

## **Edreys Wajed: Artist Statement**

"Let the guidance be the vision." Unlike most who plan with predictable steps and procedures, my approach is obedience to my curiosity. This musing becomes the roadmap where uncertainty and intuition yield artistic growth and discovery through raw, free range, explorative art making. I probe and meander proficiently through music, video, theater, metal smithing, illustration and painting, seeing art as language with which I am multilingual. I investigate humanity through storytelling, consumerism and social justice, with an affinity for the beauty of human error in handmade objects, mark-making and documenting human experience.

Moving fluidly between disciplines, some of which merge seamlessly, I chase discoveries that appear as my many interests inform and influence one another. Rhythm, line, vibrant color palettes, and form are elements that bind my work as a thread across practices, whether exploring sound, figurative and abstract imagery or small wearable objects.

The energy fueling my practice is my personal objective to leave artifacts or "art-of-facts," as evidence of my existence and contributions as a working artist. My objective is to create beauty, positively influence the lives of others through empathy, while provoking compassion and togetherness, where my artistic offerings are the catalyst.

## **Edreys Wajed of Eat Off Art - CV**

A results driven professional with extensive experience in education, management, product development and the arts, with an understanding of project management, sales, merchandising and marketing. Equipped with the skills necessary to manage people, build teams, work closely with clients, and the ability to strategically assess goals and outcomes as they relate to the processes involved in initiating, supervising and completing projects.

*Areas of Excellence include:* Creative Consultant, Professional Speaker/Mentor, Literary Arts, Visual artist/Graphic Designer, Muralist, Jewelry Designer and Craftsman, Educator.

### **2025 (Twenty-Twenty-Five)**

*Group Exhibit* **Buffalo AKG "Hi-Vis"** Celebrating 10 years of Public Art in Buffalo, NY

### **2024 (Twenty-Twenty-Four)**

#### *Accomplishments*

- NYSCA 2024 Artist Grant Awardee

#### *Solo Exhibit*

- April "RIFF" Buffalo Art Movement
- September Solo Exhibit "Diaphonous" Hallways Contemporary Arts Center

#### *Installation*

- "Electric Relaxation" Sculpture "Beyond Art" Patina 250 Delaware North Companies Permanent Art Collection
- Buffalo AKG "Inner Dialogue" Jesse Nash Medical Center 608 William Street, Buffalo, NY
- Gallo Coal Fire Kitchen for Rhythm and Roots Festival Lewiston, NY
- Per Scholas "In the Clouds" Larkin Building Buffalo, NY
- Somali Bantu Cultural Center (for Assemblymember Jonathan Rivera) Buffalo, NY

### **2023 (Twenty-Twenty-Three)**

#### *Accomplishments*

- Office of Mental Health (WNY Field Office) - Grant for Arts Based Mental Health Classes

#### *Speaking Engagement*

- Delaware North Community talk back with Alice Jacobs

#### *Projects*

- Buffalo Sabres portrait commission for Kylo Okposo

#### *Installations*

- Hertel Alley Mural with Councilman Joel Feroletto and ASI WNY
- UB Center for the Arts Mural Installation
- Patina 250 and Curate Kitchen Guest Chef Series, "vegetarian cuisine and the art of hip hop"

## **2022 (Twenty-Twenty-Two)**

### *Accomplishments*

- ★ Master's of Fine Arts (SPR'22) University of Buffalo MFA – Schomburg Fellow

### *Solo Exhibit*

- The Bridge – MFA Thesis Show Spring 2022, Burchfield Penney Arts Center
- The Bridge in the Hamptons - Mark Borghi (Sag Harbor, NY)
- “Blueming Onion” Residency and Solo Exhibit - Book Arts Center, Buffalo, NY 2022 *Exhibit*
- *Thank you...More Please* - Joint Exhibit with Edreys & Alexa Joan Wajed Buffalo Big Print Curatorial
- “In These Truths” - Co-Curator Buffalo AKG Art Museum

### *Projects*

- Buffalo Bills Foundation – Humble Hero Design, Better Together Initiative
- Buffalo Sabres – Val James Black History Month Logo 2021 & 2022
- [Genesee Valley Black Farmers](#) (Food for the Spirit) - Marketing and Branding, 2022
- Anne Frank Project - Buffalo State College

### *Installations*

- YMCA (M&T) (Mural) - William-Emslie Location
- Park School of Buffalo (Mural) - Artist in Residence
- Say Yes (Mural) Jefferson Offices
- Ujima Theater (Mural)
- “High Wire” (Errol Garner) See to believe to See - UB Innovation Center (CBLS)
- Mediocrity is Unacceptable (Mural) – Buffalo Prep | University of Buffalo

## **2021 (Twenty-Twenty-One)**

### *Art Acquisitions*

- UB Innovation Center (CBLS)
- M&T Bank

### *Projects*

- [Pride in Place AARP Community Challenge Grant](#) - LISC WNY 2021

### *Installations*

- Be Optimistic (Mural) – Buffalo Prep | University of Buffalo
- “Do I Do” – Loaned Work UB Innovation Center, Buffalo, NY
- John Lewis “Good Trouble” – 385 Paderewski Drive, Buffalo, NY

### *Group Shows*

- BSA 2021 Spring Exhibition (Artists Group Gallery)
- BSA 125th Catalog Exhibition (Castellani Art Museum)
- *Live on Five* - Buffalo Arts Studio
- Burchfield Penney Art Center Gala Art Auction

### *Performances*

- Anne Frank Project - Buffalo State College

## **2020 (Twenty-Twenty)**

### *Accomplishments*

- ★ UB MFA incoming class of 2022 – Schomburg Fellow
- ★ Nominated Artist of the Year award for ASI of WNY Spark Awards

### *Solo Exhibit*

- Wish You Were Here – *Buffalo Arts Studio*

### *Curatorial*

- #Hampered – a Quarantined Virtual Installation – March-April

### *Installations*

- Grover Washington, Jr – M&T Bank | 3037 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY
- Love Black... – AK Public Art Initiative | 712 Main Street, Buffalo, NY
- Check out my Melody Installation – “*Do I Do*”, 1120 Projects
- Check out my Melody Installation – “*Time Travelin’*”, 1120 Projects

- Peace Please Project | Projection Installation – in collaboration with Projex, Peace Bridge
- Black Lives “Matttter” | Projection Installation – in collaboration with Projex, W.Utica@Elmwood apt.
- Canisius College Sesquicentennial Mural – Old Main Building – January *Group Shows*
- Starlight Studios Co-Artifact 2020 – August
- Mid-Summer Drawing Rally (Virtual) – Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center July
- Mid-Winter Drawing Rally – Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center February *Performances*
- “Black Women are My Superheroes” – Project, Collaboration, Installation August
- Burchfield Penney Live Painting M&T 2nd Friday – July
- “Not for Sale” – Performance, Poetry, Videography by Edreys | Viral Social Post, June •

WEEKLY Quarantine LIVE Painting Happy Hour – March, April, May, June *Speaking Engagements*

- Behind the KNVS w/ Aitina Fareed-Cooke – June
- Wakanda Alliance – Guest Speaker June
- DIY with Dana Saylor- Interview April
- Kickin’ It with AI – Interview March
- Park School of Buffalo – Guest Artist and Speaker – February
- Westminster Charter School – Speaker – February
- Tapestry Charter High School “Live Drawing” “Love Light in Flight”- February
- Buffalo State College – Guest Artist and Speaker – February
- St. Joseph Collegiate High School – Speaker – February
- West Seneca East High School “Live Drawing” “Check the Rhyme” – February
- Explore Buffalo Winter [Speaker Series](#) – February
- Charter School of Inquiry – Speaker – January
- IMAGINE Greater [Buffalo Lecture](#) – January ([Audio Only Version](#))

## Additional COMPLETED PUBLIC ART -

**(1) Hertel Alley Mural Fest 2023** - Sponsored by Council Member Joel Feroletto and ASI, Inc. Spray Paint and Acrylic



**(2) William-Emslie YMCA 2022** - Sponsored by M&T Bank and YMCA. Spray Paint and Acrylic.



**(3) Say Yes Office Mural 2022** - Sponsored by Say Yes - Acrylic Paint





(4) Lorna C. Hill Ujima Theater Mural 2022 - Sponsored by Ujima Theater. Acrylic on Wood Panels



(5) Buffalo Prep | University of Buffalo 2021 - Sponsored by Buffalo Prep - Acrylic Paint



**(6) John Lewis Mural 285 Paderewski 2021** - Sponsored by Council Member Mitch Nowakowski and Legislature Howard Johnson. Spray Paint and Acrylic



**(7) Grover Washington Jr Mural 2020** - Sponsored by M&T Bank Spray Paint and Acrylic





**(8) 2024 “Inner Dialogue” Nash Clinic at 608 William St - Buffalo NY**  
Commissioned by Buffalo AKG Museum in collaboration with Ben Volta





**(9) “Electric Relaxation” Patina250 at 250 Delaware Ave - Buffalo NY**

Commissioned Arts Resource for Delaware North “Imprint” Collection



**(10) “RAMPAGE” Buffalo AKG Museum - Buffalo NY**

Group Exhibit featuring over 38 artists celebrating 10 years of Public Art





LISTING FROM ABOVE:

**(1) Hertel Alley Mural Fest 2023** - Sponsored by Council Member Joel Feroletto and ASI, Inc. Spray Paint and Acrylic Commissioning Agency: by Feroletto & ASI, Inc Location: Hertel Avenue Alley & Commonwealth Media: Spray Paint and Acrylic Dimensions: 10 feet (H) x 20 feet (W)

**(2) William-Emslie YMCA 2022** -

Commissioning Agency: by M&T Bank and YMCA Location: William and Emslie Sts Media: Spray Paint and Acrylic Dimensions: 14 feet (H) x 53 feet (W) = 742 Sq Ft

**(3) Say Yes Office Mural 2022** - Sponsored by Say Yes - Acrylic Paint

Commissioning Agency: by Say Yes Location: 1166 Jefferson Ave

Media: Vinyl Install and Acrylic Dimensions: Various (3 Walls) Inspired by Mary J. Blige song, "Just Fine," the lobby features abstract musically inspired markings using their corporate color palette.

**(4) Lorna C. Hill Ujima Theater Mural 2022** - Sponsored by Ujima Theater.

Commissioning Agency: by Ujima Theater Location: 429 Plymouth Avenue

Media: Acrylic on Wood Panels Dimensions: 8 feet (H) x 12 feet (W) = 96 Sq Ft

**(5) Buffalo Prep | University of Buffalo 2021** - Sponsored by Buffalo Prep - Acrylic Paint

Commissioning Agency: by Buffalo Prep Location: 3485 Main Street (105 Allen Hall

| UB South) Media: Spray Paint and Acrylic Dimensions: 8 feet (H) x 26 feet (W) = 208 Sq Ft Budget:

**(6) John Lewis Mural 285 Paderewski 2021** - Sponsored by Council Member

Mitch Nowakowski and Legislature Howard Johnson.

Commissioning Agency: by Nowakowski, Johnson Location: 285 Paderewski Ave

Media: Spray Paint and Acrylic Dimensions: 33.5 feet (H) x 25 feet (W) = 837 Sq Ft

**(7) Grover Washington Jr Mural 2020** - Sponsored by M&T Bank Spray Paint and Acrylic

Commissioning Agency: by M&T Bank Location: 3045 Bailey Avenue

Media: Acrylic Dimensions: 8 feet (H) x 26 feet (W) = 541.2 Sq Ft

**(8) "Inner Dialogue" 2024** Sponsored by Buffalo AKG Museum

Commissioning Agency: Delaware North Location: 250 Delaware Avenue

Media: High Density Urethane, Acrylic Paint

Dimensions: 25" (H) x 90" (W)

**(9) Electric Relaxation 2024** - Sponsored by Delaware North.

Commissioning Agency: Delaware North Location: 250 Delaware Avenue

Media: High Density Urethane, Acrylic Paint

Dimensions: 45" (H) x 72" (W) x 2" (D)

**(10) RAMPAGE 2025** - Sponsored by NYSCA.

Commissioning Agency: Buffalo AKG Location: 1285 Elmwood Avenue

Media: High Density Urethane, Enamel paint, Acrylic Paint

Dimensions: 8 feet (H) x 16 feet (W)