|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **For Immediate Release: August 7, 2025** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Art Gallery of Regina Presents *An Accidental Forever*, A Survey Exhibition of Performance and Digital Art by  Theo Pelmus and Kristin Snowbird.** Spouses & artistic collaborators present immersive, glowing art that challenges the distinction between traditional forms and innovation. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [A person with arms outstretched  AI-generated content may be incorrect.](https://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/upcoming-exhibition) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | image: Kristin Snowbird, *Sweat*(video still), HD video, 4 minutes 44 seconds, 2016. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Regina, SK:**  The Art Gallery of Regina presents *An Accidental Forever*, a survey spanning many years of performance-based and digital art by spouses and collaborators Theo Pelmus and Kristin Snowbird, from August 15 to October 18, 2025.  We don’t often expect artists inspired by pre-Christian dances, ancestral languages, traditional garments, and ritual forms to embrace cutting-edge practices like projection mapping or proximity-responsive photographs. Yet, Pelmus (Romanian) and Snowbird (Ojibwe/Cree) have a long history of combining new media with their respective cultural traditions, thus challenging the distinction between traditional forms and innovation.  The exhibition title, *An Accidental Forever*, captures the paradox at the heart of their work. The artists use cutting-edge technology to give permanence to the most fleeting art forms. Through video, photography, and interactive media, Pelmus and Snowbird transform ephemeral moments into lasting digital experiences. In both solo and collaborative works, they reimagine and sustain ancient cultural traditions. Their work creates new relevance for tradition and nature in a digital world.  Their shared artistic practice is rooted in multicultural understanding and reconciliation, bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives through their collaboration. Theo Pelmus, who immigrated to Canada from Romania as an adult, is known for building immersive performative worlds using shadow play, objects, and video projections. He likens his process to live VJ-ing, blending video and sound into a single, evolving image that moves from chaos to composed stillness. This reveals the emotional journey of making meaning from disorder. Kristin Snowbird, from Pine Creek First Nation, explores her Indigenous identity by reimagining traditional labor through new media. Using film, photography, and performance, she shares the stories, traditions, and lived experiences of her community. Her work addresses both its resilience and its traumas. *An Accidental Forever* charts their partnership—a union that brings together ancestral traditions with innovative contemporary technology.  *An Accidental Forever* shimmers with video projections and interactive, illuminated photographs, visually signaling that, while the artists address social impacts, the overarching intent is one of healing. Newly created photographic light boxes document moments from their digitally integrated Pieta performance. These images respond to viewers' proximity, extending the transient nature of performance into a lasting, evolving encounter that encourages reflection and participation.  The artists’ works are distinguished by eloquent gestures and striking, symbolic costumes and props. In *For What They Did to Us*, a 2024 Super 8 film, Snowbird—a former competitive jingle dress and fancy shawl dancer—dances on a Canadian flag etched into a sandy beach. As her footsteps gradually erase the maple leaf, she symbolically undoes a legacy of oppressive nationalism that once threatened to erase First Nations cultural forms like dance. Snowbird wears an armor-like garment made from flattened, scale-like jingle cones, alluding to the jingle dance’s role as a healing act.  In the couple’s three-minute performance video*The Kiss*, they embrace in snow-covered landscapes at the edge of bodies of water, including Winnipeg’s Red River and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Each wears a medical mask bristling with spikes—metal nails for Pelmus, porcupine quills for Snowbird. Despite the spikiness, their longing for connection overcomes the fear of being hurt; *The Kiss* is a powerful metaphor for vulnerability and intimacy.  Costumes, regalia, sculptures, and other artifacts created for these and other videos and films will be displayed in the gallery alongside the artists’ digital works. This allows visitors to closely examine these meaningful, meticulously crafted objects, each invested with care and rich in symbolism.  Sponsored by SaskCulture, the Art Gallery of Regina encourages individuals of all ages to participate in free Culture Days events associated with *An Accidental Forever* from October 3 to 5. Attendees are invited to join special events, including two live performances: *Niimin Dance Dans* and *The Language of Flowers*.  *Niimin Dance Dans*, on Sunday, October 5, from 5 to 8 PM, combines Romanian pagan folk dances with Snowbird’s experience as a competitive jingle dress and fancy shawl dancer and incorporates a video filmed at sunrise, noon, and sunset in the hills of Romania—a landscape that remains deeply connected to Pelmus’ family.  During their performance, *The Language of Flowers*, presented on Saturday, October 4, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, the artists crush fresh flowers to infuse the gallery with fragrance. This action, both destructive and celebratory, encourages reflection on the fragility of nature, environmental impact, and expressions of care for both humans and the natural world.  Admission to the Art Gallery of Regina is always free. Audiences are invited to experience Pelmus and Snowbird’s immersive exhibition, which examines intercultural communication, familial care, relationships to land, and the transformation of traditions through new media, from August 15 to October 18. The public is welcome to attend a celebration of the artists and their work at a public reception on Sunday, October 5, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Media contact:**  Sandee Moore Director/Curator, Art Gallery of Regina 306-522-5940 [curator@artgalleryofregina.ca](mailto:curator@artgalleryofregina.ca?subject=Media%20Request%3A%20We%20Are%20All%20Electric%20Beings%20at%20the%20Art%20Gallery%20of%20Regina)  Contact Moore to arrange interviews with the artists in English, Saulteaux, or Romanian.  **Links:** Reproduction-ready images (Google Drive link): <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zPUuf52IxFBgUhqgPw90t1YlEz0wiIlo?usp=sharing>  Video preview links:  <https://youtu.be/qKIStygYSzQ> <https://youtu.be/uPncEbEDnHw> <https://youtu.be/Um16C7Yn-BQ> <https://youtu.be/Denws6D5cyY> <https://youtu.be/0fpH-en2MWw>  For more information and updates, please visit our website ([www.artgalleryofregina.ca)](https://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/) or contact the Art Gallery Regina by by calling 306-522-5940. | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **For Calendar Listings:**  **Exhibition title**:*An Accidental Forever* **Artist(s)**: Theo Pelmus and Kristin Snowbird **Dates**: August 15 - October 18, 2025 **Public reception**: October 5 from 3-5 PM **Artist talk**: Friday, October 3, noon at the University of Regina, room RC050 **Culture Days Events**: Friday, October 3 to Sunday, October 5 **Website**: [www.artgalleryofregina.ca](https://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/) **Cost**: FREE | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person standing in a field  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | | | |  | | --- | | A path through a forest  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |  |  | | --- | | A person and person wearing masks  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | images: (clockwise from top) promotional image for *An Accidental Forever* at the Art Gallery of Regina; Theo Pelmus and Kristin Snowbird, *The Kiss* (video still), HD video, 2 minutes 56 seconds, 2021; Theo Pelmus and Kristin Snowbird, still from artwork in-progress, no date. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [A poster for a culture days event  AI-generated content may be incorrect.](https://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/culture-days-2025) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ### - END - | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [A black background with a black square  AI-generated content may be incorrect.](http://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Located on Treaty 4, the traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota, Lakota and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis people, the Art Gallery of Regina (AGR) is a dynamic cultural hub, promoting the development and appreciation of contemporary art, primarily created by Saskatchewan artists. AGR provides opportunities for Regina's citizens and visitors to engage with contemporary art through free exhibitions, participatory events, performances, artists' talks, critical writing, and educational programming. | | | |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Art-Gallery-of-Regina-228399860562366/) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Website](https://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/artgalleryofregina/) | | | | | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Art Gallery of Regina gratefully acknowledges the support of its core funders, project funders, partners and sponsors: | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [A group of logos  AI-generated content may be incorrect.](https://www.artgalleryofregina.ca/our-sponsors-) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Copyright © 2025 Art Gallery of Regina, All rights reserved.* You are receiving this email because you are part of the Regina art community!  **Our mailing address is:** Art Gallery of Regina c/o Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre 2420 Elphinstone Street, PO BOX 1790 Regina, SK S4P 3C8 Canada  **Visit our location:**  Art Gallery of Regina  2420 Elphinstone Street, Regina, SK, Canada  Regina, SK S4P 3C8  Canada | | | |