

Dustin Wilson - Reversion to the Original Point

We'd been having trouble connecting. Between us there had been three missed calls, two voicemails, four text messages, and several emails; Dustin Wilson has been trying to reach me. Sending out speculative signals from his new home in Guelph, Ontario. It's a fitting episode for the artist, and perhaps an apt anecdote for a discussion of his work.

Wilson has an intrinsic relationship with drawing. His work employs a keen sense of detail and nuance; cultivated through intricate line drawings, invested animations and engaging performative lectures. Situated within a practice that bridges multi-narratives, with scientific intrigue, and explorations of regional social-political concerns, Wilson highlights the ever-growing tension between technology and nature. He remains critically motivated by adopting institutional language, and scientific research methods. These are field notes, preliminary charts, and makeshift diagrams; documentation of his various investigations, forming a distinct compilation of messages.

Offering fragments, glimpses, and transmissions, of a dystopic neo-apocalyptic world, these visions feel conflictingly recognizable through their re-representations of rural possibilities. These are monstrous what-ifs; dreadfully peculiar revelations of a world not too long off, populated with creatures and mutations, filled with the technological advances necessary to survive this strange existence. Wilson inverts the notion of legend, blurring the line between myth and knowledge, offering forecasts that blatantly teeter between fact and fiction. A clever use of contradiction, he makes apparent the flaws of prediction, the inherent contention in prophecy.

Despite the disquieting tone of the work, these pre-visions feel less like horrible warnings and more like mythic promises (however broken). Wilson may be pulling our collective leg, but there's no inside joke. In the end, the intimacy of detail and the play within authenticity, encourage an even closer examination of the eclectic picture his accumulative works strive to illustrate. Wilson may know something you don't know, but he's eager to let you in on the secret.

*Starting out from Pollard's Point, a tiny community on the island of Newfoundland, **Jerry Ropson** is a sometimes writer and most-of-the-time artist, currently living in Sackville, New Brunswick.*