

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STARLIGHT STUDIO PRESENT PAULSEN AND GRAAP

The next show in the *Side By Each* exhibition series, featuring original work by James Paulsen and Starlight Artist Dana Graap, is Friday, May 25, from 6-8 PM at Starlight Gallery, 340 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202. Artwork from Starlight artists Chace Lobley and Jocelyn Triggie will be exhibited in the hallway and Debbie Bowers in Blue Sink Café, respectively. The exhibition series, curated by Kyle Butler with the help of Starlight Staff, features the work of Starlight artists along with that of artists from the region and beyond. The exhibit will be on view through early-July.

According to Paulsen, “I work with images of Americana found on postcards, press photos, magazines, movie stills, and other sources. These familiar images form a shared psychological landscape. My work seeks to go beneath the veil of everyday appearance, and to explore concealed subterranean areas. I enjoy creating unexpected associations and new possibilities in seemingly mundane subjects. I integrate separate images, creating an associative synthesis of the two. Distinct elements coalesce, and the final image operates as a visual metaphor. In the new image, an implicit comparison between remote objects is made, and hidden affinities and new possibilities are brought to the fore.”

According to Starlight’s curator, Kyle Butler, “There is whimsy in Dana’s work, and a consistent combination of storybook narrative with a charming visual style. Dana’s current artistic focus revolves around her books of drawings. These depictions started with studies of works in art history reference texts. She inserts herself into all of these drawings and adds smiles to the faces. Recently she has turned these smaller drawings in her books into large paintings, full of bright color and imagery that fills the entire canvas.”

Graap was introduced to playwriting and scriptwriting by participating in workshops at Starlight with Squeaky Wheel Media Center and with a visiting playwright. She has written her first play, to be debuted at Alleyway Theater of Buffalo, New York in November 2018 called “Hot Rock Hotel”. This project was funded and made possible by NYSCA and Governor Andrew Cuomo and NYS legislature; administered by Arts Services Initiative of WNY. Beth Geyer from Unique Theater Company and Dana will be announcing auditions later this year. In 2014, Dana was pleased to be featured as the subject of a short documentary created by her Starlight peers, entitled, *The Whole Shebang*.

The event is free to the public. For more information about the event or Starlight Art Gallery, please contact Katharine Cassens at kcassens@ldaofwny.org or (716) 874-7200, ext. 137, or visit the Starlight website at www.starlightstudio.org.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, July 13th 6-9pm
Starlight Open House

Friday September 14th 6-8pm
Mario & Sherri, Emily Churco, & John Budney

Friday, October 19th
Mary Louise Wyrick & Michele Miller

Saturday December 1st 1-4pm
Starlight Open House