



## A bit of science fiction, realism in concurrent exhibits by UB art professors

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Published October 8, 2024

For the first time in two decades, UB art professors Stephanie Rothenberg and Joan Linder are showing their artworks in side-by-side exhibitions at the Buffalo Arts Studio.

The shows, on view through Nov. 9 at the Buffalo Arts Studio, 2495 Main St., Suite 500, are part of the Waterfront View Series funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

“As colleagues, the conversation between our work has grown over the years, and it is exciting to find parallel interests expressed through different mediums,” Linder says.

“The art projects dialogue with each other about environmental issues in a multitude of conceptual and material ways,” Rothenberg adds.



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*Two pieces from Joan Linder's "Fulfillment" exhibition.*

Linder, whose art often focuses on quotidian consumption, points out that each box she created carries marks that trace and reflect their material history, from supply chain to fulfillment center to user.

Linder's "Fulfillment" highlights the old American Axle building, an industrial site that houses crypto-mining, as well as the Kelly Gardens municipal housing complex across the street, where people currently live.



*Joan Linder*

According to Linder — who sat in her car across from the old American Axle building to sketch the landscape featured in the installation — there's a constant buzzing from the

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cryptocurrency operations inside that can be heard outside at all times of day and night, which further influenced her development of the project.

“I’m sitting in my car working on these drawings over multiple years, through different seasons, and just kind of bearing witness,” Linder says.

“Fulfillment” also includes a haphazard pile of Amazon boxes — each handmade paper reproductions of discarded Amazon shipping boxes. These paper sculptures are made using ink, paint and watercolor on archival cotton paper, creating a near-perfect illusion in these life-size replicas of the actual objects.

“I was thinking about the back end of screen culture and how it’s not just the box that comes to your house from one-click purchases,” Linder explains. “The machinery of e-commerce also includes data and fulfillment centers, and this show focuses on these kinds of sites right here in Buffalo.”

In “Fulfillment,” Linder focuses her eyes on the environmental and resource-heavy costs associated with our digital behaviors.

“You just click, and then there’s the delivery truck and a box at your door. You might not think about the mechanisms behind how it got there. Looking at what is often overlooked, or hidden in plain sight, has been a recurring theme in my work,” she says.

“We are so pleased to be able share information about our exhibitions with the broader UB community.”