

AMEN

In Hebrew, the word "AMEN" translates as "so be it," "it is so," "truth," and "certainty."

AMEN is a declaration of my commitment to the artistic life in the Nietzschean sense that art is the highest form of human activity. It is an act of redemption - a form of catharsis in the Aristotelian manner. It is my attempt to turn the tragedy of the sudden passing of my brother into a beautiful triumph in his memory. To live life to the fullest and continue to build on his legacy of light, joy, kindness, and hard work.

This is the first gallery exhibition I have had since my little brother was tragically killed at the end of last year. The loss of Neil has undoubtedly been the most difficult thing I have ever experienced. Also, as some of you know, we unexpectedly lost my beloved father last August. I have experienced so much tragedy over the past year, and we all have endured countless losses due to Covid-19.

As I face my grief and try to navigate this new reality, I can't help but think of all the strength and wisdom my brother bestowed upon me in our 30 years together. When I contemplate how perceptive and intuitive, he was, my mind immediately takes me to when my father passed and how inconsolable I was at the time. Instead of joining my pity party, my stoic little brother instructed me to stop asking, 'why is this happening to me?' and ask, 'what is this teaching me?'. I now find myself asking that same question: what is his death teaching me? For those of you who knew Neil, you know how he would want me to handle the aftermath of his death - he would want me to "buck up" and thrive, and that's exactly what I intend to do.

AMEN highlights the sacredness art holds and emphasizes its power to heal. Art is spiritual, visceral, transcendent, and restorative. It connects us to the sublime, the divine, the fourth dimension of the human experience. To quote the prolific architect Bruce Goff, "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the basis of all art and science." This exhibition aims to illuminate the mysterious and endeavors to shine some light in the darkest of times. It is a sort of visual requiem for my brother Neil, who I deeply admire and adore so much.

- GARLYN GRYDER

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