

Two Coats of Paint

An award-winning NYC blogazine, primarily about painting

- [Gallery shows](#) ▼[Museum Exhibitions](#)[Ideas & Influences](#) ▼[Interviews](#) ▼[Obituaries](#)[Fiction](#)[Screens](#)
- [Gallery Guides](#) ▼

RESIDENT ARTIST

Two Coats Resident Artist Katie Butler, June 8–13

June 1, 2025 4:10 pm



Katie Butler, *Bread and Butter*, 2024

Contributed by **Sharon Butler** / **Katie Butler** (no relation to me as far as we know) creates vivid still life paintings that dive into the fraught realms of American politics and economics, riffing ironically on the “kitchen-table” and “bread-and-butter” issues affecting average people that political figures are supposed to address. While she establishes a journalistic sense of authenticity by sourcing her imagery from White House archives and the Ohio Statehouse, the discrepancy between reality and painted presentation raises burning questions about the veracity and integrity of the sources.



Katie Butler, Kitchen Table Issues, 2024

Her approach draws on the work of sixteenth-century masters **Pieter Aertsen** and **Joachim Beuckelaer**, who showcased the lives of the poor alongside lofty biblical scenes. Katie’s updated counterpoint is between the unvarnished facts of Americans’ everyday lives and the lavish tablescapes of state dinners. Katie’s distorted perspectives and radically scaled contrasts expose the disconnect between those in power and the lives of the “little people” they claim to serve, and the consequent brittleness of the democratic republic they purport to safeguard.

Leveraging symbols of prosperity and opulence, Katie ultimately seeks to illuminate the increasing tension between the abundance of the few and the struggle of the many, between macroeconomic growth and ground-level decline.



Katie Butler, *Fools' Gold*, 2024



Katie Butler in her Akron, Ohio, studio

About the artist: Katie Butler lives in Ohio, where she completed a BFA from the University of Akron and an MFA from Kent State University. She has had solo shows at Hesse Flatow in New York and Abattoir Gallery in Cleveland. In 2024, her work was included in “Moreover: 50 Paintings,” curated by Michelle Grabner at the Green Gallery in Milwaukee, WI, the Hesse Flatow presentation at 2025 Dallas Art Fair, in Deanna Evans Projects Flatfile, and has also appeared in prominent publications such as *New American Paintings* and *Harper’s*. She was an Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grantee and has participated in residencies at Byrdcliffe Arts Colony in Woodstock, NY, and Alfred University in Düsseldorf, Germany. She is a part-time member of the art faculty at Kent State University. Follow @[katiebutlerstudio](#) on Instagram.

Katie Butler, **Two Coats of Paint Artist Residency**, June 8–13, 2025
Open Studio: Thursday, June 12, 3–6 pm. Listen to Katie’s studio playlist [here](#).

Two Coats of Paint
22-19 41st Avenue, 6th Floor, Studio #10
Long Island City, NY

For more information, or to arrange a studio visit, please contact:
STAFF@twocoatsofpaint.com. Please put KATIE BUTLER in the subject line

About the author: **Sharon Butler** is a painter and the publisher of *Two Coats of Paint*.

Tags: Hesse Flatow, Katie Butler

One Comment



zeb restrepo

June 1, 2025 at 6:12 pm