



For Immediate Release: May 15, 2019

Contact: Alma Carrillo, Executive Director
Buffalo Arts Studio 2495 Main Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 833-4450
www.buffaloartsstudio.org

Buffalo Arts Studio Awarded
\$20,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts



BUFFALO, NY—National Endowment for the Arts Acting Chairman Mary Anne Carter has approved more than \$80 million in grants as part of the Arts Endowment’s second major funding announcement for fiscal year 2019. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$20,000 to Buffalo Arts Studio to support ***Justice in the Arts*** during the summer and fall of 2019. Art Works is the Arts Endowment’s principal grantmaking program. The agency received 1,592 Art Works applications for this round of grantmaking, and will award 977 grants in this category.

“These awards, reaching every corner of the United States, are a testament to the artistic richness and diversity in our country,” said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “Organizations such as Buffalo Arts Studio are giving people in their community the opportunity to learn, create, and be inspired.”

“This exhibition series uses art as a tool to communicate, to question, and to spark dialogue across audiences on timely issues,” said Alma Carrillo, Executive Director of Buffalo Arts Studio. “The National Endowment for the Arts support makes it possible for us to present exhibitions,



workshops, and panel presentations that help Buffalo Arts Studio grow, activate, and empower our artists and our communities.”

This NEA Grant will support Buffalo Arts Studio’s ***Justice in the Arts*** program for the summer and fall of 2019. ***Justice in the Arts*** reflects the belief that artists and curators can effect change through purposeful collaborations that balance community need with artistic insight. This program will promote the creation of new work that fosters critical dialogue about social, ecological, economic, and representational justice through panel discussions, exhibitions, and residencies. It will also educate emerging and student artists through formal classes, guided mentorship, and teaching assistantships. Lastly, the program will expand arts access to underrepresented artists and audiences through community partnerships, public forums, studio space, working facilities, and hands-on workshops. ***Justice in the Arts*** realizes the Buffalo Arts Studio mission to provide exposure for visual artists while creating community cultural connections through exhibitions, public art, and educational programs.

Justice in the Arts begins with WTF (Where’s the Forest), an exhibition by Reinhard Reitzenstein (Buffalo, NY) that will be on display May 24-June 29, 2019. *WTF* explores the interplay of economic and ecological justice by displaying the remains of a mature tree inside the galleries as a response to the threatened urban green spaces and brownfields in the Tri-Main neighborhood. The encounter with the tree’s remains within the gallery space points to the complicity of both the industrial past and gentrified present in the eradication of green space that once covered the Tri-Main neighborhood. Reitzenstein and teaching assistants will hold workshops for students from Buffalo Collegiate Charter School and Buffalo Arts Studio’s Jump Start program, both housed within the Tri-Main campus. A community forum on Friday, June 28, 2019 will include a panel of representatives from the Fruit Belt Community Land Trust, PUSH, and other grassroots activists organization that will discuss the intersection of ecological, environmental, and economic justice issues in Buffalo and the larger WNY region.

July 25-September 6, 2019 artwork by Stacey Robinson (Urbana-Champaign, IL), will be on display at Buffalo Arts Studio. Robinson creates large-scale digital images that dismantle ideas of derogatory Black relations by distilling both form and content into bold, graphic representations. Robinson layers historical and contemporary images to form complex collages reflective of his own experience as a Black American in search of representational justice. ***Concurrently will be an exhibit by Black Kirby, a collaboration between Robinson and John Jennings (Riverside, CA).*** Black Kirby will present an exhibition based on their most recent project *Night Boy*; a graphic novel that tells the story of a young victim of police brutality who becomes a pawn in a supernatural power struggle, and a guardian of the City of Light. Robinson will also be in-residence at Buffalo Arts Studio in August, where he and his teaching assistants will conduct workshops with Buffalo students on graphic novel sequences based on *Night Boy*. Students will also create original artwork inspired by Black Kirby’s bold forms, combining themes centered around Afrofuturism, social justice, representation, and magical realism.

September 27-November 2, 2019, Phyllis Thompson (Buffalo, NY) will display artwork that investigates race and gender through the use of monotypes to construct images that focus on experiences both real and imagined. Thompson seeks social justice by constructing portraits of



Buffalo Arts Studio

ancestors she has never met due to slavery's destruction of genealogical narratives. Her work points to ancestral absence through the manipulation of the figures, removing them from the composition. Thompson and teaching assistants will conduct a series of workshops with participants from Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora and members of the Nash House Museum, part of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor. She will also work with Buffalo Arts Studio's Jump Start students and clients of Journey's End Refugee Services exploring the monotype process to facilitate a visual space in which narratives can be built around individuals, families, and communities. Using their unique histories as a template, participants will be encouraged to imagine future versions of themselves that have yet to be realized.

For more information on this National Endowment for the Arts grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

#####

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, the National Endowment for the Arts, 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.

#####