



MEMBER

Dawna Rose and Betsy Rosenwald | Journal of the Plague Year(s): 2020–2023

JUN 22, 2023 TO AUG 19, 2023

Mann Art Gallery 142 12 St W, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 3B5

PRINT



Dawna Rose and Betsy Rosenwald, "Journal of the Plague Year(s) (detail)", Courtesy of Remai Modern.

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 22, 7pm

Journal of the Plague Year(s): 2020–2023, A project by Dawna Rose and Betsy Rosenwald.

Dawna Rose and Betsy Rosenwald are painters. They work in other genres including installation and sculpture, but painting is at the centre of their practices. For over 20 years, they rented adjacent studios in Saskatoon's legendary Tees and Persse building until they were evicted with other artists when ownership changed in 2018 – which is to say, they have long been colleagues, but not collaborators. When COVID erupted, they embarked on an epic collaborative project, documenting their responses to the increasingly erratic and polarized character of public speech and behaviour around the world. They write:

"*Journal of the Plague Year(s)* is a series of collaborative installations and paintings on post-consumer cardboard begun in response to the pandemic and toxic politics of 2020. The project's title pays homage to Daniel Defoe's 1722 book, *A Journal of the Plague Year*, billed as "observations or memorials of the most remarkable occurrences [...] in London during the last Great Visitation in 1665 [the Great Plague]." It is especially appropriate, as the project begins with our own observations and memories during a most remarkable year—the year the entire world shut down." (DR and BR)

While both artists' work tended toward introspection, subjecthood and painterly concerns, the *Journal* launched them into the world of politics, ideology and social conflict. With eyes trained on the news-of-the-day, they responded – quickly, with images and text – everyday.

Their responses have the tone and impulse of missives written in on-line comment sections. Actually, "response" doesn't capture the anger and, wit of the little cardboard elements. They're more like "retorts" – brash, spontaneous, ironic, reactive, confrontational, always current and sometimes offensive. Each piece is a fragmentary utterance that is part of an ongoing, never-ending rant with the world, that cries out for further retorts.

The Journal of the Plague Year(s) is a dialogue between the artists, newsmakers and guests who may be provoked to offer their own imaginative retorts as they look. It has no fixed and stable author, and is essentially unfinished and uncontrolled.

In fact, retorts don't have to stay in your imagination. You are invited to compose your own retorts using the materials provided. Installed on the adjacent wall, they will become part of a growing dialogue of drawing, painting, writing, ranting, looking, listening and reflecting on the events and issues that concern you.

Marcus Miller

Since you're here...

...we're asking readers like you to support quality writing about Western Canada's art and artists during these uncertain times. Galleries West tells timely stories with accessible yet informed writing by arts journalists and other arts professionals. Our magazine is open to all, regardless of what they can afford to pay. Every reader contribution, however big or small, is valuable. **Support Galleries West. It only takes a minute. Thank you.**

[Support Galleries West, Donate Now](#)

Info

LOCATION

Mann Art Gallery 142 12 St W, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 3B5

Mann
ArtGallery

EVENT TYPE

Art & Exhibitions, Meet the Artists

[Visit Event Website](#)

PHONE

3067637080

DATE & TIME

Jun 22, 2023 to Aug 19, 2023 [+](#)

[Prince Albert](#)

Comments

Type subject here...

LATEST STORIES

Jean Paul Riopelle: Crossroads in Time

BY PAUL GESSELL

[National Gallery of Canada](#)



Shorts: Five Shows in Canada



Tim Gardner: The Full Story

BY ALISON GILLMOR

[Winnipeg Art Gallery | Gaumajuq](#)



Liz Magor

BY SHAZIA HAFIZ RAMJI

[Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto](#)



Marisol: A Retrospective

BY BECKY RYNOR

[Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#)



Shorts: Five Shows in Canada



From the Editor - Nov. 7, 2023 Issue

BY SHELLEY BOETTCHER

