

For Immediate Release: March 9, 2022

**Artists Nikki Middlemiss & Peter Tucker Demonstrate that Abstraction Is a Language that Expresses What is Beyond Words - Magic, Hope, and the Passage of Time.**

Artists in the exhibition *Elevate & Holon* reveal abstraction's sensitive side in their delicately shaped lines, shapes, and volumes.



**Image:** (left) Nikki Middlemiss, *Untitled* (from the *Elevate Series*), 2020. Photo courtesy of the artist and Guy L'Heureux.; (right) Peter Tucker, *Holon*, 2020. Photo courtesy of the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery.

Two artists, Regina-born Nikki Middlemiss and Moose Jaw-based Peter Tucker invite audiences to experience abstraction as an unexpectedly caring and intimate practice in their exhibition *Elevate & Holon* at the Art Gallery of Regina, opening Friday, March 18.

Some of Saskatchewan's best-known artists - Agnes Martin, Art McKay, and Bob Boyer - have been abstract artists. Although popularly assumed to be purely formal and free of content, abstract artworks, historically and today, are a new language to convey what is beyond words. The process of creating an artwork is a ritual that

brings artists into contact with metaphysical truths. Middlemiss and Tucker continue the sensitive work of their artistic forebearers.

Middlemiss' large-scale drawings are collaborations with her materials, the fortuitous magic of vellum and liquid media authoring the work as much as the artist. The thin membranes of translucent paper buckle, pucker, dimple, and wrinkle in response to the application of diluted ink and oily pigments, while folding or sanding crisscross the surface with pale scars. Looking at the fractured arcs that appear throughout Middlemiss' *Elevate* series of drawings, one can draw visual analogies to a canopy of sparks falling to earth from a firework or the geodesic dome, a remnant of Expo 67, that marks the skyline of Middlemiss' resident city, Montreal. Drawing for Middlemiss, however, is not about depicting but about process. The delicate textures of her weightless drawings trace a sensitive record of their creation (and deterioration), leading viewers to ultimately reflect upon the fragility, resilience, and unpredictability of our lives.

Tucker's single, monumental sculpture *Holon* is not a hulking monolith, but a gentle spiral comprised of dozens of oblongs of different varieties of wood. *Holon*, the artist notes, means a group, such as a school of fish, that moves as a single entity. While many of Tucker's other sculptures are self-portraits tell of his experiences as a biracial adoptee in woodgrain and joiner, the inspiration for *Holon* arose from a meeting between the artist and a group of school children. Tucker united scraps of wood, both precious and ordinary, in his sculpture that optimistically imagines a diverse group moving as one. Tuckers' care is apparent in each hand-smoothed piece of wood, the size and shape of the hollow that forms between cupped hands. His craftsmanship is evident in the feat of balancing and suspending this 9-foot-tall structure so that it soars rather than menaces.

Abstraction is often perceived as encoded with the worst elements of toxic masculinity emerging in the mid-twentieth century: disconnected, unfeeling, chilly

intellectualism. Middlemiss and Tucker give form to the deeply felt and inexpressible in the spare essentials of abstraction: line, mass, and material.

Join the Art Gallery of Regina in celebrating Middlemiss' and Tucker's transcendence of the material and the known at the opening reception for *Elevate & Holon* from 7-9 PM on Friday, March 18. This exhibition of ethereal and tactile works from two Saskatchewan artists is free to view daily from March 18 - May 1, 2022. Admission to the Art Gallery of Regina (2420 Elphinstone St.) is always free; we request that visitors wear medical masks.

Media contact:

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Contact us to interview Nikki Middlemiss in English or en français & Peter Tucker in English.

Links:

Images for reproduction and image credits:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ri34irSdUgUlrgiePMaVkFd\\_wlFGVv4E?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ri34irSdUgUlrgiePMaVkFd_wlFGVv4E?usp=sharing)

Artists' Headshots, Bio & Curriculum Vitae:

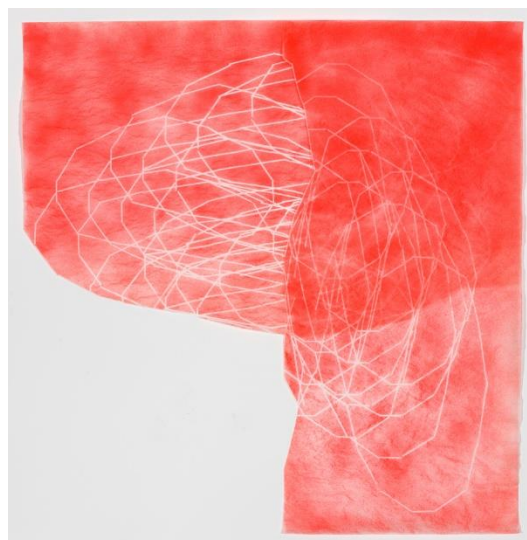
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xQkVVlIdbuCG5Zf-WRvTW5jEgroZs0ifR?usp=sharing>

Artists' websites:

<http://www.petertucker.ca/>

<http://nikkimiddlemiss.com/>

Art Gallery of Regina's website:  
[www.artgalleryofregina.ca](http://www.artgalleryofregina.ca)



Images: (clockwise from top, left) Peter Tucker, *Holon*, 2020. Photo courtesy of the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery; Nikki Middlemiss, *Untitled* (from the *Elevate Series*), 2020. Photo courtesy of the artist and Guy L'Heureux; Peter Tucker, *Holon* [detail], 2020. Photo courtesy of the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery; Nikki Middlemiss, *Untitled* (from the *Elevate Series*), 2020. Photo courtesy of the artist and Guy L'Heureux. \*In mobile view, images top to bottom are Peter Tucker, *Holon*, 2020; Nikki Middlemiss, *Untitled* (from the *Elevate Series*), 2020; Nikki Middlemiss, *Untitled* (from the *Elevate Series*), 2020; Peter Tucker, *Holon*, 2020.

Nikki Middlemiss acknowledges the support of The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

## For Calendar Listings

**Exhibition title:** *Elevate & Holon*

**Artist(s):** Nikki Middlemiss & Peter Tucker

**Dates:** March 18 - May 1, 2022

**Opening reception:** March 18, 7-9 PM

**Artist talk:** Saturday, April 2 at 6 PM (online)

**Opening reception:** Friday, March 18, 7-9 PM (contact gallery for up-to-date restrictions pending announcements by the Saskatchewan Health Authority)

**Artist's talk:** An online artist-led exhibition and panel discussion tour launches Saturday, April 2 at 6 PM. The video is free to watch on the Art Gallery of Regina's website until the exhibition concludes.

**Short Description:** Abstraction is often perceived as encoded with the worst elements of toxic masculinity emerging in the mid-twentieth century: disconnected, unfeeling, chilly intellectualism. Saskatchewan artists Nikki Middlemiss and Peter Tucker give form to the deeply felt and inexpressible in the spare essentials of abstraction: line, mass, and material. *Elevate & Holon* is free to view daily from March 18 - May 1, 2022 at the Art Gallery of Regina (2420 Elphinstone Street).

**Website:** [www.artgalleryofregina.ca](http://www.artgalleryofregina.ca)

# AGR

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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) promotes the development and appreciation of contemporary art, with an emphasis on Saskatchewan artists. Our programming focuses on the voices and experiences of Saskatchewan artists and visitors. AGR programming encompasses exhibitions (featuring established, emerging and recreational artists), education, publishing, workshops and artists talks.

For over 45 years, the AGR has advocated for the role of art in society through free public exhibitions, support for artists, and connecting artists and our communities through meaningful learning and exchange.

The Art Gallery of Regina is an autonomous, independent public art gallery with non-profit and charitable status. We are a tenant in the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre located within the vibrant Cathedral Village neighbourhood in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Art Gallery of Regina gratefully acknowledges the support of its core funders and sponsors:

