

For Immediate Release: October 19, 2020

**Plush Beanie Babies, Plastic Tombstones, Ash and Other Bits of Haunting Pop Culture Detritus are the Materials from which Regina-based Artist Nic Wilson Has Erected his Pavilion of Shadows, a Solo Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Regina (AGR) Opening November 13th and Curated by Wayne Baerwaldt**

*Emerging artist Nic Wilson has crafted his/their own sculptural language - an understated poetry cobbled together from fantastically kitschy objects - to express the inexpressible emotions of dread, regret, and loss.*



Nic Wilson, *Half Mast*, 30' flag pole and 4x6' flag, 2020. Photo credit: Nic Wilson.

Regina, SK:

Curator Wayne Baerwaldt has dedicated a solo exhibition entitled *Pavilion of Shadows* at the Art Gallery of Regina (AGR) to emerging artist Nic Wilson's (he/them) meditations on mourning, banality and celebrity. Wilson's varied art practise, including sculpture, video, photography and books, spills out of the gallery and onto the grounds of the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre, where a flag of the artist's devising will fly permanently at half-mast for the exhibition's duration, November 13 – January 28.

The artist refers to *Pavilion of Shadows* as "an ever-expanding database of mourning and decay." Yet, the materials and items that Wilson has gathered to represent our existential fears are varied and eschew straightforward moroseness. Wilson invites us to view his motley collection of marble, ashes,

celebrity death merchandise, and photographs of distant galaxies as analogies to the finite nature of bodies.

Wrestling with ageing, death, faded fame, and fading memories is a familiar and pressing experience for all of us. Though many of the histories, anecdotes, and objects that make up this database are drawn from communal experiences, *Pavilion of Shadows* is personal. Wilson draws on his/their own embodied experiences and observations to wade through histories of life, death, and the distance between these two states.

Baerwaldt explains why it's important to make space, in the gallery and our lives, for Wilson's complex and compelling art practice: "Space - the syntactical play between exterior and interior - deserves closer examination." Observing parallels between Wilson's ordering and grouping of objects in his sculpture and the syntactical constructions of poets, Baerwaldt speculates, "Wilson renders a complicated structuring of space and time that lends itself to rethinking space as a complex of poetic assemblages. I suspect Wilson spends all his time beating against the edge, trying to realize this word, knowing it will never be accomplished in the human imagination, yet that's where he finds himself."

Join the Art Gallery of Regina in celebrating this vision of public vulnerability at our opening reception (register online for appointment time) and throughout the run of this extraordinary exhibition, running November 13 to January 28, by one of the most promising emerging artists in our community. Admission to the gallery is always free; please observe COVID-19 protocols.

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Interviews with Nic Wilson (artist) and Wayne Baerwaldt (exhibition curator) in English arranged upon request.

#### For Calendar Listings

Exhibition title: *Pavilion of Shadows*

Artist: Nic Wilson

Curator: Wayne Baerwaldt

Dates: November 13, 2020 – January 28, 2021

Opening reception: November 13th (by appointment/streaming)

Artist & curator's talk: November 13th (by appointment/streaming)

Cost: Free

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

Short description: Pavilion of Shadows is an ever-expanding database of mourning and decay. Marble, ashes, celebrity death merchandise, and photographs of distant galaxies create analogies, both personal and public, to the finite nature of bodies.

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. Through free public exhibitions and dedicated support for artists and innovation, the AGR has over 45 years as a supportive and creative cultural hub connecting artists and our communities.

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:

