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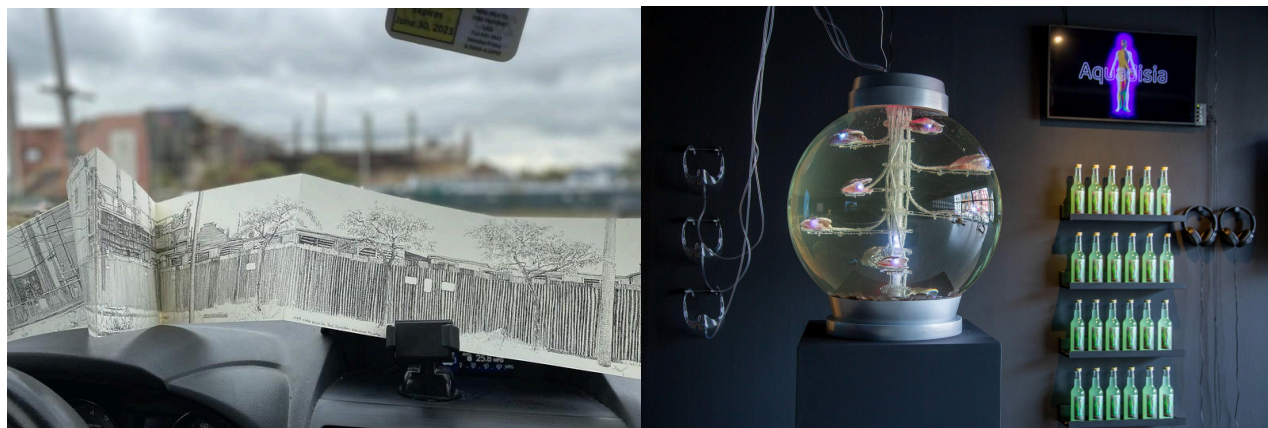
Buffalo Arts Studio presents:

Joan Linder: *Fulfillment*

Stephanie Rothenberg: *Aquadisia*

September 27–November 9, 2024

Opening Reception, Friday, September 27, 2024, 5:00–8:00 pm



Joan Linder, *Bitcoin at Dupont, Buffalo Ave*, 2022, ink on paper

Stephanie Rothenberg, *Meta.Morf*, 2022, installation view

Buffalo Arts Studio is excited to present two concurrent exhibitions; *Fulfillment* by Joan Linder and *Aquadisia* by Stephanie Rothenberg. *Fulfillment's* drawings examine local aspects of the hidden-in-plain-sight landscape of e-commerce, cloud computing, crypto-mining, and the legal contracts that bind us to these technology systems. *Aquadisia* is a multimedia science fiction project that focuses on the desire to be more sustainable and explores the ethical and economic contradictions of biotechnology within the fields of marine science and environmental conservation. These exhibitions are part of *Waterfront View*, a series of exhibitions, workshops, and panel conversations that examine how late-stage capitalism has shifted the view of water and waterways from a resource of collective benefit to a commodity of individual interest and shareholder profit.

Fulfillment and *Aquadisia* are on display **September 27–November 9, 2024**, with an **opening reception on Friday, September 27, 5:00–8:00 pm**. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Both artists will speak briefly about their work starting at 6:00 pm.

Joan Linder largely draws from observation. For *Fulfillment*, Linder visited e-commerce sites in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY. On each of her trips, the artist drew the sites while sitting in her parked car outside the buildings. The resulting drawings of crypto-mining warehouses, cloud computing server farms, fulfillment centers, and surrounding neighborhoods are spread across 144 inch accordion books. The landscapes are accompanied by a selection of hand-drawn text facsimiles of “terms of service” and “email communications” with ubiquitous digital platforms such as Amazon and Meta.

Completing the exhibition are Linder’s handmade paper reproductions of discarded Amazon shipping boxes. Made from ink, paint, and watercolor on archival cotton paper, the boxes are life-size and form near-perfect replicas of the actual objects. Each box carries marks that trace and reflect their material history, from supply chain to fulfillment center to user. In examining the multiple components of the e-commerce supply chain, *Fulfillment* highlights the heavy physical toll carried by our digital behaviors.

Stephanie Rothenberg’s *Aquadisia* engages science fiction and speculative design to reimagine the myth of the oyster as an aphrodisiac. The multimedia installation immerses the viewer in a techno-utopian narrative where Rothenberg introduces a new breed of oyster that converts toxic water into a drinkable “cure-all” promising to solve our environmental problems. Aquadisia Water™ becomes the lubricant for a new kind of public eco-machine, creating more mutually symbiotic relationships between humans and other-than-humans.

Moving between reality and fantasy, *Aquadisia* aims to make visible contradictions confronting the impact of eco-capitalism on our oceans and other water bodies. These include the ethics of genetic engineering and the commodification of nature into capital. In questioning human action and the ethical and economic dimensions of our solutions, *Aquadisia* hopes to provide a space for envisioning alternative multispecies future-making. The multimedia installation engages robotic organisms, animation and video to question and make visible the subjection of nonhuman life to our human cultural value systems.

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 for 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 the Artists:

Joan Linder's artwork has been exhibited internationally in group exhibitions and in over 25 solo exhibitions, including at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, The Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College, IA, the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Michigan, and Mixed Greens Gallery. She has been awarded residency fellowships at Yaddo, MacDowell, Villa Montalvo, Smack Mellon Studios, and Lower East Side Printshop. Linder was a recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and a 2024 NYSCA Support for Artists grants. Linder's work has been written about in publications that include *Hyperallergic*, *Art in America Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. She recently co-curated *Hot Spots: Radioactivity in the Landscape*, at the University at Buffalo Art Galleries and at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's Kranner Art Museum. For more information, please visit: <https://www.joanlinder.com/>

Stephanie Rothenberg has exhibited internationally in venues and festivals including ISEA (international), Eyebeam Art and Technology Center (US), Sundance Film Festival (US), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art / MASS MoCA (US), House of Electronic Arts / HeK (CH), LABoral (ES), Transmediale (DE), and ZKM Center for Art & Media (DE). She is a recipient of numerous awards including a Creative Capital, Harpo Foundation and NYSCA. She has been an artist-in-residence at ZK/U in Berlin, TOKAS / Tokyo Art and Space (JP), the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace/LMCC (US), Eyebeam Art and Technology Center (US), Santa Fe Art Institute (US) among others. Her work is in the collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art and has been widely reviewed including *Artforum*, *Artnet*, *The Brooklyn Rail* and *Hyperallergic*. She is Professor and Chair in the Department of Art at University at Buffalo, SUNY where she teaches classes in design and emerging technologies and co-directs an interdisciplinary design studio collaborating with local social justice organizations. For more information, please visit: <https://stephanierothenberg.com/>

About Buffalo Arts Studio:

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. BAS is a catalyst for self-empowerment, innovation, and action focused on enhancing our region.

For more information, visit: <https://www.buffaloartstudio.org>

Attached images:

Joan Linder, *Bitcoin at Dupont, Buffalo Ave*, 2022, ink on paper

Stephanie Rothenberg, *Meta.Morf 2022*, Ecophilia: Trondheim International Biennale, 2022. Image credits: Juliane Schütz.

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