Buffalo Arts Studio

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Contact:
Buffalo Arts Studio
sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org
(716) 833-4450 x 114
www.buffaloartsstudio.org



Material and Metaphor Panelists: Bethany Krull (top left), Millie Chen (top right), Karle Norman (bottom left), and Jozef Bajus (bottom right).

Buffalo Arts Studio presents *Material and Metaphor*
Friday, October 23, 2026, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
Part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main

Buffalo, NY — Buffalo Arts Studio presents the panel discussion *Material and Metaphor,* offering an inside look at how artists think and work as they bring their projects to life. Featuring exhibiting artists, academics, and educators, this discussion will explore how medium, experience, and process come together to create a cohesive visual language across a wide body of work. The conversation will focus on how artists communicate messages and ideas through intentional design, metaphorical imagery, and literal representation.

Material and Metaphor will be held on **Friday, October 23, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm** as part of M&T Fourth Friday at Tri-Main. **The panel discussion will start promptly at 6:00 pm, followed by a Q&A.**

Panelists include **Bethany Krull**, a sculptor whose exhibition *Home* at Buffalo Arts Studio illustrates the complex and often complicated relationship humans maintain with the rest of the natural world; **Karle Norman**, a painter and leatherworker whose work reflects on community, faith, and bodily agency as seen in his exhibition *Leather*

Prayers at UB Center for the Arts; **Millie Chen**, a multidisciplinary artist who creates visual, audio, and performative works that challenge habitual viewing and emphasize sensory knowledge, like in *SRS (Silk Road Songbook)*, an audio-video project made in collaboration with Arzul Ozkal currently screening at film festivals in Buffalo (NY), York (UK), and Dublin (IE); and **Jozef Bajus**, a mixed media artist whose exhibition *Connecting Dots* at Meibohm Fine Arts highlights our ability to discover connections between disparate events, experiences, people, and memory. The conversation will be moderated by **Edward Y. J. Millar**, a folklorist, curator, and documentary filmmaker with over a decade of experience in ethnography and museology.

This panel is part of Buffalo Arts Studio's 2026/27 series *Domestication*, a series of art exhibitions, hands-on workshops, panel discussions, and public forums that explore how the constructed dichotomy between "wild" and "domesticated" has historically been used to justify control over resources, including labor. This series supports the creation of new work that critically addresses contemporary issues surrounding economic and environmental justice and reflects the belief that artists and curators can effect change through collaborations that balance community need with artistic insight.

Two exhibitions anchor the fall portion of *Domestication*, running from August 28–October 31, 2026. *Home* by Bethany Krull is an installation of ceramic and mixed-media sculptures that investigates our complex relationship with the untamed natural world and the domestic spaces we build within it. *Presence* by Robert Booth highlights the relationship between allegory and human existence, encouraging reflection on how we make and mark meaning. Running concurrently, *Trascender | Leaving a Mark* by Los Artistas del Barrio features artworks that celebrate a decade of artistic growth and cultural storytelling.

Also on view is *Deeply Rooted*, a series of drawings and reflections on the impact of Brewster St. Farm created by a cohort of our Jump Start youth program. In collaboration with the WNY Foundation and Journey's End Refugee Services, our students visited Brewster St. Farm to learn about Buffalo food systems and the vital importance of urban agriculture to the community's well-being. The exhibition, on display in the hallway between Buffalo Arts Studio and Journey's End, also celebrates the WNY Foundation's 75th Anniversary.

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, WNY Foundation, 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, contact Sydney O'Shei at sydney@buffaloartsstudio.org or 716-833-4450 x 114.