

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Oshawa, Ontario – May 16, 2016

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery presents *jerm IX: The Singing Alarm*

jerm IX: The Singing Alarm

Curated by Sonya Jones

June 1, 2016 – August 21, 2016

Opening and Tour: Friday, August 5, 2016 from 7-10pm

This summer, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG) will present an exhibition featuring work by Canadian street artist jerm IX entitled *The Singing Alarm*. Describing himself as a street artist, lyricist, poet, photographer and urban explorer, the photographs included depict the vacant Knob Hill Farms building in Oshawa. jerm IX's photography is rooted in urban exploring, and reflects on the abandonment issues in society and the disregard to the natural world by humankind.

As both an urban explorer and a street/graffiti artist, jerm IX treads carefully in the middle. The two identities are not compatible or related. Urban explorers are an online community who explore abandoned buildings and inaccessible areas, but do not tag the locations they have visited. jerm IX uses his sense of connection with the locations he visits and takes a part of their history, personifies it and treats the space as a living, breathing entity.

The photographs featured in the exhibition are originally from his blog series entitled *Abandonment Issues*, where he documents his urban exploration through photography and poetry. The supermarket chain Knob Hill Farms operated at the Oshawa location from 1983-2001. Originally the building, dating back to 1872, was the Ontario Malleable Iron Company, an iron foundry that was in operation until 1977. jerm IX's explorations took him through both the historical parts and Knob Hill Farms additions, bridging the two histories together.

This exhibition begins with a selection of Thomas Bouckley Collection images to give historical context to jerm IX's photographs, but the focus is on a rare glimpse of the interior of one of Oshawa's large, vacant, historical structures and the artist's interaction with the site.

jerm IX: The Singing Alarm is curated by Sonya Jones. Please join us and celebrate the exhibition with an opening on Friday, August 5 from 7-10pm.

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THE ROBERT McLAUGHLIN GALLERY

72 Queen Street, Civic Centre, Oshawa, Ontario L1H 3Z3

905-576-3000 communications@rmg.on.ca | www.rmg.on.ca

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Media Inquiries: Sam Mogelonsky, Manager, Marketing & Communications |

smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca | 905-576-3000 ext 109

Directions: From Toronto, 401 E to Oshawa, exit Simcoe St, North to Bagot St. Turn left at Bagot, 2 blocks to Gallery.

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thursday: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sunday: 12 pm - 4:00 pm. Admission by donation.

Parking available. Accessible location.

jerm IX: The Singing Alarm **Fact Sheet**

Curated by Sonya Jones

Exhibition Dates: June 1, 2016 - August 21, 2016

About the Exhibition

“I remember shopping here as a child. I remember the cheesy commercials and the corny Christmas jingles. And now I’ll never forget the song she sang and the dance we danced on this day.” – jerm IX

Peterborough-based artist jerm IX, describes himself as a street artist, lyricist, poet, photographer and urban explorer. The photographs featured in this exhibition were originally posted on his blog series entitled *Abandonment Issues*—where he documents his urban explorations through photography and poetry. Urban explorers is a term used to describe an online community who explores abandoned buildings and inaccessible areas. On urbanexplorers.net, the movement is described as: “The pure enjoyment of exploring places that most people won’t go. The experience of maneuvering mazes and obstacles of days gone by. The adrenaline rush of the unexpected.” As both an urban explorer and street/graffiti artist, jerm IX treads carefully in the middle. These two identities are not compatible or related, as urban explorers are not interested in tagging their locations. He says he feels a personal connection with the locations he chooses—a part of their history—and writes about the experience of the place as almost a living, breathing entity. His blog postings don’t just consist of photographs documenting his experiences, but also written word about his interaction with the place.

In this case, jerm IX explores the vacant building that was once home to the supermarket chain Knob Hill Farms, which operated at the Front Street and First Avenue Oshawa location from 1983-2001. The original sections of the building date back to 1872, when it was the Ontario Malleable Iron Company, an iron foundry that was in operation until 1977. The foundry was established by brothers John and William Cowan, and employed anywhere from 350-800 people a year. Not only does jerm IX explore the modern additions built for Knob Hill, but the interior of the original iron foundry. The exhibition begins with a selection of Thomas Bouckley Collection images to give historical context to jerm IX ’s photographs, but the focus is on a rare glimpse of the interior of this large, vacant, structure. jerm IX ’s romantic interaction and the resulting photographs are an homage to the history this building holds for the community.

Artist’s Biography:

jerm IX is a Peterborough-based street artist and poet. He describes himself as a street artist, lyricist, poet, photographer and urban explorer. The photographs featured in the exhibition are originally from his blog series entitled *Abandonment Issues*, where he documents his urban exploration through photography and poetry. Urban explorers are an online community who explore abandoned buildings and inaccessible areas.

About the Thomas Bouckley Collection

The Thomas Bouckley Collection was donated to the RMG by the late Thomas Bouckley, collector and history enthusiast of Oshawa. The computerized collection comprises over 3,000 historical photographs of Oshawa and Durham Region, spanning over 100 years. The collection is a remarkable resource for understanding and engaging with Oshawa's local history.

Event:

Opening and Tour at RMG Fridays: Summer Jams Friday, August 5 from 7-10pm

Tour *The Singing Alarm* an exhibition by street artist, lyricist, poet, photographer and urban explorer jerm IX. Chill out to the warm sounds of summer as Durham musicians Rory Taillon and Patrick Dorie strum us through the evening.

Credit Line

Organized by The Robert McLaughlin Gallery.

Please note the credit line must be used on all published materials.

For all press inquiries, please contact:

Sam Mogelonsky – Manager of Marketing and Communications
smogelonsky@rmg.on.ca | 905-576-3000 x109

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

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** Please note that all images must be accompanied by complete credits **



jerm IX, Knob Hill Farms, 2011 digital print,
Courtesy of the artist



jerm IX, Knob Hill Farms, 2011 digital print,
Courtesy of the artist

For access to high resolution images, please contact:
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