



For Immediate Release: 02/09/2024

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Buffalo Arts Studio presents:
Artists from the Hunt Gallery Residency Program, *Looking Up*
February 23 – March 30, 2024
Opening Reception, Friday, February 23, 2024, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Part of M&T Fourth Fridays at Tri-Main Center



Buffalo Arts Studio is thrilled to present a new group exhibition in partnership with The C. Stuart and Jane H. Hunt Art Gallery. *Looking Up* is an exhibition of new work by four artists who were a part of the Hunt Gallery Residency program. The C. Stuart and Jane H. Hunt Art Gallery provides emerging WNY artists rent-free studio space for four to five months and encourages the selected artists to collaborate and network with one another. This residency allows emerging artists to enter a collaborative environment in partnership with the Buffalo Society of Artists (BSA) where they will have the opportunity to collaborate and exhibit work throughout the duration of their occupancy.

Buffalo Arts Studio Visual Arts Director Shirley Verrico and Hunt Gallery Manager Christina Buscarino will co-curate a collection of work by former Hunt Gallery Artists-in-Residence Kevin Burzynski, DJ Carr, Laura Valkwitch, and Nicholas Wheeler.

“This partnership allows Buffalo Arts Studio and its community of artists and collectors to get to know a number of emerging artists who may not be on our radar yet. It’s been exciting working with Hunt Gallery Manager Christina Buscarino to guide these talented young people as they continue to grow their practice and their career,” says Shirley Verrico, Visual Arts Director at Buffalo Arts Studio.

Looking Up will be on display from **February 23–March 30, 2024**, with an opening reception on **Friday, February 23 from 5:00–8:00 pm.**

Kevin Burzynski is a visual artist from Buffalo, NY who works in photography and mixed-media painting. His paintings experiment with detail and tactile elements, creating works that need to be experienced up close. Using both abstract and figurative imagery, Burzynski's work combines the aesthetic appeal, depth, and mystery of abstraction with the familiarity, and even comfort, of nostalgic characters as focal points.

DJ Carr is a self-taught artist from Buffalo, NY specializing in portraiture, documentary, and street photography. Carr started shooting digital photography about 8 years ago and transitioned fully into film photography in 2020. He was inspired by Gordon Parks who captures the stories of marginalized people within the inner city. Carr's focus often falls on those same subjects, capturing the essential moment, and revealing the truth within.

Laura Valkwitch is a multidisciplinary artist with a focus on pyrography and oil painting. She is a WNY native and studied fine art at Niagara County Community College. Currently, Valkwitch teaches a drawing class through Partners In Art at the Carnegie Art Center in North Tonawanda. In 2019, her piece titled, *Lilacs* was awarded Best in Show at Art On The Riverwalk. Valkwitch's work; *Self Portrait*, was included in a group show at Meibohm Fine Arts in East Aurora.

Nicholas Wheeler is an artist, tradesperson, and designer. He works primarily through woodworking and carpentry and is often oscillating between the worlds of art, decorative design, and architecture. Wheeler received his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University at Buffalo, where he studied in the Material Culture research group and completed his thesis on interdisciplinary communities of craftspeople. He is currently working as an independent contractor executing custom design-build projects in the City of Buffalo.

Buffalo Arts Studio is located at 2495 Main Street, Suite 500, Buffalo, NY 14214. The galleries are free and open to the public Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 am–5:00 pm, and Saturdays, 10:00 am–2:00 pm. For more information about Buffalo Arts Studio, please visit www.buffaloartsstudio.org

Buffalo Arts Studio receives exhibition support from The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funds, John R. Oishei Foundation, Humanities New York, M&T Bank, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Simple Gifts Fund, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and the New York State Council for the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

High resolution images available upon request.