



**Upcoming this Fall at Esker Foundation:
*Care and Wear: Bodies Crafted for Harm and
Healing* Curated by Brendan Griebel & Jude Griebel**



Left: Passe-boule Ball Toss Game, France, c. 1900. Painted wood;
Right: Crash Test Dummy, Alderson Research Labs, Inc USA, c. 1960. metal, rubber.

Fall 2023 Exhibition Launch: Friday 22 September

Exhibition dates: 23 September - 17 December 2023

DOWNLOAD IMAGES HERE:

<https://eskerfoundation.com/press-release/care-and-wear/>

Curated by the Griebels from the collection of the [Museum of Fear and Wonder](#), *Care and Wear: Bodies Crafted for Harm and Healing* delves into the materiality of bodily experience: birth, growth, illness, anger, sexuality, disaster, frustration, and finally, death.

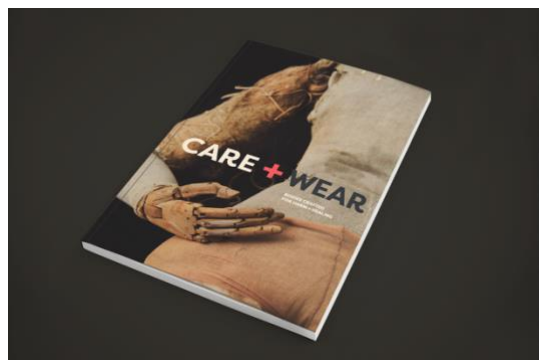
The exhibition will bring together a collection of crafted surrogates for the human body that are variously designed to model or mimic physical and emotional aspects of the human experience.

The Museum of Fear and Wonder is a collaborative project by **Brendan and Jude Griebel**. It houses and illuminates the Griebels' collection of historical craftworks that possess uneasy emotional or psychological resonance. The Museum opened in 2017 but represents over two decades of active collecting by the Griebels. Inspired by a shared childhood spent deep in the imaginary, and adult professions dedicated to visualizing and communicating inner lives (they are employed respectively in Anthropology and the Visual Arts), they have gravitated to acquiring material objects that speak to a larger picture of how humans understand their places in this world.

Brendan and Jude Griebel state in their forthcoming essay on the exhibition:

“throughout history, crafted forms of the human body have served as important didactic tools to connect humans to their own bodies and encourage them to use those bodies to engage in specific ways in relation to others. In many cases, bodies are manufactured as surrogates, stand-ins for human experiences that are challenging to deal with in the flesh. Regardless of their visual accuracy, we are encouraged to engage with these manufactured bodies as though they are real.”

The exhibition will ask viewers to question colonial practices of museum collection and display, and the problematic histories of representation in medicine, safety testing and training, sport, and play. *Care and Wear* will complicate the intended value and use of these objects and foreground the complexity of their emotional and tangible impact. In the same breath, it will highlight the uncanny capacity of these imaginatively crafted objects to manifest and negotiate aspects of the human experience.



An accompanying exhibition catalogue “Care and Wear: Bodies Created for Harm and Healing” will feature colour images of key pieces from the Museum of Fear and Wonder collection, as well as texts by Brendan and Jude Griebel, Lianne McTavish, and an interview with Brendan and Jude Griebel, Naomi Potter, and Shauna Thompson.

Biographies

Brendan Griebel is an Arctic Anthropologist, curator, and researcher of museology and material culture. His work facilitates the documentation and re-telling of stories through material form, and he works closely with Indigenous communities and independent scholars to communicate their collections to broader audiences. Griebel has spent 20+ years working with Inuit organizations and knowledge across the Canadian Arctic to facilitate the making, use, and interpretation of cultural objects ranging from traditional technologies, to architecture, museum collections, and digital media. Griebel holds a PhD in Anthropology, was the 2022 Fulbright Research Chair in Arctic Studies, and is a Research Associate of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Jude Griebel is a Canadian visual artist and the co-director of the Museum of Fear and Wonder. He creates intensively detailed figurative sculptures that visualize our entanglement with the surrounding world. Griebel has completed numerous residencies including Pioneer Works, New York; International Studio and Curatorial Program, New York; Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams and Yaddo; and Saratoga Springs, NY. His work has been collected internationally by institutions that include the Arsenal Contemporary Art, Montreal; the Frans Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee; and the Volpert Foundation, New York.

About the Museum of Fear and Wonder - www.fearandwonder.ca

The Museum of Fear and Wonder is a collaborative project by **Brendan Griebel** and **Jude Griebel**. It uses the dying tradition of the rural museum to highlight the psychological and narrative qualities of objects. The collection is comprised of emotionally complicated artifacts that speak directly to themes of human experience, identity and myth-making. It forms a greater story in its entirety, both educating and mystifying its audience.

Situated in a renovated army barracks outside the small community of **Bergen, Alberta**, the Museum of Fear and Wonder can be visited on an appointment basis by the curious. In coming years, the museum will play host to guest academics and curators, allowing them the space and isolation to write and reflect on human relationships to the world of possessions.

Note for Editors:**Exhibition Launch: Friday 22 September, 6-9pm, free.****Esker Foundation, 4th Floor, 1011 9th Avenue SE, Calgary.
Artists present. Refreshments will be served.**

Esker Foundation presents an extensive range of free online programs for all ages. Developed in response to our exhibitions they are designed to increase accessibility and to encourage participation in contemporary art.

About Esker Foundation

Esker Foundation is a privately funded contemporary art gallery located in Calgary, Canada. The gallery connects the public to contemporary art through relevant, accessible, and educational exhibitions, programs, and publications. Esker Foundation reflects on current developments in local, regional, and international culture; creates opportunities for public dialogue; and supports the production of ground-breaking new work, ideas, and research. Founded in 2012 by Jim and Susan Hill, Esker Foundation is a new model for institutional relevance, curatorial focus, and audience engagement. Find out more at www.eskerfoundation.art or follow us at @EskerFoundation.

Hours:

Wednesday to Friday: 11-6pm

Saturday & Sunday: 12-5pm

ADMISSION IS FREE

Accessibility: the gallery is barrier-free

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Press contact: Jill Henderson - Communications & Marketing

Tel: 403 930 2499

jhenderson@eskerfoundation.com**Esker Foundation**4th Floor, 1011 9th Ave SE Calgary,
Alberta, Canada

@EskerFoundation

www.eskerfoundation.com