During the summer of 2021, Buffalo Arts Studio's Jump Start high school and college extension students participated in a two-week polytab mural production workshop as part of the Hervé Tullet: Shape and Color exhibition at the Albright-Knox Northland site. Albright-Knox Public Art Initiative team members Aaron Ott, Eric Jones, and Claudia Carballada worked in concert with Buffalo Arts Studio staff to develop a rich curriculum that addressed not only the polytab mural process, but also stressed the importance of teamwork, project management, and community engagement.

Workshop participants learned the unique benefits and challenges of working on cloth known as “polytab” and assisted in the execution of a major mural designed by Hervé Tullet, an international artist and beloved children’s book author who believes that audiences “complete” his works. Using polytab allows artists to work indoors on panels that are later installed onto building exteriors using acrylic primer. Once applied, the panels are secure and weatherproof. The students painted nearly half of the Tullet designed mural, which consists of 85 five foot by five foot panels to be installed by the Albright Knox Public Art Team at 847 Main Street.

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Teaching Artist Andrea Pawarski and Teaching Assistant Nicolas Delfino worked alongside Buffalo Arts Studio Education Director Jayne Hughes to guide the students through project planning, idea development and supply management. Students visited Hervé Tullet: Shape and Color at Northland and met directly with a number of working artists. Students also created their own polytab mural in the spirit of Tullet, working from an animated line that runs through and links each student's design.
Buffalo Arts Studio Jump Start program

Buffalo Arts Studio’s Jump Start Program offers opportunities, tools, and mentorship for underserved youth in order to create the next generation of artists as well as arts educators, administrators, and advocates who better reflect the diversity of the region. Jump Start serves middle, high-school, and college students who display an exceptional interest in the arts, and who may have limited access to advanced art instruction and professional development.

Jump Start is a unique program because it offers personal, meaningful, ongoing mentorship and fosters a high level of commitment from students, families, instructors, and staff. Students benefit from a broad curriculum that includes high-level arts instruction, exposure to the arts field, and meaningful professional development. Special projects, like the Hervé Tullet: Shape and Color collaborative workshop series, provide Jump Start students with the opportunity to gain professional experience while working alongside diverse artists and arts professionals. As a result, Jump Start empowers young people to pursue their creative interests and prepares them for the college or career of their choice.

Isabella Amarante
Tullet Workshop Fellow
Jump Start Extension
I am Junior in college and resin is my medium of choice - you can make almost anything out of resin with beautiful results. I hope to learn how to work with polytab, and I’m excited to meet some new people during the process.

Isaiah Dean
Jump Start Student
I enjoy drawing, painting, and pottery. For my future, the goal is attend college and pursue a fine arts degree. I am looking forward to the unique benefits and challenges of working on a large mural.

Lucy Dietrich
Tullet Workshop Fellow
Jump Start Extension
I enjoy making art that is political and using my creativity to process current events. I will be attending Cleveland Institute of Art this fall and through this experience, I hope to learn more about how public installation work is executed.

Nicolas Delfino
Tullet Workshop Teaching Assistant
As the assistant with this mural project, it was great to develop new skills and work with the students. In my studio practice I create expressive paintings inspired by landscape, nature, and my own life experiences.

Sarah Durkin
Jump Start Student
I am seventeen and I plan to be an Illustrator in the future. My greatest goal is to one day design a cover for The New Yorker magazine. While working on the Hervé Tullet mural, I hope to learn how to create on a large scale.

Sadiki Kashindi
Jump Start Extension
I am fourteen years old and I’m into Realism. I like to learn about different types of artwork and to see different artists for inspiration.

Cameron Osborn
Jump Start Student
I enjoy making art that addresses social issues and plan to have a career incorporating my artistic side. I am looking forward to enhance my skill set during this mural project.

Emily Quartley
Tullet Workshop Fellow
Jump Start Extension
I love creating art through drawing, painting, printmaking, clothing, artist books and more. My plan is to teach art and I have always wanted to work on a mural so I am extremely excited about this project!

Jayne Hughes
Education Director
As the Education Director at Buffalo Arts Studios, I am thrilled that our team was able to offer this incredible opportunity to our Jump Start students in partnership with the Albright Knox Public Arts team.

Emily Peca
Jump Start Student
Painting and drawing are my preferred mediums, using color to represent different emotions in my work. I am attending Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall, and plan to become an art professor.

Serenity Sherry
Jump Start Student
My favorite things to do is to create characters. One day I would like to turn it into my career. I would love to and learn more about murals as well as gain work experience during this project.

Andrea Pawarski
Teaching Artist
Learning and teaching how to paint on polytab has been exciting. I plan to incorporate this material into my own practice as well as my teaching. I am honored to be a part of this wonderful partnership.