

## **Heritage Tableau #24**

*A note from the artist*

The Heritage Tableau is a 16 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 8 ft. (plus) tall “prop wagon” that draws from the architectural form of parade wagons used in the Ringling Brothers Circus. By using the form of the wagon, I can easily contain narratives of Wisconsin history and tradition.

My artistic practice focuses on ancestry and how folk traditions and craft are passed down through familial lines. The wagon’s decoration depicts natural cycles of life and death and the *magic* that surrounds these cycles. The way humanity resides within nature can feel distant in a technological age. There are also many personal symbols imbedded within the wagon, thus this piece becomes part of my own personal circus. Heritage Tableau #24 has the power to remind us of our surroundings and triggers an otherworldly sense of nostalgia.

Through research, I have found that the impact that the Ringling Brothers and other circus troupes had in our area lends itself to Wisconsin’s specific culture. By recreating a 1:1 scale wagon, I have found that the monumental presence of the object impacts the viewer similarly to other historical artifacts. The physicality of history becomes palpable. The experience is emphasized by video projections and atmospheric audio. Through incorporating several sensory triggers, the wagon takes on an almost mystic presence. The object gains an awe much the same as other natural wonders have. The viewer senses that the work has time-traveled into the gallery.

Heritage Tableau #24 is, indeed, utterly one-of-a-kind.

## **Audio & Visual Credits:**

Historic Video Courtesy of the Circus World Robert L. Parkinson Library

Freedom Steam Calliope

153 Military Style Wurlitzer Band Organ

“Surfin USA” *written by Brian Wilson and Chuck Berry*

“Muppet Show Theme” *Composed by Sam Pottle, Lyrics by Jim Henson*

“On The Sunny Side of the Street” *Composed by Jimmy McHugh, Lyrics by Dorothy Fields*

“In the Mood” *Composed by Glenn Miller*

**Thank You** for making this show possible:

*Kelli & Carl Eklof, Dean Samens, Doug Stodola, Hannah Phelps, Timothy Tozer, and Kelly O'Brien*