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Tommy Nguyen, *new gods, old America*
April 22 — May 31, 2022
Part of M&T Fourth Fridays at Tri-Main Center

Tommy Nguyen (Brooklyn, NY) presents *new gods, old America*, a full gallery installation that presents a new pantheon of gods that reflect all genders, ethnicities, rights, and powers made from reflective mylar. The gods float above visitors' heads within the gallery filled with meditative, ambient sound to encourage mindfulness, prayer, meditation, introspection, and even play.

In his seminal PLUSH series, inspired by superheroes and secret identities, he created wearable sculptures as a social armor that disguised and protected the wearer while also defying usual beauty norms, body classification and giving everyone new abilities with the added appendages, tentacles and bulbous extensions. The TURBO series took PLUSH and added team mechanics, encouraging the even more multifaceted bulbous and harlequin striped figures to unionize, using their specific custom forms to work together differently to achieve unified goals. In the performance duo VIKTOR & CHARLEY, he scaled back the numbers to focus on refugee partnerships, drawing attention to the plight of immigrants by reperforming stunts, similar to those of Laurel and Hardy or Charlie Chaplin.

Tommy Nguyen is a Vietnamese American installation artist and sculptor who builds new worlds to hypothesize possible futures. He creates environments as visual experiments of how he imagines the world can continue to evolve to all our betterment and optimal selves. Nguyen studied economics, philosophy and history until he took his first painting class, where he was inspired by an enthusiastic George Hughes to pursue art full time. After receiving his MFA from the University of Buffalo, Tommy moved to Queens to join Flux Factory. He has held residencies with collectives and at museums in Iceland, Finland and Denmark and exhibits internationally. Recently, he was awarded the Sachsen-Anhalt Kunststiftung fellowship in Halle, Germany, culminating in a forthcoming show. He is currently based in Brooklyn, NY teaching at Pace University in the Art Department.

Tommy frequently collaborates with his partner artist, director, designer and puppeteer Doug Fitch. Their shows and exhibitions have been mounted internationally, notably at the Metropolitan Art Museum, National Sawdust, Turn Park, P.S.21, The New York Philharmonic, The ElbPhilharmonie and the Salzburg Marionetten Theatre. Their commission by Visionaire in collaboration with Grammy winning artist Anthony Roth Costanzo and MUR was granted entry into the Woodstock Film Festival. And their video for the Tony and the Kiki was nominated for a Queerty.

Experience a virtual tour at <https://youtu.be/GcRDvAoDJTk>

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. and Saturdays from 10a.m.—2p.m.

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High resolution images available upon request.

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