

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 21, 2016

Contact: Katharine Cassens

kcassens@ldaofwny.org

Office: (716) 874-7200 x 137



## **STARLIGHT OFFERING SWEET RECEPTION WITH CANDY LAND EXHIBIT**

BUFFALO, N.Y. – Starlight Studio and Art Gallery, known for its inclusive and unique art programming, is hosting its sweetest opening reception yet, in the form of Candy Land, its Summer Exhibit, Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9 PM at Starlight Studio and Art Gallery, 320 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. The event will showcase original artwork by the gallery’s 42 artists, including a soft colossal squid sculpture available for photo ops, hand-crafted pins, and everything in between.

According to Jen Ryan, program assistant at the gallery, there will be artwork in various mediums, including drawings, paintings, fiber art, clay sculpture, large and small soft sculpture, mixed media, jewelry, and functional pieces. Poetry readings will take place in the gallery’s library from 7-7:30 PM.

“It’s a nice chance for the studio to showcase what we are,” said Ryan, “We’re not just a space for outside artists, but for our own to showcase their skills and push themselves as artists as well.”

“There will be photo ops for posing with the squid, so people can look like they’re getting wrapped up in it,” said Carrie Marcotte, Starlight’s program director, “Some of the fiber work includes rich, lush embroideries and soft cloth and yarn vessels. There is also a menagerie of animals that Debi Wicks has recently created, including a zebra, an elephant, a monkey. John Montedoro has created some large mixed media paintings on canvas, as has Mathew Sharp.”

The Candy Land title is fitting when you see the vibrant color pallet that many of the artists use, which reminds Marcotte “of a warm summer day. The colors are like candy in that picture. It’s bright and sweet.”

West Side Bazaar’s food cart will be out front, offering cuisine from six different vendors in the Bazaar, including Chinese, Thai, and Ethiopian. Original artwork and a new line note cards featuring images of bikes will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the notecards benefit both the Starlight Gallery and Gobike Buffalo.

The Fieldhands, featuring the sweet songstress, Kathy Moriarty will be playing a couple sets starting at 6pm. You can find more information about this folk band on their Facebook page, [TheFieldhandsBuffalo](#).

The 29<sup>th</sup> is also the last date to purchase artwork from the gallery’s “Save the Elephants” exhibit, which benefits The Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee.

The event is free and open to the public. The exhibit will be on-view from July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>.

For more information about the event or Starlight Art Gallery, please contact Katharine Cassens at [kcassens@ldaofwny.org](mailto:kcassens@ldaofwny.org) or (716) 874-7200, ext. 137, or visit the Starlight website at [www.starlightstudio.org](http://www.starlightstudio.org).

For more information about the 2016 Exhibition Schedule, please visit Starlight on [Facebook](#) or [www.starlightstudio.org](http://www.starlightstudio.org).

### **Starlight Studio and Art Gallery 2016 Main Gallery Exhibition Schedule**

Opening Reception: **Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016**

Artists: ADRIAN BERTOLONE & DENTON CRAWFORD

with: Ron Steele, Jeremy Pratt, & Saeed Dubaishi

On-View: 8/15/16- 9/23/15

Opening Reception: **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Artist: Starlight Artist MATHEW SHARP

On-View: 9/26/16- 11/11/16

Holiday Open House: **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016**

Artist: STARLIGHT STUDIO ARTISTS

On-View: 11/28/16- 12/30/16

---

---

Created by the Learning Disabilities Association of Western New York (LDA of WNY) in 2005, Starlight Studio and Art Gallery is the first studio of its kind in WNY. Starlight is a vibrant art studio located in downtown Buffalo that supports adults with disabilities in their artistic development. Starlight's public gallery features exhibits by the artists of Starlight Studio as well other artists. For more information visit [www.starlightstudio.org](http://www.starlightstudio.org)