

Joe Fafard: *Retailles*

June 1 - August 25, 2018



Internationally renowned, Joe Fafard is one of Canada's most recognized and prolific artists. Fafard's artistic practice is always evolving, driven by his endless experimentation with subject matter, media, process and technology. Whether in clay, bronze or steel sculpture or in drawing and printmaking, Fafard's work is characterized by his connection to his rural roots, his reverence for art history, his inquiry into form and his interest in three-dimensional illusion and perspective.

The exhibition *Retailles* offers an insight into Fafard's exploration of the laser-cut process and his creative renderings of its by-products in this collection of laser-cut and welded metal sculptures along with embossed and woodcut prints. French for scraps or trimmings, that which is cut away, *Retailles* not only references the act of removing the negative from positive space to create form, but refers to the act of recycling these "out-cuts" to create new works. Drawing features prominently in this exhibition, from the reduction of form to line in both three-dimensional and two-dimensional spaces to the Matisse-like cut-outs and the creation of recycled, sculptural collage.

The MAG is thrilled to show this exhibition, as one of our most important acquisitions in 2016 was the outdoor bronze wolf sculpture, *Mahihkan*, that has proven to become a visual icon for Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan.



Joe Fafard spoke at length about his work, life philosophy, and drive to make art during the well-attended opening reception for *Retailles*. He stopped by the gallery several times this summer to visit with gallery staff and visitors, view the exhibition, and check on *Mahihkan*. Sadly, it was the last time Joe would speak with us; he passed away, surrounded by family, in Lumsden, SK, on March 16, 2019. We are so grateful for his life, work, and contributions to the arts here in Prince Albert and around the world.