

Walter's
1250 Riverfront Center
Amsterdam, New York, 12010

Amsterdam, New York. Saturday, September 24th, 2022. The Mall.

I met Jeff at a party a few years ago. Before I left the party, I was sitting in my car, enthralled by his Instagram. The more art I saw in Jeff's studio, the more I wanted to see. When I like someone's work, I have an insatiable curiosity for understanding them from every angle they will share with me.

We are in a kiosk from 1977, the year the Amsterdam mall opened. The earliest drawing on display is from the same year. A refrigerated glass case constructed for candy now displays a living archive - a principally three-decade visual narrative of the life of a dedicated artist.

Troy-based artist Jeff Wigman is an accomplished oil painter. This exhibition focuses on the origin of his paintings. My personal quest to gain more insight into an artist I deeply admire through his drawings is also a deliberate surreal experience for anyone who finds themselves at the Amsterdam Riverfront Center.

This is not an exhibition for a white box gallery. There's orange carpet, teal walls, and yellow awnings shading a shuttered food court. Most of the vending machines work, and half the screens of the arcade games are flashing. The four-screen movie theater is boarded up, and the escalators are motionless. Empty stores are for rent amongst the pregnancy care center, a jewelry repair shop, and a damaged overstock clearance store called Back to the Bargains. Its signage is in the style of the Back to the Future movies from the 1980s.

Some other thoughts: A bird disappears into the sky - there's a gap. At the end of each breath - there's a gap. A blank page is a gap. At the mall, there's a gap. Before and after this life, there's a gap. This life itself is a gap in the gap. Every moment is pervaded by space. Space is solid. Solid what? Solid stories. Space is solid, the deity is hollow.

The 4-sided kiosk is fully occupied with Jeff's visionary works on paper along with all the ephemera that comes with having an art practice. There's a letter from a disappointed teacher, a figurine of the Creature from the Black Lagoon, cardboard models of boats, and a clock with no numbers, to name a few objects. It's a chronological drawing adventure spanning 45 years and six cities. Welcome to *At The Gap* by Jeff Wigman and Brent Birnbaum.

For more information, check walters.art or [@walter__elwood](https://www.instagram.com/walter__elwood) on Instagram. You can also contact Brent Birnbaum at pearbomb@gmail.com or at 646-736-9867. Prices for individual drawings upon request. Jeff Wigman's website is jeffwigman.com, and his Instagram that started this all is [@jeffwigman](https://www.instagram.com/jeffwigman)