

News Release

New Art Gallery of St. Albert exhibition transforms main space into an enchanted and haunting world

July 4, 2023, St. Albert, Alberta – The Art Gallery of St. Albert (part of the Arts and Heritage Foundation) is launching its newest exhibition in the beautiful main gallery space, transforming it into an enchanted and haunting world.

Once upon a time, fairytales, myths and fables were stories of caution, filled with peril. In tales told at hearth sides across Europe, rosy cheeked children walked into mortal danger. The victories they earned and the lessons they learned were hard-won, and not without painful sacrifice.

Beautiful Parasites by **Tammy Salzl** presents paintings, installations, video and sculptures that feature a familiar cast of characters. Salzl pulls from a vast library for inspirations, including Aesop's Fables, the Brother's Grimm and myths from ancient Greece, to name but a few. Salzl infuses her art with an unsettling aura. In her enchanted world, she builds a home in which her deep concern for our planet and our society can reside. In this land, the beautiful merges with the grotesque, giving form to intense emotions of fear and anxiety that often defy words.

Scored by award winning composer **Greg Mulyk**, a magical and haunting soundscape permeates the exhibition, enhancing a feeling of having stumbled through the looking glass. Visitors are met with images of Gaia attempting a do-over, Puss in Boots building his own avatar to escape the pressures of his role and the remnants of Medusa strewn across a beach, after her mortal encounter with Perseus.

Along with the works in the main gallery, Tammy Salzl's immersive video installation ***The Valise*** fill the vault. Within the darkened space, viewers are met with a single delicate sculpture of a small suitcase. Videos housed within *The Valise* and projected out of the sculpture, follow a young girl wandering in a rugged yet magical landscape.

Powerfully relevant in today's world, ***Beautiful Parasites*** and ***The Valise*** are at once humorous and tragic. Like all great stories, these exhibitions are shaped by the time and place in which they were created.

The exhibition runs until August 19.

- **In-person tours:** July 11 and 26 at noon
- **Virtual tour:** July 12 on Facebook Live
- **Artist talk and reception:** August 17 from 6-8 pm

Registrations can be made via the gallery's [exhibition web page](#).

For more information contact:

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