Buffalo Arts Studio

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Dah John, *Earth Pillow,* 2026, felt, embroidery thread, and Oxford Pennant remnants (filling)

Buffalo Arts Studio presents *Zero Waste* by Stitch Buffalo
On View February 27 – April 11, 2026
Opening Reception: Friday, February 27, 2026, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main

Buffalo, NY — Buffalo Arts Studio is excited to present *Zero Waste*, an exhibition of textile work created from reclaimed materials by Stitch Buffalo refugee and immigrant artists and volunteers, on view from February 27 through April 11, 2026. An opening reception will be held on Friday, February 27, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm as part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main.

Zero Waste explores how discarded textiles can be transformed into vibrant works of art by combining sustainable practices—repair, reuse, recycle, or share—with artistic creativity. Textile waste and clothing production continue to have a major impact on the environment. The fast fashion industry remains one of the largest consumers and polluters of water—and a major contributor to carbon emissions each year. This environmental impact is connected to the industry's linear economy: make, use, and then discard.

This exhibition is made up of three sections that demonstrate the intersection of sustainability and artistry through a variety of mediums and forms. *Reverence* is an installation of large, hand-dyed feltloom fabrics suspended from the ceiling. Envisioned as the central 'island' of the exhibition, the colors of the fabric connect to and encourage respect for the environment: blue for water, gold for sunlight, and brown for the earth. Surrounding each fabric are hand-embroidered three-dimensional earths created by refugee women from all around the world, reflecting on the collective responsibility of sustainability.

Make Something features a diverse mix of expressive art made by Stitch Buffalo volunteers, many of whom are talented creatives with vast experience in the textile and fiber arts. Volunteers were given a bag of assorted materials (fabric, yarn, thread, sewing notions, and more) from Stitch Buffalo's creative reuse shop, Second Stitch, to create their work. *Crafting Clothing* highlights the artistic detail, skill, and tradition of techniques that give each garment a unique character and story. In contrast to mass-produced fast fashion, these works emphasize the art of making and the value of human touch. This emphasis on the humans behind each work reflects Stitch Buffalo's core mission: to honor the heritage, lived experiences, and history of its artists.

Beyond material, *Zero Waste* encourages viewers to consider a low-waste lifestyle and its role in building and supporting community. By following sustainable practices, it is necessary to consistently pause and consider how present actions or beliefs might affect other people: both those around you and those unseen. Sustainability is thus more broadly an approach and outlook on life that recognizes the value in every material and every person. That everyone one of us has something important to contribute to ourselves, to our families, to our communities, and to our world.

Zero Waste reminds us that every stitch, every fabric, and every person always has more stories to tell.

About Stitch Buffalo
Stitch Buffalo is a comprehensive textile art center committed to empowering refugee and immigrant women through the sale of their handcrafted goods, inspiring creativity and inclusion through community education, and stewarding the environment through the re-use of textile supplies. Founded in 2014, Stitch Buffalo's community impact and work has been recognized by local, state, and national officials and organizations.

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, Ovation Stand for the Arts, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, 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.