



Monuments: Memorials of a Family

Tracy Charette Fehr

June 23 - August 20, 2022

About Monuments

In this exhibition of soft monuments, Tracy Charette Fehr draws on research she has done on Métis craftwork and her family history to pay homage to her foremothers. Descended from Red River Métis and Mennonite settlers, the artist has traced her grandmother's history back to Madeline Saulteaux, who was born in 1770.

"These works are my way to show respect for and to memorialize my Métis family," she writes. Wanting to draw attention to Métis women, "who helped birth the Métis nation in Manitoba," Tracy says "we don't hear a lot about the women, you know, who worked alongside the Métis men.... I wanted the regular women to be recognized — all of those people who carried the culture, you know, and maintained the culture. [...] Not to minimize anything — Louis Riel was a great leader ... but there was so much more."

Constructed with animal hides, textiles, photo collage, embroidery, beadwork, print, and sculpture, these monuments reference the land, labour, and culture of the Charette family. "They act as markers, evoking the fur trade, an important economic and cultural tradition in my family since the late eighteenth century."

Tracy Charette Fehr is an interdisciplinary artist who lives north of Winnipeg with her family. She has just completed the requirements for an MFA (University of Manitoba) with special interest in Métis material culture: beading, quill work and embroidery. She is a recipient of Canada Council for the Arts and Manitoba Arts Council grants for both research and creation. In 2021-2022 she participated as Masters Student Scholar in the Manitoba Museum's program to revitalize Indigenous Arts.

Image: installation view in the Project Space