*common wealth—salves for precarious times;  
the interstices of labor and care*



Muhammad Z. Zaman  
*Lux*

July 27-September 7, 2018  
Opening Reception: Friday, July 27, 2018



Liz Lessner, *common wealth—salves for precarious times; the interstices of labor and care*

*common wealth—salves for precarious times; the interstices of labor and care* is an exhibition of new works by DC artist Liz Lessner, commissioned by Buffalo Arts Studio. The sculptures are castings of the negative space between people engaged in gestures of physical, intellectual, and emotional care giving and receiving. An essential part of Lessner's practice involves spending time with participants and working with them to represent their unique relationship through intimate gestural connections. As a result, Lessner spent a week in residency at Buffalo Arts Studio where she documented the social, physical, and emotional support provided by some of the mental health, human service, and cultural organizations in Tri-Main Center including Aspire WNY, Inc. iXpress, Cantalician/Diversified Labor Solutions, and the Buffalo Arts Studio Jump Start program.

Lessner's process is intimate; a cooperative experience built on a patient and compassionate practice. Although naturally ephemeral, the participants' gestures must be held over time, frozen in suspended animation as Lessner applies the foundational plaster cast. After the casts are removed from the subjects, Lessner finishes them with gypsum and fiberglass. Finally, she places the sculptures atop steel rods, consciously recalling Ancient Greek pediment figures installed so that fragmented limbs appear suspended in the appropriate anatomical place. In the end, *common wealth—salves for precarious times; the interstices of labor and care* represents not only the space between people engaged in meaningful action, it also forms a timeless record of three interconnections: client, service provider, and artist.



Muhammad Z. Zaman, *Lux*

*From the beginning, for me, it was about connecting; connecting people who are different. Different from me and different from each other.*

*Lux* is the first major solo exhibition for Buffalo-based calligraphiti artist Muhammad Z. Zaman. As a young Muslim man living and working in the United States, Zaman uses language as cultural signifier; English for his current home, Bengali as the language of his fatherland, and Arabic as the language of his religion. His canvas paintings and wall murals layer powerful messages onto seemingly borderless fields in order to inspire people to learn from each other in harmony and mutual understanding.



Zaman pays homage to his cultural history by using traditional tools, forms, and formats. Circular designs symbolize unity while recalling calligraphic mandalas and roundels, and his works on paper and unstretched canvas relate to calligraphic scrolls and illuminated manuscripts. At the same time, Zaman's deeply personal style is both expressive and modern. Many canvases are layered with graphic underpaintings, free-form spray paint, and textured gesso. His gesture—regardless of scale—is present in all of his work, reminding the viewer of the act and action of writing. Each painting is a meditation, imbued with Zaman's messages of personal wisdom and hope. Zaman makes his intentions clear by translating the text into English for the titles of his work, allowing the viewer to participate with the piece, and hopefully embrace his belief in the power of peace and understanding.