



Buffalo Arts Studio

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Rachel Shelton, *On Letting Go*, 2026, Screenprint, Acrylic on paper and polytab, 100" x 240 (detail)

Buffalo Arts Studio presents *Slow Looking* by Rachel Shelton

On View May 22 – August 1, 2026

Opening Reception: Friday, May 22, 2026, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main

Buffalo, NY — Buffalo Arts Studio is thrilled to present *Slow Looking*, a new body of work by Rachel Shelton that challenges the negativity so often associated with decay, uncertainty, and precarity. Featuring a series of monotypes, etchings, collagraphs, and screenprints, the exhibition is on view from May 22 through August 1, 2026. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 22, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm as part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main.

When things shed the weight of their past lives, there is also hope, potential, and relief. New connections and contexts, once thought impossible, become real. With installation work and a series of repeated and reiterated prints of rock forms, Shelton reminds us that it is the nature of things not only to fall apart, but to begin again.

Shelton draws inspiration for her work from the natural world, with rock forms providing one of the best examples of the dualities of growth and decay; of entropy and stability. Despite their inevitable change in form—from mountain to boulder to rock to pebble to sand—we feel a constant sense of awe and wonder at whatever state

we find them in. We accept their ephemerality. Just as we look with admiration upon the grandeur of a mountain, so too do we treasure the smallness of a pebble held in the palm of our hand.

All of the rock forms in *Slow Looking* originate from a single photo of two rocks in a field of glacial deposits that Shelton stumbled upon during a trip to Montana. With adjustments to scale, orientation, color, and surrounding compositions, the prints invite us to shift between micro and macro perspectives and consider the ecosystems pocketed within a life cycle. Her work documents the passage of time via the life cycle of a rock, suggests the building blocks of larger structures, and navigates the network of meaning and connections that form when things fall apart.

The rectangular etching and carborundum plates in the prints represent time, progress, building, space, and ambiguous scale shifts. They function as a narrative element, a language whose story unfolds print to print, arcing across time to speak on ever-changing compositions and relationships. The screenprinted rocks present the throughline of one object changed over time—forever falling and floating towards a new state of being.

Slow Looking reminds us that by associating impermanence with gloom, we shield ourselves from other, brighter truths. Decay is literally a shedding of weight, an easing of burdens. Entropy and disorder—the uncertainty of future states—hold hope as much as fear. And in their nature is the promise of potential: each phase of unravelling will always build something new.

About the Artist

Rachel Shelton centers an experimental and process-based practice around printmaking, expanding into book arts, enamel, public art, and sculpture. Shelton exhibits regionally and nationally, regularly facilitates creative workshops, and is the recipient of various grants and residencies. She received her BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art and her MFA from SUNY at Buffalo. Shelton is also a Co-Founder and collaborative printer at Mirabo Press, a fine art printmaking studio in Buffalo, NY.

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.

This exhibition is generously supported by The Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, DownRoot Fund, part of the Crossroads Community Fund, Erie County Cultural Funds, M&T Bank, and through the New York State Council for the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature.

Buffalo Arts Studio is located in Suite 500 of the Tri-Main Center at 2495 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214. For media inquiries, interview requests, or high-resolution images, please contact Sydney O'Shei at sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org or 716-833-4450 x 114.