

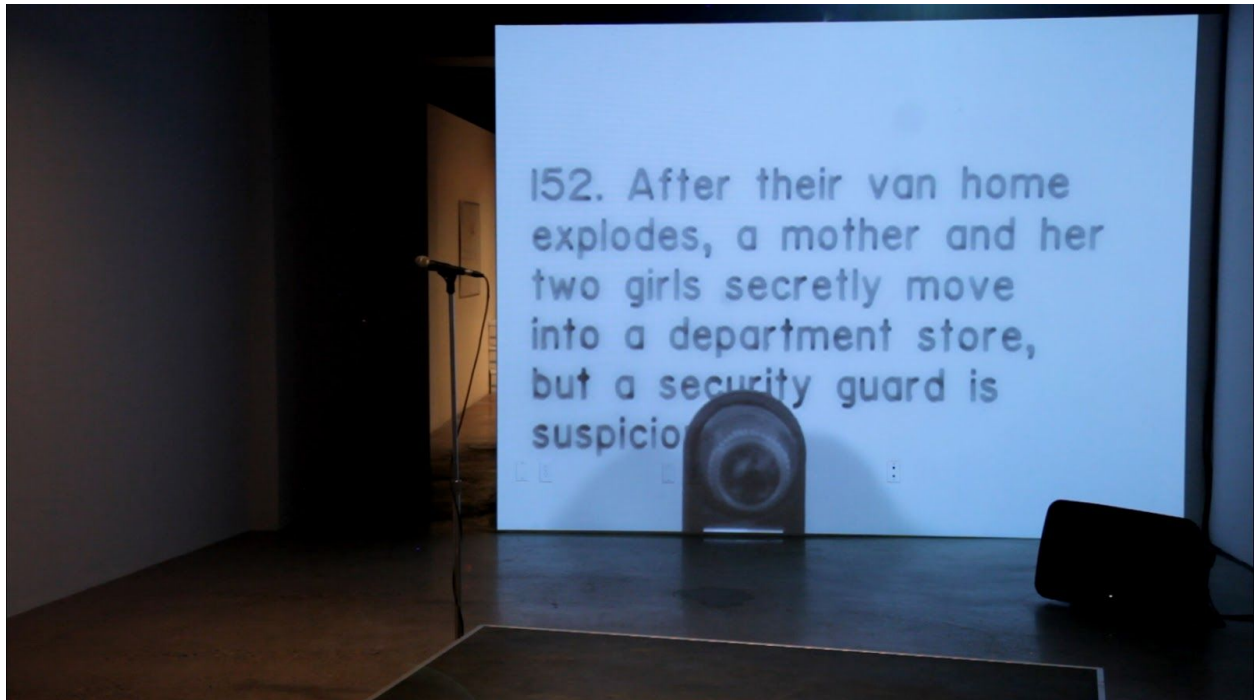
## Deadpan Humour and Dead Technology Summon a Spirited Examination of the Cast-off

January 20 – February 18, 2017

Tim Dallett

*Relationships between two or more spaces, audience and performer, modified.*

PAVED Arts, Saskatoon



Borrowing the dry and charmless language of conceptual art, Tim Dallett's *Relationships between two or more spaces, audience and performer, modified* is rife with wit so sly, you may miss it.

It's been years since I've been inside of PAVED, but even a regular visitor might be excused for missing or dismissing the hastily constructed wall that smoothes out the gallery's odd angles at the expense of cutting off access to the washroom, kitchen and the switches for the gallery lights. This impractical improvement is the titular modified space.

Dallett's subtle pranks aren't always for the gallery viewer: PAVED Director David LaRiviere received a series of anonymous postcards in the mail for many months before this exhibition opened, each featuring a picture of the brutalist Dominion Research Station and scrawled with an enigmatic statement: "Allied soldiers dig a tunnel in a Nazi prison camp, pocketfuls of dirt at a time," or "A wily bank robber planning retirement leaves scant clues for a Los Angeles detective with family problems."

The messages turned out to be movie summaries. Succinct, but often missing the point and leaving out key details, they lose their point of reference.

Dallett explains in a written statement that in the years when he was Director of PAVED his partner subscribed to cable TV, and, although they didn't get the movie channel, they got the listings for the movie channel. Dallett recorded many hundreds of these bafflingly vague synopses.

These descriptions are not really the subject of this work, but a vehicle for exploring the real subject: the fleeting nature of our cultural artifacts and their transmission.

On first glance the exhibition is merely a pile of junk. A drafting table is scattered with meticulously lettered slips of velum, a binder stuffed with handwritten notes on foolscap paper, and a brown keyboard with yellowed keys connected to a T-square and pen nib: the NC-scriber 20. A second glance reveals nothing in this room can be taken for granted.

If you missed your chance to take in this unexpectedly giddy work on view at PAVED Arts until February 18, don't worry. You can probably still enjoy a take-away multiple produced by Dallett: a typed and Xeroxed list of the movie descriptions available for take-away.

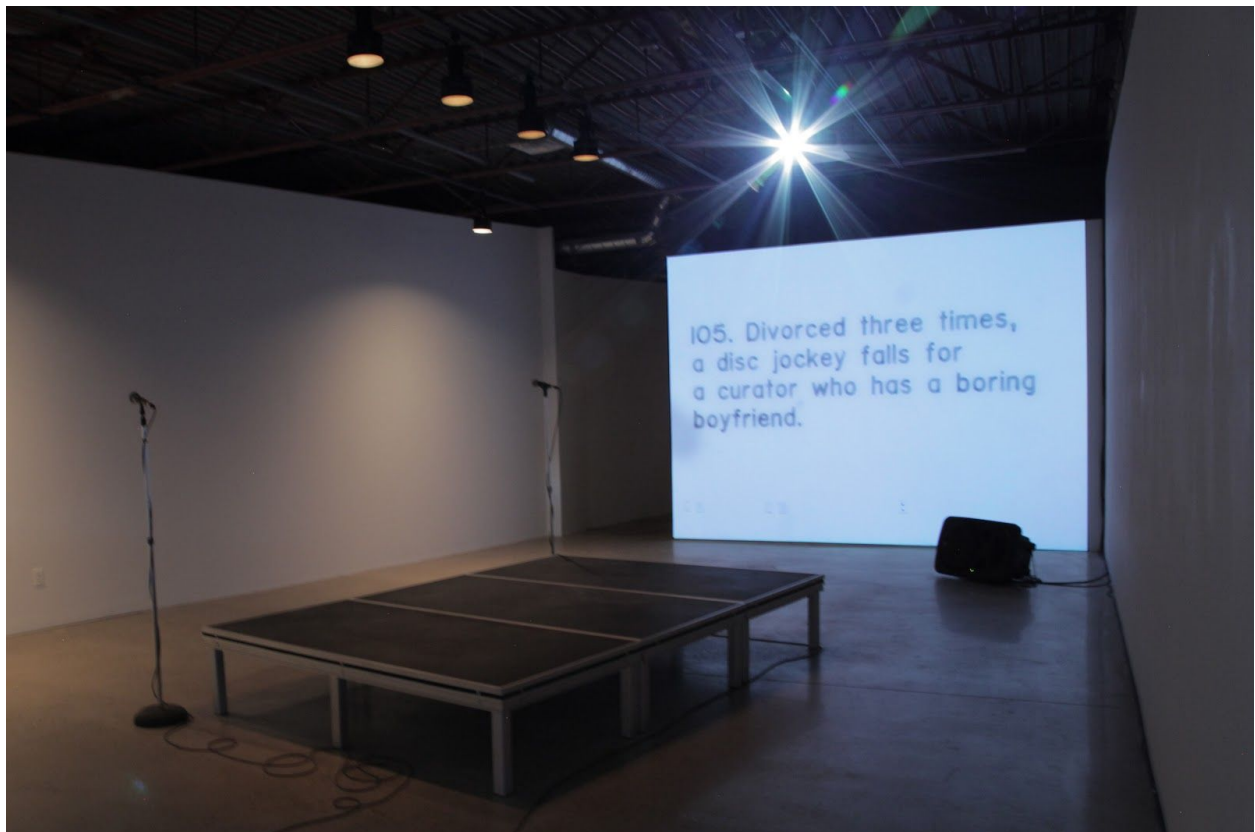


Photo credit: PAVED Arts