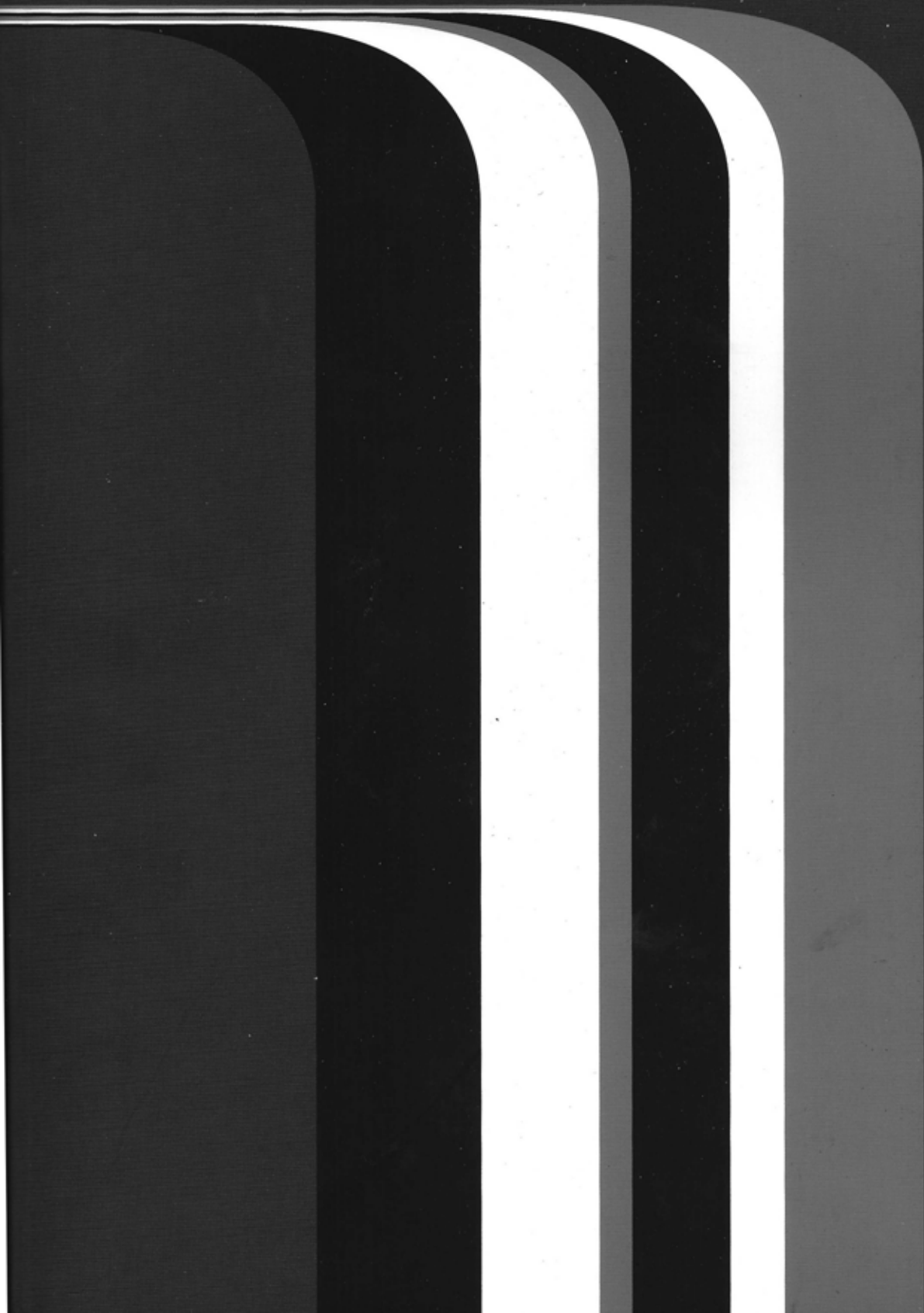


Beyond/In  
Western New York 2010  
Alternating  
Currents



be done with the large buildings that are not going away, and probably should not—buildings that still have potential, perhaps another use? The work of **Karen Brummund** evokes putting a pair of clown pants on a grade school—not metaphorically, as in a rehashing of grade-school memories and a reevaluation of childhood experiences (although this may be the result), but literally, one colorful leg after the other, until the whole building is dressed for a night on the town. There is a need for a fun public approach that dismantles bureaucratic drudgery, and Brummund's approach could easily be continued for most of the spaces that we occupy as a community.

Frequently, the notion of public art brings to mind sculptures plopped down in high-traffic areas, becoming, over time, as stagnant as their use of materials. Refreshingly, Brummund brings art out of the gallery by projecting color fields and lines onto the large concrete, wood, and metal canvases that make up our built world. Brummund's work takes back what seems to be complete and allows us to re-imagine. Focusing on exterior surfaces and using video projection, she allows buildings to "try on" different skins, sometimes inviting audience participation. Her work is based in an interest in the traditional artistic method of drawing, which she expresses through contemporary technologies.

The beauty in this act of artmaking and the practice that Brummund brings forward is that it is cognizant of time. It takes the form of a performance, with a beginning and an end. Even when her work uses a low-tech approach, with materials as basic as paper, the work is intended to disappear. If we were more honest about the spaces that we share and their shelf lives, we might choose this approach, too, rather than erecting another bronze lion at the foot of the steps.

And when all else fails, when the chosen approach results in a remainder, something not re-usable, where does it go? The mighty Niagara River is one of the last thoroughfares

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