

BEYOND/IN WESTERN NEW YORK 2007

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Albright-Knox
Art Gallery

Big Orbit Gallery

Buffalo Arts Studio

Burchfield-Penney
Art Center

Carnegie Art Center

Castellani Art Museum of
Niagara University

CEPA Gallery

El Museo Francisco Oller
y Diego Rivera

Hallwalls Contemporary
Arts Center

Langston Hughes
Institute

Squeaky Wheel

UB Anderson Gallery

UB Art Gallery

History

Exhibitions dedicated to work by artists from Western New York have been held at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery since 1934. The original exhibition entitled *Western New York* was presented at the Gallery annually until the mid-1960s, at which time it changed to a biennial event. Notable to *Western New York* was its juried format and its call for work, which extended to the eight counties in Western New York: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming. *Western New York* jurors were often prominent members of the art world, including curators and artists such as George Segal, Nancy Graves, and Hedda Sterne. Entries were numerous, and the resulting exhibitions were large and well-received.

When *Western New York 1974* exhibited only thirty-seven works out of 1,401 entries, protests arose regarding the validity of the juried format, and artists claimed the exhibition had become more of a competition than a carefully chosen exhibition. Local artists accused the Gallery of a lack of interest in and support for their work, and "protest exhibitions" ensued at other Buffalo institutions. In response to the outcry from local artists, the Gallery instituted a change in the *Western New York* exhibition format.

In 1977, the *In Western New York* series was launched. *In Western New York* differed from *Western New York* in that it abandoned the juried format and was the first regional, invitational exhibition held at the Gallery, with participating artists selected by Gallery curators. The inaugural exhibition, *In Western New York 1977*, showcased seventy-two works of art by forty-one artists, including Robert Longo and Cindy Sherman. The invitational format offered Gallery curators the opportunity to take a closer look at the work in the community, resulting in an exhibition with fewer artists and more works of art by those who were selected. Instituted as an experiment in 1977, *In Western New York* gained momentum and eventually, in 1998, replaced *Western New York*, with which it had alternated every other year. The last *In Western New York* exhibition was held in 2002.

Beyond/In Western New York 2005 represented yet another change in the exhibition's format. For the first time, the call for artists was extended beyond Western New York to include Central New York, Southern Ontario, Northeastern Ohio, and Northwestern Pennsylvania. *Beyond/In Western New York 2005* was an invitational exhibition, the collective effort of a curatorial team representing a number of participating institutions, including Big Orbit Gallery, Buffalo Arts Studio, Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Carnegie Art Center, Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University, CEPA Gallery, El Museo Francisco Oller y Diego Rivera, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Langston Hughes Institute, Squeaky Wheel, UB Anderson Gallery, and UB Art Gallery. Because of the success of *Beyond/In Western New York 2005*, this format will continue for *Beyond/In Western New York 2007*. The future exhibition will be another concentrated look at artists who are working and living in and beyond the eight counties of Western New York, and will represent the artistic community of the Southern Ontario and Eastern Great Lakes region.