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NEIL WEDMAN: ICE CAVES

April 25th to May 25th, 2024

Reception for the artist: Thursday, April 25th 6-8pm

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Equinox Gallery is pleased to present *Ice Caves*, a selection of new paintings by Neil Wedman.

In choosing his subject, Wedman explains, “I became interested in making paintings of caves as I was thinking of forms that could be depicted without a brush...the idea evolved fairly quickly to become ice caves in subdued monochromes that have more of a relationship with light and liquid, an image described in poured paint.”

Wedman’s ice caves are created through a process of mixing and then significantly diluting acrylic paint, until it is as close as possible to the consistency of water. Holding the canvas vertically, the paint is carefully poured from a bottle down the surface. Each canvas is then expertly tilted or rotated to direct the flow of paint. This is where the medium and subject begin to echo one another—as the layers of liquid solidify, they resemble flowstone and other forms that might occur in an ice cave. The resulting paintings present a unique visual vocabulary which unveils itself slowly, where the subject is camouflaged by the same material method used to reveal it.

Over the past decade, Wedman has explored the possibilities of the monochromatic image through paintings, watercolours, and drawings. He has used spectacular imagery such as desert rainbows and exploding firework factories in order to see past their sensationalism by depicting these scenes strictly in multiple tones of grey. *Neil Wedman: Ice Caves* continues Wedman’s interest in figurative paintings that border on the indecipherable, encouraging a slow reading of their subject. By rendering these scenes in this manner, Wedman amplifies the material process so that the subject and the surface of his paintings reside on equal terms.

Neil Wedman has committed over 40 years to painting, drawing, watercolour and multi-media works. He has exhibited extensively across Canada, including a two-part retrospective at Equinox Gallery, Vancouver (2012) and Charles H. Scott Gallery, Vancouver (2013) with an accompanying monographic publication. His work is represented in the collections of the Vancouver Art Gallery, Microsoft, Surrey Art Gallery, among others. Wedman teaches at both Emily Carr University and Simon Fraser University where he has influenced generations of students. He lives in Vancouver where he maintains an active, research-based studio practice.