

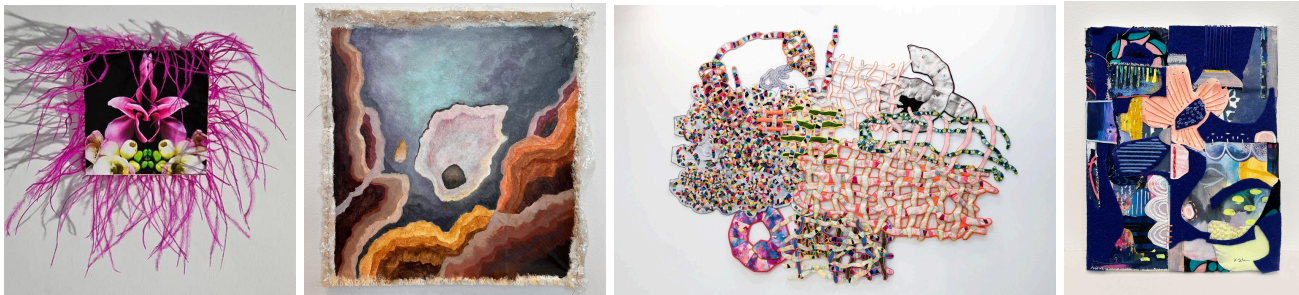
Buffalo, NY - JUNE 4, 2024 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Buffalo Arts Studio presents:**

***Layers*, June 28–August 9, 2024**

**Opening Reception Friday, June 28, 2024, 5:00–8:00 pm  
Part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main Center**



**Buffalo Arts Studio** brings together four artists working at the intersection of art and craft to exhibit in the Community Space gallery. **Colleen Ayson, Helen Beckley-Forest, Angela Guest, and Kelly Schnurr** all combine traditional modes of artmaking, including drawing, painting, and photography, with innovative textile and collage practices. The resulting objects are dynamic expressions of personal, playful gestures. *Layers* will be on display from **June 28–August 9, 2024**, with an opening reception on **Friday, June 28 from 5:00–8:00 pm**.

[Colleen Ayson](#) is a visual artist born and raised in the sunny suburbs of the San Fernando Valley, CA. She has a degree in Art from the Chelsea College of Art and Design in London. She currently lives in Buffalo, NY. She is a creative nomad who has traveled around the world and has enjoyed living in the US, Australia, and the UK. She is drawn to the magic and wonder of everyday life. Ayson's work explores the mysterious alchemy of beauty in nature and the amazing creatures that inhabit our world.

[Helen Beckley-Forest](#) is an artist based in Buffalo, NY. She graduated with a degree in Painting from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY in 2023 and has since moved back to her hometown to reconnect with her roots. Her work touches on themes of climate change and the relationship between nature and humans. Helen recently had her first solo exhibition *Tender Topologies* through a residency at Transformation Station. Her work has also been displayed at multiple locations including The Crucible, Buffalo Arts Studio and the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center. She is looking forward to being a Hunt Gallery Resident Artist towards the end of this year.

[Angela Guest](#) is a fabric artist and painter currently based in Buffalo, NY. Originally from Austin, TX, Guest ventured to Chicago for higher education at DePaul University where she graduated with a BA in Art, Media, and Design and minors in anthropology and art history. Years later, Guest studied Art Education at Buffalo State University and is currently working as a high school educator for Buffalo Public Schools. Guest's work has been exhibited across WNY including The Crucible Arts Collective, Main Street Arts in Clifton Springs, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo Art Movement, and Hunt Gallery where she was part of their fourth residency cohort.

**Kelly Schnurr** is a multidisciplinary artist and mother of two living in Buffalo, NY. She merges her design background with fine art practices to capture the element of discovery and self-growth, using nature as her source of inspiration. After graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a BFA in Graphic Design, she spent 10 years living and working in NYC where she started her business, GreenBird Design Inc. She returned to Buffalo in 2016 and spent the last six months as a Hunt Gallery Resident Artist. She is also a member of the Buffalo Society of Artists and an online global community called the Thrive Together Network.

Buffalo Arts Studio (BAS) connects diverse communities through visual arts via inclusive exhibitions, educational programs, mentorships, and public art while also providing affordable studio space, exposure, paid opportunities, and ongoing professional development for visual artists.

Buffalo Arts Studio receives exhibition support from The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funds, Humanities New York, John R. Oishei Foundation, M&T Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Arts & Culture Initiative, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, and through Arts Services Inc.'s Creative Impact Fund program thanks to a New York State Senate Initiative supported by the NYS Legislature and the Office of the Governor, and administered by the New York State Council on the Arts.

### **About Buffalo Arts Studio:**

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Buffalo Arts Studio connects diverse communities through exhibitions, educational programs, and public art while providing support for visual artists. BAS is a catalyst for self-empowerment, innovation, and action focused on enhancing our region.

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*Note to Editors: High-resolution images and additional press materials are available upon request.*