

The Heartland

By Nic Martin

Nic Martin is an artist from Fort Saskatchewan Alberta whose practice focuses on painting and printmaking, with an emphasis on plein air painting (working outdoors). His small works are created on location, allowing him to immerse himself in the subject and respond directly to the environment before developing larger pieces in the studio.

Through his paintings, Nic invites viewers to reflect on the landscapes they inhabit and to consider their relationship to the environments that shape daily life.

Consider Questions Like...

How many local plants can you name vs fast food restaurants?

What industries define your sense of place or identity here? How does an industry define identity?

What aspects of Fort Saskatchewan's history still influence its culture today?

Do you know your neighbours? How does community connection shape the places we live in?

Do we always need more? What is enough?



This exhibit explores the ways people interact with the environment around Fort Saskatchewan, highlighting different aspects of human geography:

- **Economic geography** – how people make a living and contribute to local economic development, such as resource extraction in Alberta's Industrial Heartland.
- **Environmental geography** – how people interact with nature and fragile ecosystems like the Beaver Hills Moraine (Elk Island, Miquelon Lake) that are surrounded by industry.
- **Urban geography** – how cities expand and redevelop, seen in the growth of new subdivisions such as Westpark and Southfort.
- **Cultural geography** – how customs and traditions are shaped by place, from Canada Day celebrations to political movements that define local identity.

Exhibit on Display

October 9 - November 9, 2025

Artist Meet & Greet

October 18, 2025 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

The Gallery is open to the public on Thursday and Friday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, and during most events. Please call 780.992.6400 for more information.

All artwork represented has been consigned for this display to the City of Fort Saskatchewan.