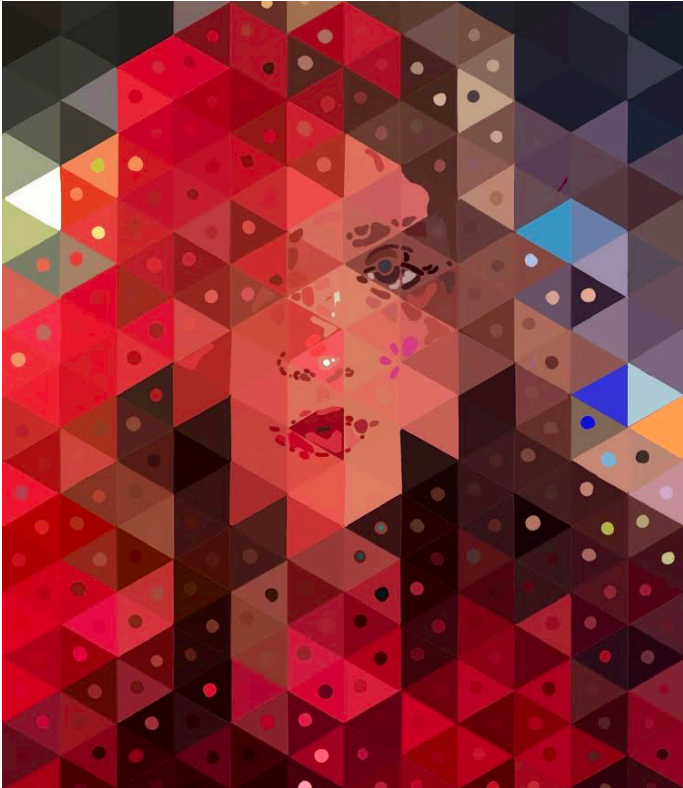




Jump Start Biennial Student Exhibition, *Finding Ourselves*

May 26–June 30, 2023



Sarah Durkin, *Geometric Self Portrait*, 2023, digital



Emma Pfordrescher, *Raveled*, 2022, fabric

Every two years, I enjoy the honor of bringing together dozens of Buffalo Arts Studio Jump Start students to present their work in an exhibition that fills both galleries. The Jump Start program provides instruction to high school students who show a strong ability and interest in the visual arts, regardless of their ability to pay. The program also guides high school graduates along their college and career path through our Jump Start Extension program. Additionally, Jump Start empowers the students while helping them develop their social and emotional well-being.

Putting together the Jump Start exhibition is truly a labor of love. I invite all the students to participate right from the beginning. We start by discussing what is going on in their lives, what they are thinking about, and how they feel about their place in the world. These young artists come from high school, college, and beyond to be a part of this very special event.

Throughout exhibition development, the students spoke and wrote about how they were able to express feelings and emotions through their art. They talked about how they could find refuge in their creative process and how much they valued the safe and accepting community at Buffalo Arts Studio. Many of these young artists also said they found pride, confidence, and joy through creating. In the end, the students chose the title *Finding Ourselves* because they wanted to share how they see themselves as artists and as individuals.

The work in this exhibition includes many pieces created with the "Finding Ourselves" theme in mind, whether made as part of Jump Start classes, college courses, or their professional practices. *Finding Ourselves* brings together the dynamic artwork of a diverse group of young creatives looking to make their mark on our world.

-Jayne Hughes, Education Director

Jump Start Artists

We are excited to have 45 young artists exhibiting in *Finding Ourselves*. Although a few of the students are brand new to the program, many have been taking classes for years. Our high school students come from across Western New York with nearly a third living in the city of Buffalo. Our college students attend universities across the country, including Cleveland Institute of Art, Daemen College, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Pratt Institute, Savannah College of Art and Design, and the University of Buffalo. One of our artists is majoring in accounting while others study illustration, animation, and graphic design. Our youngest artist joined Jump Start after visiting for years with her big sister. Our oldest artist is a graduate of a special effects program and is working on a science fiction novel. One of the artists is now an art teacher in the Buffalo Public Schools and another is a Storyboard Revisionist for Marvel Studios Animation. Several of the artists have been with us for over a decade and it has been such a pleasure to watch them learn and grow.

Please take the time to get to know these amazing young people by reading the excerpts from their artist statements.



Mojo Banjo

I've been participating in the Jump Start program since I was a teenager and it has helped me sustain my passion as an artist. There are a lot of opportunities to improve one's skills while also gaining a creative voice.



Helen Beckley-Forest

I am grateful that the Jump Start program has established a place of community where many people can begin or continue their art practices. I hope to foster deeper connections with other creatives, no matter where I am.



Katelynn Bolton

I love art because I can express myself. Drawing acts as a stress reliever for me, clearing my mind and thoughts. I hope to learn new art techniques from the Jump Start program, and make new friends with the same interests.



Buyinza Buchanan

The world is already full of natural beauty and wonders, thus I choose to draw from imagination not imitation. I started creating art as a filter to express my emotions and thoughts out into the world.



Lucy Dietrich

As a drawing major at the Cleveland Institute of Art, I make artwork that explores the fantastical while investigating political narratives. I plan to continue to work with public art programs in my community after college.



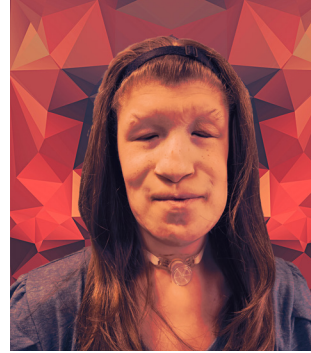
Sarah Durkin

Jump Start is an amazing program for young people pursuing a career in visual arts. I was fortunate enough to work on the Tullet Mural Workshop in high school, which was invaluable for my resume and college portfolio.



Kai Ellsworth

Like so many artists before me, I find refuge in my work. The physical process of bronze casting offers a sense of control and strength, while simultaneously providing a creative outlet to express thoughts and emotions.



Tabitha Fors

When drawing I see the result of years of practice, although not every line is perfect. Using techniques I've taught myself and learned at classes like those at Buffalo Arts Studio, I am able to create work that I am proud of.



Carly Glashauser

The process of creating gives me joy like nothing else and I like being able to translate my views of the world into art. It helps me express what words cannot. I want my art to make people happy.



Gaia Godinho

The process of making artwork allows me not only to express myself, but also examine what I am thinking or feeling at the time I am creating the work. I also enjoy sharing my passion for art and what I make with others.



Eva Hernandez

Art is freedom of expression. It's not just something to be looked at, it's something to reflect upon. My artwork isn't comfortable, often focusing on highlighting body positivity or the uproar of misuse of drugs in America.



Anneliese Hock

My work is a journey towards light after trauma. Caterpillars go through life looking for green, good things and reprieve in a cocoon, then burst out as something beautiful that soars. Similarly we reach within to find growth.



Nora Jackson

I create art about things that inspire me, and then ponder how I can incorporate myself into the piece. Whether it's a drawing, painting, or even a poem, I always find a way to place myself into my artwork to make it more connected and meaningful to me.



Molly Koenig

I love the feeling of clay and the whirring sound of a pottery wheel. I like to express myself by physically molding the clay while creating something useful. I fell in love with ceramics at Buffalo Arts Studio.



Jamila Lawvere

I especially enjoy working on self portraits in oil paint. When I work on art I'm usually feeling super hyper and I pour all my energy into it. The Jump Start program is a great space to work and find support.



Naja Lewis

In the future I plan to become a fashion designer. For now, I love to make artwork and to be creative while learning to work with different mediums. Someday my art will be in museums around the world.



Molly Lonigan

I've always been a storyteller, and I love being able to create art and animations. My goal is to produce my own animated series or webcomic based on my film, "Torn." Until then, I am happy honing my craft.



Eszter Magyari

Art is a way for me to communicate feelings and emotions that I can't put into words, it allows the people in my life to understand me on a deeper level. Creating and observing art helps me enjoy the world that I live in.



Kendra Marsch

Art is an expression of the creator, regardless of whether the meaning is understood. Painting is my personal favorite and inspiration can come from various sources and sometimes takes months to perfect the details.



Alex Metcalf

Art helps me express myself in various ways. Drawing is one of the things I enjoy doing most. I like to work both digitally and with more traditional art materials. In the future, I plan to go to college to study animation.



Eli Neglia

Creating is the only time I feel like I have complete freedom. It doesn't matter what my beginning idea is, or what I think the end product will be. I push out what I am feeling or thinking into what I am making.



Isabela Nieves

Making art transports me into a world in which there are no right answers, a place for me to do whatever I want. I love connecting with my pieces, and including aspects of my personal culture and life through my works.



Margaret O'Brien

For most of my life, I've liked telling stories. I am drawn to illustration in particular because of the story aspect. I enjoy the boldness and finality that comes with drawing, both digitally and traditionally.



Cameron Osborne

My paintings are inspired by my own experiences and emotions. When at my lowest, painting is a healthy way to express myself. It's my responsibility to make quality art and it's important for it to be seen and appreciated.



Emma Pfordresher

Art is a limitless playground, allowing exploration of different materials and styles. Art frees the mind and conveys emotions, letting go of reality. Jump Start provides opportunities to dabble and connect with local artists.



Cadynn Rice

I like to come to the studio and create art because it forces me out of my comfort zone a little and makes me feel better about myself. Here I can focus on my drawing and be productive. It is more freeing than school.



Mikayla Rice

Art was once a sanctuary, but lost its fun. However, it never truly left. My Jump Start family brought renewed confidence to push past self-set boundaries. The journey to rediscovering art shows that one can do anything.



Liliana Schmid

Art has always been a huge part of my life. For me, it is an outlet for my emotions. I like the Jump Start program because I have been able to meet other artists and have my work shown in multiple exhibitions.



Serenity Sherry

Art is a powerful form of self-expression. It can heal and reflect on what one loves. Bold colors from paint markers help me achieve these effects. The Jump Start program allows for experimentation and reflection of my work.



Ruth Silverschatz

This program gave me the opportunity to explore my creativity and pursue my passion for art. Now a graduate of a special effects program, I plan to publish a science fiction novel and create creatures for film and TV.



Cyprus Singer

I enjoy art because it calms me down and I gain a sense of satisfaction when I complete a project. In the future, I would like to be an art therapist to help people with stress and anxiety express their feelings through art.



Amber Smith

As an artist I enjoy trying new things. I feel it's important to explore mediums and art styles to expand your skill set. Taking time to find what makes you the artist you want to be is an adventure worth exploring.



Scarlett Sniadecki

The reason I enjoy art is because it's a good way to express myself. I like to draw whatever I please and to challenge myself with different art mediums. Overall, art is a fun hobby that I plan to make into a career.



Renee Tasevski

I have loved art for as long as I can remember. Drawing and painting relieves stress and creativity fills me with joy. I love to share my art with other people. As of now I plan to go to college to pursue a career in arts.



Ava Thompson

Creating art is therapeutic and helps me to stay calm. It also reminds me of working on art with my dad. I like drawing the human form and creating abstract art. I plan to continue learning new techniques to hone my skills.



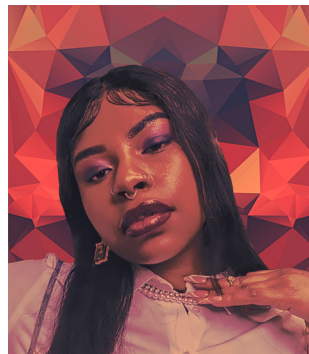
Alyssa Velez-Lopez

The Jump Start program has helped me grow my art knowledge and understanding of how to start and finish a piece. It has also given me a safe place to create art, make friends, and learn from others.



Kaysie Velez-Lopez

I find inspiration all around me, especially in music. I love to incorporate stories into character design and animation, generally by using a pencil or pen. Art is a way for me to de-stress and is something familiar.



Verbena Vy

Art helps me relate to people by sharing thoughts and experiences and creates space to be interconnected in this human existence. I feel like I have a superpower that's mine and I can always come back to it and find myself.



Jordan Willis

Being an artist means growth, art is a lifelong pursuit with new lessons to learn. When drawing, I become a better version of the person I was yesterday. Today, I am a Storyboard Revisionist for Marvel Studios Animation.



Sarah Zakeri

I enjoy creating art as a way to communicate my feelings and identity. By experimenting with different artistic tools and mediums I am able to express thoughts including those rooted in cultural identity and mental health.



Jump Start students have the opportunity to visit local museums and exhibit at Western New York galleries.

Jump Start artists are offered paid opportunities working with area artists and arts organizations.



Jump Start students take a variety of classes taught by talented and dedicated professionals.

Jump Start artists learn about a variety of professional opportunities working in the creative arts field.

About the program

Jump Start is a dynamic program that empowers youth to explore their interest in the visual arts within a creative, safe and supportive environment. The Jump Start program provides exceptional art instruction, professional development, portfolio preparation, exhibiting experience, exposure to diverse working artists, and much more. It includes a variety of Saturday classes taught by qualified artists, professors, and K-12 art teachers, all of whom demonstrate the willingness and ability to meaningfully connect with young people from diverse backgrounds. Students 13-18 years old can join the program throughout the year.



Jump Start artists can stay engaged by participating in exhibitions, professional development, and mentorship opportunities throughout college and beyond.

Individual mentorship, high grade art supplies, and Professional Development Days are provided at no cost to all our students. There is class tuition; however, any student's family who expresses financial need receives classes and supplies at no cost to them. No student is ever turned away due to inability to pay.

To enroll, contact Education Director Jayne Hughes at education@buffaloartsstudio.org



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