

ERIE COUNTY

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES



art catalogue

2024/2025

Erie County Art in Public Places

Established through the Public Art Act of 2023, Erie County's Art in Public Places (AIPP) Initiative seeks to make art more accessible to residents and visitors alike, while fostering community connection, cultural expression, and civic pride. This initiative aims to improve quality of life, support local artists, and foster a vibrant artistic environment reflecting the diverse culture and creativity of Erie County residents.

Throughout 2024 and 2025 the Art in Public Places Initiative commissioned, acquired, and installed a diverse collection of public art throughout Erie County. This catalogue showcases works acquired through the Small Works Acquisition Program as well as large scale public art projects commissioned at county-owned facilities. Works acquired through the Small Works Acquisition Program comprise Erie County's new Public Art Collection, and are currently on display at the Buffalo Convention Center. Large scale murals have been installed at the Erie County Health Mall in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood and at the Buffalo Convention Center (Pearl Street facade) in downtown Buffalo.

Learn more about Erie County's Art in Public Places Initiative and participating local artists on our website: erie.gov/publicart



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Max Collins

Is Winter Over? 4

Kayla DeLeon

Downtown in Color 5

Doretha Edwards

The Academy Steps 6

Christina Francis

Magical Thinking at Hoyt Lake 7

Wilhelmina Godfrey

Untitled (Backyard Circus) 8

Untitled (Windows) 9

Subterraneous Rock 9

Linda Hall

Trains, Grains, and Steamers – Buffalo Harbor, Circa 1900 10

Iris M. Kirkwood

I Don't Like Apples 11

Monet Alyssa Garrett (Kifner)

Mind (Soul) 12

Body 13

Spirit 13

Bethany Krull

Oasis 14

Andy Krzystek

475–486 nm. 15

600–610 nm. 15

Julian Montague

Yellow Jacket 16

Scott Olmstead

Shattered 17

Lou Rera

The Year: 2020 18

Kelly Schnurr

Distorted Perspective No. 2 19

Katherine Sehr

Untitled (Sepia) 20

Adam Swift

Queen City's Crown 21

Andrea Wenglowczyk

Car Wash (Main & Ferry) 22

MURALS:

Cassandra Ott & Chuck Tingley

Queen City Kaleidoscope 23

Laura Valkwitch

Cloud of Hope 24



Max Collins

Is Winter Over?, 2025

Digital photograph, hand colored, and adhered to reclaimed wood

Max Collins is a Buffalo-based artist, photographer, and cultural producer whose work explores collective memory, place, and civic identity. Through portraiture, installation, and social practice, Collins examines how communities record loss, resilience, and belonging within post-industrial landscapes. His projects often blur the lines between documentation and public art, engaging residents as collaborators in storytelling and re-imagining the visual language of civic infrastructure.

Collins has led major public works across Western New York, including collaborations with the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Silo City, and neighborhood restoration efforts along Humboldt Parkway. His work has been exhibited regionally and nationally.



Kayla DeLeon
Downtown in Color, 2024
Digital photography

Kayla DeLeon is a photographer and filmmaker with a passion for storytelling. She loves documenting photos and videos that evoke emotion and enjoys the interpersonal aspect of photography and videography. She also enjoys combining her passions for travel and creativity by capturing new places through her camera lens.

Kayla has worked in many corners of the media industry, including local television news, public relations, weddings, and social media marketing. Kayla owns Memento Media Company with her husband. She holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism and Broadcasting from SUNY Brockport and is also a proud graduate of Maryvale High School.



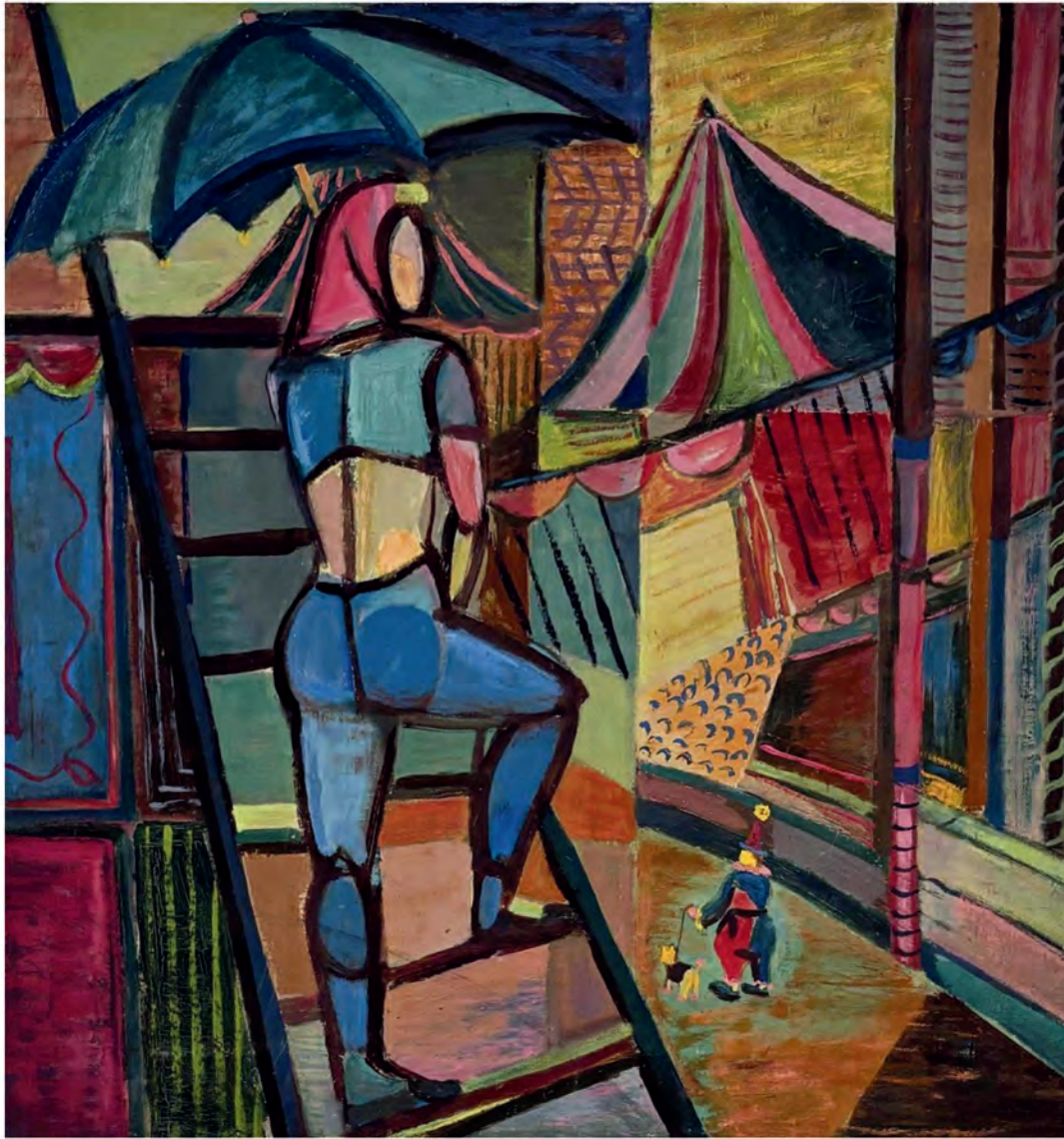
Doretha Edwards
The Academy Steps, 2021
Oil on canvas

Doretha Edwards is a contemporary visual artist and a native of Buffalo, NY. She studied graphic design at Daemen University and the Memphis Academy of Arts in Memphis TN., receiving her BFA. Returning to Buffalo she produced her first set of paintings depicting family life and the inner-city community around her. Over the years she has not abandoned those familiar themes and continues to paint images that are often personal and relate to how she sees the world. Doretha's work has been shown in various group exhibits throughout WNY as well as two solo exhibits entitled "Portraits in Black" at the NACC, and "Interpretations" at El Museo Gallery.



Christina Francis
Magical Thinking at Hoyt Lake, 2025
 Acrylic on framed canvas

Christy is a multidisciplinary teaching artist, painter, and photographer. Her work is held in a number of private collections within (and beyond) Western New York. Through surreal and often nostalgic imagery, Christy explores the lovely and unsettling experience of womanhood and girlhood. Locally, her clients include Canisius University, Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House, Niagara Falls National Heritage area, and Trocaire College. Her murals are on display in Meet & Eat Charcuterie and Magic Bear Beer Cellar. In 2025, Christy's work was featured in the Burchfield Penney Art Center's 2025 Art Auction and Gala, Revolution Gallery's The Witching Hour group exhibit, and the Erie County Public Art Collection through the Art in Public Places: Small Works Call for Art. Christy's second solo show, *Bolder Creatures*, debuts at Wild Things Artisan Gallery in Buffalo in late 2025.

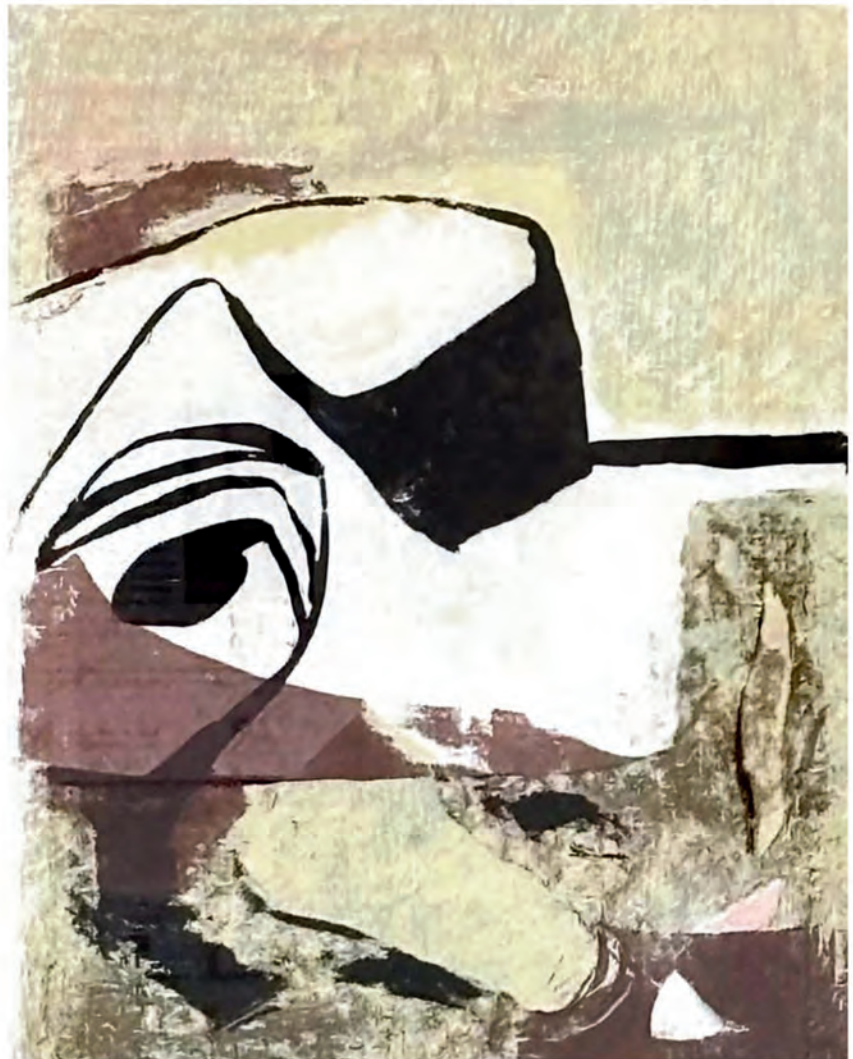


Wilhelmina Godfrey
Untitled (Backyard Circus), c.1960
Oil on canvas

Wilhelmina Godfrey (1914-1994) was a pioneering African American painter, printmaker, and educator from Buffalo, New York. Her work explores abstraction, landscape, and rhythm through color and form, reflecting her deep engagement with both community and modernist movements. Godfrey's work has been exhibited regionally and nationally, contributing to the visibility of Black women artists in mid-century America.



Wilhelmina Godfrey
Untitled (Windows), c. 1960
 Tempera on board



Wilhelmina Godfrey
Subterranean Rock, c. 1960
 Screenprint on paper



Linda Hall

Trains, Grains, and Steamers - Buffalo Harbor, circa 1900, 2015

Acrylic painted on board

"Always be true to yourself and do what inspires you."

Linda Hall has always enjoyed painting with a brush in hand and appreciates subjects that are historic, distinctive, and challenging. Since 2015, she has painted a collection of art works referencing local town maps of Western New York. By studying these outlines, Linda was able to design a unique style of shapes and colors to create something eye catching as well as interactive and educational.

Trains, Grains, and Steamers - Buffalo Harbor, circa 1900 is one of Hall's largest and most detailed works. This painting depicts the unique characteristics of Buffalo's waterfront during the turn of the century and represents a bustling city influenced primarily by the Erie Canal. Linda Hall is honored to share this gift with her hometown, this Buffalo community that she loves.



Iris M. Kirkwood
I Don't Like Apples, 2020
Pastel

Self-taught African American female visual artist. In her work, Iris Kirkwood creates realistic figurative stories of the little moments in life. Primary mediums are pastels, graphite, markers and bits of paper, individually or in combination.



Monet Alyssa Garrett (Kifner)

Mind (Soul), 2024

Five layer screen print

Monet Alyssa is a freelance illustrator based in Buffalo, New York, whose work is defined by its high-contrast and dreamy aesthetic. A 2019 BFA graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, she is known for portraying figures in psychedelic and ethereal spaces, rendered with vivid color and black. Monet applies her unique visual language to various subject matters, with a thematic focus on exploring the human experience. Her subject matter is far-reaching, encompassing nature, music, pop culture, and often femininity. Since 2022, she has been represented by the Jacky Winter Agency, and her work has appeared in publications and projects for clients such as Headline Publishing Group, Nike x Rebelgirls, The New Yorker, WIRED Magazine, The Hollywood Reporter, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.



Monet Alyssa Garrett (Kifner)
Body, 2024
 Three layer screen print



Monet Alyssa Garrett (Kifner)
Spirit, 2024
 Five layer screen print



Bethany Krull

Oasis, 2023

Wood, epoxy clay, wire, paint

Bethany Krull is a sculptor based in Buffalo, New York making objects and installations rooted in the complicated relationships that exist between humans, other animals and the environment. She is interested in the contrasts that exist between wild nature and the controlled, modified and "cute"-ified versions we bring into our interior spaces, as well as the surrogate habitats and genetic variations we create for ourselves and other animals in response to our ever shrinking and toxic natural spaces.



475-486 nm., 2024
Acrylic paint, graphite, conte crayon on board



600-610 nm., 2024
Acrylic paint, graphite, conte crayon on board

Andy Krzystek

Andy Krzystek (b.1986) is a native of the Buffalo/Niagara region and a graduate of the University at Buffalo with a BFA in Printmaking. Krzystek's work typically consists of drawing, painting, and print techniques. His artistic practice centers on the physical nature of mark making, allowing the play between error and correction to create a visual history and scaffolding in which figure and form are supported and able to grow. This work supports humanity, error and understanding of others, aiming to walk towards what is yet to be understood.



Julian Montague

Yellow Jacket, 2024

Found fabric scraps, canvas duck cloth

Julian Montague is an artist, illustrator, graphic designer, and photographer. Since the late 1990s, he has pursued a multidisciplinary approach to art, often infused with a subtle thread of existential humor. His work spans a wide range of formats, from multi-year conceptual investigations of stray shopping carts to hard-edged abstract compositions created from repurposed clothing. The tools and visual language of graphic design are integral to his artistic practice. Montague's work has been exhibited in both North America and Europe and is included in public and private collections. In 2023, the Burchfield Penney Art Center in Buffalo presented a mid-career survey of his work, showcasing over 400 objects. His art and design work has received coverage from major media outlets and has been featured in ten books. On Instagram, he has built a global following of over 180,000 followers. In 2021 The New York Times named his account one of the top art Instagram accounts to follow.



Scott Olmstead
Shattered, 2024
Acrylic on canvas

Scott's disability is a significant influence on his artwork and has shaped his distinctive visual style, ranging from abstract acrylic painting to digital art and macro photography. With over 40 years of experience in creating art, Scott earned his BFA with Honors from Parsons School of Design in NYC. During the 90s, Scott participated in various group exhibitions in NYC before taking a hiatus from digital art and photography to manage his large format printing business in Buffalo, N.Y. Inspired by Mark Rothko's color field paintings and captivated by shapes, Scott is also connected to the late Frederick Law Olmsted.



Lou Rera

The Year: 2020, 2024

Oil paint on canvas

Lou Rera has a lifetime of experience creating and working in the arts. He has spent his professional and creative life working in media as a painter, illustrator, designer, filmmaker, video producer, musician, and composer.

Lou retired from SUNY Buffalo State University after twenty years of service as a tenured Associate Professor of Communication. He worked as a television producer and design director for WKBW-TV (ABC). He is a lifelong musician and composer, producing soundtracks and music for the entertainment industry.

Lou Rera is a published writer of horror and supernatural crime. He is a member of the Horror Writers Association and IMDB. His novel, *SIGN*, was published in 2014; his collection of short stories, *AWAKE: Tales of Terror*, was published in 2020. Rera's fiction has appeared in multiple anthologies, including "Even in the Grave" an Edgar Allan Poe inspired collection of short stories.



Kelly Schnurr

Distorted Perspective No. 2, 2024

Spray paint, acrylic, marker, textile scraps and embroidery floss on stretched canvas

Kelly Schnurr is a multidisciplinary artist and mother of two living in Buffalo, NY. She merges her design background with fine art practices to celebrate the process of discovery and self-growth; using nature as her source of inspiration. After graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a BFA in Graphic Design, she spent 10 years living and working in NYC. In 2016, with her growing family, she moved back home to Buffalo. Kelly is a studio artist at Buffalo Arts Studio, an Exhibiting Member of the Buffalo Society of Artists, and was a Hunt Gallery Resident Artist. She actively exhibits locally and a collection of small works on paper and fine-art prints are available on her website and at markets throughout the year.



Katherine Sehr
Untitled (Sepia), 2015
Drawing, ink on mulberry paper

Katherine Sehr is a visual artist based in Buffalo, NY. She works primarily with line-based drawings to express small rhythmic movements visually on paper. She received her BFA in Painting from the University at Buffalo, her MFA in Printmaking from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her Art Education Certification from Buffalo State College.

Sehr's work is indicative of her personal history with dance. She studied ballet in her teenage years, and through her training, she learned the importance of movement, timing, intuition, and discipline. These themes have translated to her visual works; each piece contains intricately connected combinations of lines to delineate space, weaving together patterns and non-patterns throughout the work to create visual choreography and rhythm.

Given her expansive works and a keen sense of detail, Sehr's drawings are labor-intensive and require much time and patience. For Sehr, this intensive process results in a strong connection to each of her pieces. Completing work brings a sense of closure and satisfaction. Her use of a simple yet complex mark-making style and meditative color palette comprised of jewel tones and earth tones give her work a calming quality. She has exhibited in solo shows at the Nina Freudenheim Gallery and the Western New York Book Arts Center in Buffalo, NY. She has also been included in group shows at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, El Museo Gallery, Hallwalls, Art Miami, Beyond/In Western New York 2007, The Carnegie Arts Center, and Site: Brooklyn in New York City.



Adam Swift
Queen City's Crown, 2019
Digital photograph

Adam Swift is a visual designer and photographer based in Buffalo, New York, with over a decade of experience developing creative concepts across print and digital media. His work merges design thinking and visual storytelling to explore the relationship between architecture, light, and human experience, revealing how built spaces can evoke emotion and meaning. Each image reflects a sustained curiosity about how form, atmosphere, and perspective shape the perception of place.

Rooted in Buffalo's energy and architecture, Adam's photography celebrates both natural and constructed environments, highlighting the extraordinary in the everyday. His work has been recognized with awards from the Allentown Art Festival, the Western New York Artists Group, and the Lewiston Art Festival, and has been exhibited throughout Western New York.

Drawing from a design background, Adam approaches each composition with intention and balance, creating imagery that invites reflection, connection, and a renewed appreciation for the spaces we inhabit.

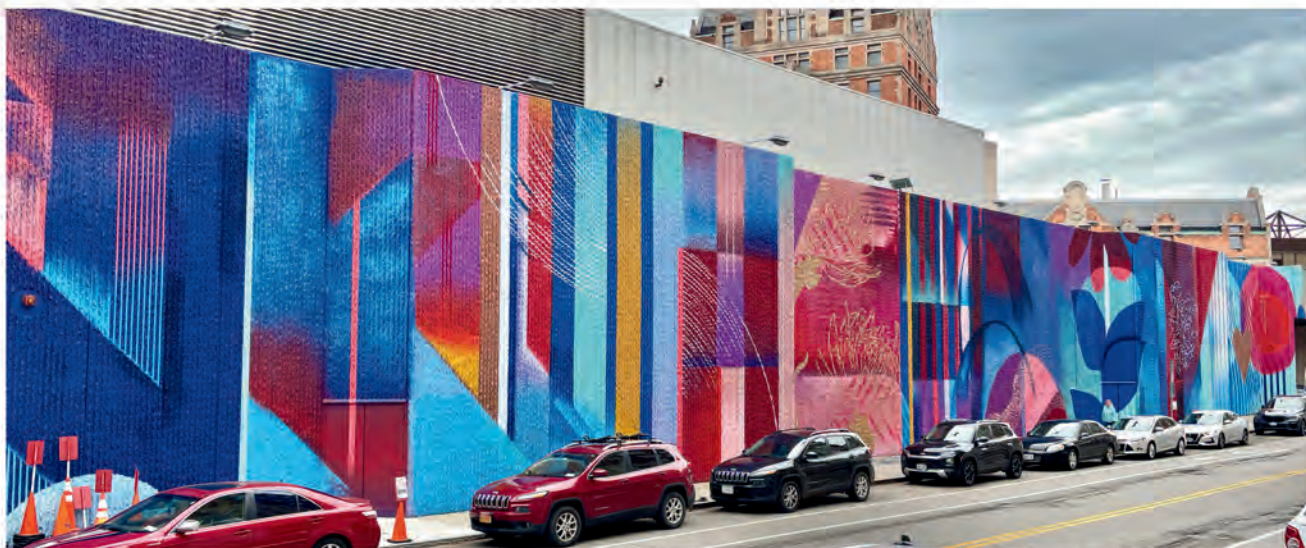


Andrea Wenglowczyk

Car Wash (Main & Ferry), 2018

Photography

Andrea Wenglowczyk is a photo-based artist and commercial/editorial photographer based in Buffalo, N.Y. Her personal work focuses on how collective memory and community are shaped by war and authoritarianism in relation to her own Ukrainian-American experience. She earned her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and Tufts University, and her BFA in Photography from SUNY New Paltz. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Grant in Ukraine, her work has been published in the New York Times and NPR, and her photography has been exhibited internationally. She has taught at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, The International Center of Photography, and through numerous art institutions. She has been an artist-in-residence at Hunt Residencies and Mirabo Press in Buffalo, NY, The Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts in Ithaca, NY, and has received numerous grants.



Buffalo Convention Center (Pearl Street)

Cassandra Ott & Chuck Tingley
Queen City Kaleidoscope, 2025
 Mural, acrylic and spray paint on concrete

Cassandra Ott

Cassandra Ott is an artist and designer who creates joyful work flooded with vibrant flowers and rainbows. She explores natural and built environments through layers of color, and examines how those surroundings impact our frame of mind and sense of well-being. She attended the University of Cincinnati and holds a BFA with a concentration in Photography.

Her dynamic art practice encompasses a variety of media including painting, drawing, collage, mural making, and product design – each providing a unique outlet to evoke wonder and make every day a little brighter. She has collaborated with clients such as the Public Art Fund, Erie County Public Art Initiative, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Tiff Nature Preserve, Coca-Cola and Verizon. Cassandra's art can be found on buildings and in public and private collections around WNY.

Chuck Tingley

Chuck Tingley is a Buffalo-based visual artist whose practice bridges realism and the surreal, exploring the space between the familiar and the unknown. Through both intimate studio paintings and large-scale public murals, his work weaves personal and collective narratives that invite reflection and connection.

A graduate of SUNY Buffalo State (BFA, Painting), Tingley maintains a studio in Buffalo's Clinton/Bailey neighborhood and has become a leading contributor to Western New York's public art landscape. His commissions include projects for the Buffalo AKG Art Museum and Rhinegeist Brewery (Cincinnati, OH), with murals spanning Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and surrounding communities.

Tingley's portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. appeared on the cover of *Condé Nast* (2018), and he designed the full album artwork for the Goo Goo Dolls' 2022 release *Chaos in Bloom*. His work was featured in *Hi-Vis*, a 2025 Buffalo AKG Art Museum exhibition celebrating artists of its Public Art Initiative.



Erie County Health Mall - 1500 Broadway Street

Laura Valkwitch
Cloud of Hope, 2025
 Mural, spray paint

Laura Valkwitch is a visual artist and instructor based in Western New York, working primarily in oil painting and pyrography. Deeply inspired by the atmospheric drama of lake-effect clouds, her work explores the tension between permanence and impermanence — translating fleeting moments in the sky into layered, meditative compositions.

After beginning her formal art education at Niagara County Community College, Laura paused her academic studies to raise a family, continuing to create and take commissions throughout that time. In 2022, an artist residency at the Hunt Art Gallery marked a turning point, leading her to fully pursue her art career. She is now completing her BFA at the University at Buffalo.

Laura has exhibited at venues including Buffalo Arts Studio, Meibohm Fine Arts, the Carnegie Art Center, and the Burchfield Penney Art Center. She serves as the vice president of the Buffalo Society of Artists and teaches drawing and painting locally.

Acknowledgements

The Erie County Art in Public Places Committee would like to thank the following organizations for their diverse contributions to the development of this initiative, including offering their facilities for meeting space.

Eat Off Art
WNY Artist Group
Buffalo AKG Art Museum
Erie County Department of Public Works
Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation, & Forestry
Burchfield Penney Art Center
Buffalo Convention Center

Department Support Staff

Monica Boutin, MUP
Senior Project Coordinator, Department of Environment and Planning

Thomas E. Baines, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development, Department of Environment and Planning

Dr. Cynetra Ferguson
Small Business Resource Coordinator, Department of Environment and Planning

Hristina Demireva
Administrative Clerk, Department of Environment and Planning

Tracy Cichocki
Deputy Commissioner Buildings & Grounds, Department of Public Works

Natalie Tan, RA, LEED AP BD+C
Assistant Architect, Department of Public Works

Kristofer Straus, P.E.
Sr. Construction Project Mgr., Department of Public Works

Copyright: Erie County