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Buffalo Arts Studio Presents: Jay Carrier, *Niagara it's Great to be Here.*

Exhibition Dates: January 24 – April 5, 2025

Opening Reception: Friday, January 24, 2025, 5:00 – 8:00 PM



Jay Carrier, *Niagara it's Great to be Here*, 2024, oil on canvas on wood, 8'x 18'

Buffalo, NY — Buffalo Arts Studio is proud to announce *Niagara it's Great to be Here.* an exhibition by renowned Niagara Falls artist Jay Carrier, runs from January 24 to April 5, 2025. The exhibition features paintings, drawings, and assemblages created over Carrier's 35-year career, offering an intimate exploration of the Niagara River and Gorge as both a personal and communal space. The opening reception will take place on Friday, January 24, 2025, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

Carrier's work delves into the profound dualities of his life as an Indigenous artist navigating the complexities of contemporary urban life in Niagara Falls, juxtaposed with his deep spiritual and physical connection to the surrounding landscape. Through expressive abstractions of water and land, Carrier offers an expansive narrative about the mighty Niagara River—a source of sustenance, spirituality, and community for Indigenous peoples, as well as a resource reshaped and exploited under the pressures of late-stage capitalism.

"The title 'Niagara it's Great to be Here' references a sign I saw in the 1980s on a chemical tank along the Robert Moses Parkway," said Carrier. "It was ironic—given the documented history of pollution in the area—that the sign suggested such a warm welcome. This title also reflects my love and life alongside the Niagara River and Gorge."

Carrier's paintings and mixed-media works reveal the environmental and societal impacts of industrialization on the Niagara region. Reflecting on these shifts, he observes, "Most industries in Niagara were built along the river, exploiting its resources and discharging waste. Although environmental laws have since improved, the damage is already done. Now, it's up to us to confront and mitigate the consequences."

Biography:

Carrier holds a B.F.A. from the University of Illinois-Champaign, studied painting at The College of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and attended the M.F.A. program at the University of Illinois. Carrier has exhibited widely across the U.S. and Canada and his work has been featured at institutions such as the Castellani Art Museum, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, and the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

Buffalo Arts Studio remains committed to supporting artists like Jay Carrier, whose work critically engages contemporary issues of social, economic, and environmental justice. By presenting exhibitions that inspire dialogue, Buffalo Arts Studio fosters cultural connections that drive meaningful change.

About Buffalo Arts Studio

Buffalo Arts Studio (BAS) connects diverse communities through visual arts, offering inclusive exhibitions, educational programs, mentorships, and public art initiatives. BAS provides vital resources for visual artists, including affordable studio space and paid opportunities. Through its programs, BAS serves as a catalyst for self-empowerment, innovation, and regional enhancement.

Buffalo Arts Studio is located in Suite 500 of the Tri-Main Center at 2495 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214.

This exhibition is supported by The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Erie County Cultural Funds, 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.

Join Us

Celebrate the artistry and vision of Jay Carrier at *Niagara it's Great to be Here*. For more information, please visit www.buffaloartsstudio.org or contact us at sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org.