



Newsletter of the **Sculptors' Association of Alberta**... encouraging and promoting the creation of sculpture for over 30 years... Contact: info@sculptorsassociation.ca

SAA Website <www.sculptors-alberta.com>

Newsletter is printed in black & white but is in colour on website or by email ...



ICE CASTLES EDMONTON- more inside...

NEXT MEETING

at **Harcourt Annex**, 10211- 112 St., Edmonton (*Ring the bell to be let inside*)...

On Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Executive Meeting, at 6:45pm; Member's Meeting at 7:30 pm.

On the Agenda: *Member Show & Tell-*

Rick Rogers (VASA via Carroll) will be speaking briefly about Experimental Art Society symposium and show in St. Albert in August. Also, new members- Maggie Slater, and Karen Klassen will present their work.

We welcome everyone with an interest in ***sculpture!***



Message from the President...

This seems to be an active time for all of us... with Night of Artists fast approaching, and VASA show not too far behind. We have a few irons in the fire which I'm hoping will lead to some collaborative shows with a group outside Edmonton, and another collaboration with other visual artists and Northlands for the summer. Nothing solid yet... just plans in the making. When there is more to tell, I will report back!

Meanwhile, I want to thank *Carroll Charest* for tackling the daunting task of organizing our two upcoming shows – the logistics of the exhibitions, and persistence in “herding” artists, is no small feat! And looking to broaden our reach as an association, she has secured an exhibition for us in Drumheller for summer 2022!

As snow and ice season winds down, my thanks to *Barb Marcinkoski* for making it such a success. I know the season is not quite over, but wanted to recognize her ongoing diligence in maintaining a strong link with communities in and around Edmonton, and creating opportunities for artists to carve and to hone their skills. Thanks also to *Ritchie Velthuis* and *Ice Castles* for their tremendous support for SAA!

Our numbers at meetings and new memberships are growing, in large part thanks to *Keith Turnbull* who has put together great speakers this year. I am looking forward to the member sharing circles over the next couple of meetings! Hoping some of our newer members will share their work with us.

When I took on this role, my objective was to grow our membership and our opportunities for exhibition. It is gratifying to see it begin to happen, but there is still a long way to go. It really is up to all of us to spread the word about SAA so we can continue to grow and diversify as an organization – and continue to reach outside Edmonton to become the provincial organization we are mandated to be.

Ellie Shuster

ellie@shuster.com

www.behindthefaces.ca

The Sulptors' Association of Alberta MEMBERSHIP Fees:

\$40.00 (newsletter emailed)

\$45 (newsletter mailed)

Collaboration...

By Ritchie Velthuis

This year I decided to stretch my boundaries and collaborate with other artists of different media. This year, I was blessed to collaborate with video artist, Kalli Melenius, for a project for the Luminaria fundraiser for the Devonian Botanical Gardens which we included in the opening of weekend of Ice Castles. I created a sculpture from recycled material and Kallie video mapped beautiful images onto it... *photo below*



MASK MAKING WORKSHOP...

INSTRUCTOR: Helen Rogers

PHONE : 780 458-0242 Cell 780 934-2169

EMAIL : dhrogers2@shaw.ca

WORKSHOP OUTLINE:

Beginning with a base of a styrofoam manikin head, participants will build a free form mask using medical plaster infused bandages as the main material. **Day 1** will be building the mask form including details by layering strips onto this form and personalizing the shape of the mask. Once dry, **Day 2** will be spent exploring ways to embellish the mask (paint, tissue, beads, etc.)

DATE: Saturday, April 18 and Saturday, April 25

TIME: 1:00 - 4:00

LOCATION: TBA

SUPPLIES provided by instructor:

- styrofoam manikin head
- plaster infused bandage strips
- some materials for embellishment, glue, brushes

SUPPLIES participants need to bring:

- disposable gloves, work clothes
- personal materials participants may want to use for embellishment (eg. Paint, glitter, fancy edging, wire, beads)

COSTS: \$85 members \$95 non members

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Minimum needed to have workshop--6 people; Maximum needed to have workshop--10 people

SAA EXHIBITIONS...

Hi everyone,

For those who were not at our last meeting, I just wanted to recap on our Studio YEG show over Dec/Jan and that 5 of our members sold 2 pieces each. Congratulations to Ellie, Wanda, Keith, Wes, and Barry!

Our next feature is of course the infamous indoor Art Walk in St. Albert – the Night of Artists. The opening Gala is on Friday, March 20 from 6 to 10 pm., tickets available on line at Eventbrite or at the door. The Friday Gala will have lots of activities, music, and events happening. Saturday it is opened from 11 to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 to 4. No tickets required on those days but donations are welcomed. We have 15 members participating this year! So come on by and support this event with your fellow members. If you cannot make it, please remember to share and like on the Facebook page to help get the word out

Our next adventure is in June at VASA Studio and Galleries in St. Albert for the show “What Moves You.” We have 20 sculptors working on a variety of photos sent in by the community to show how their photo can be more than a 2D painting and hopefully let them see how sculptures can add to their environment inside and out. Look for that invite to share with everyone coming soon.

And just a note for a future show, in June 2022, we are expanding our horizons and have been accepted to the GM Western Gallery in Drumheller. More on this as we get closer!

If you have other ideas/thoughts/venues you think would be good for SAA to show at, please feel free to contact myself or another board member.

Thank you
Carroll
Exhibitions coordinator



VASA Photo Above: MAGPIE BATH TIME

*Photo below: Sculptural interpretation –
“Magpie Bathing”
By Tania Garner Tomas*



Ice & Snow Report

We're almost at the end of the outdoor ice and snow carving season. This is also when our supply of good ice dries up (melts?)

This year again, our ice supplier was the Ice Castles and their leader, Ritchie Velthuis. Thank you so much for helping us to carve ice and bring joy to our clients and the public! You have been very accommodating and we appreciate that. Also thanks to all the artists who have picked up and hauled the ice in their vehicles and set it up on site.

Not only has Ice Castles brought in ice in for us, they will be sponsoring an **ice workshop on March 7 at Ice Castles**, providing the ice and location! The workshop is intended for beginners as well as more experienced carvers who are looking to improve their art. Please contact me if you would like to participate. There are 20 blocks for us to carve. Let's have fun with this!

We had a good year using some 37 blocks at 9 events. Eleven carvers completed these works. Four of the events were new for us. I even have some early interest for a new event in Airdrie next December.

Cheers!

Barb Marcinkoski

Ice workshop- Saturday, March 7 at Ice Castles, Hawrelak Park... If you would like to/can attend, please contact Barb Marcinkoski ASAP : barbmarcink@gmail.com. The cost will be minimal to pay a few of our experienced members to instruct. The course will cover beginner and advanced ice carving.

Morning instruction (location TBD) will cover: appropriate subject matter and composition/design, –construction, –carving –tools, –safety. Afternoon will be hands-on carving.

Ice Castles Edmonton...

by Ritchie Velthuis

When I first approached Ice Castles some 6 or 7 years ago, I was excited to have them create Edmonton's first Ice Castle. It took a couple years of negotiation but it finally happened 5 years ago. To me, it is a spectacular sculpture and art installation that transports people into a different world. Needing a change, I began working with the team of artist to create this spectacle three years ago and this year I took on one of my greatest challenges of my career: Build Manager for Ice Castles Edmonton.

Grateful and blessed for this a opportunity, I quickly recognized that this was definitely a team effort. The castle is built through a series of irrigation lines and 72 sprinkler head which are used to spray on icicles in different configurations to grow the castle. For it to be successful, a commitment from my team was imperative, so I set about creating as positive a work place environment as I possibly could. The 30 plus people working on the project were broken down into 7 teams, each responsible for their own area. If any area was falling behind, we collectively pitched in to catch them up.

Each day, we had morning meetings to collectively decide on the days tasks, express concerns, problem solve and encourage each other. Rather than focussing of the problems (and there were many), we focussed on solutions. Even when the problems seemed insurmountable and the only option seemed to be going to a dark place, I forced myself to focus on being in a place of gratitude. Having an attitude of gratitude is infectious and empowers people to let their talents shine. The results speak for themselves and I could not be more proud of the people who made it happen.



register: email Shawn Olander, Workshop Chair
shawnolander@gmail.com



MOSAIC WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: Helen Rogers

DATES: Saturday, May 9 and Saturday, May 16
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - SAT. MAY 2

FEES: \$85.00 SAA members / \$95.00 non-members

ADDRESS: 41 Fair Oaks Drive, St. Albert

Email: dhrogers2@shaw.ca

LOCATION: On my deck--weather permitting
In garage if weather does not allow outside work
Come dressed for hot/cold or anything in between

MATERIALS PROVIDED: one styrofoam ball, one Ikea mirror, tile adhesive, grout, glass cutters, nippers, mosaic tesserae, sponges

YOU BRING: safety glasses, disposable gloves, lunch, messy work clothes or apron - especially for grouting May 4, mosaic tesserae you might like to add eg, jewellery, buttons, etc.

MOSAIC WORKSHOP OUTLINE:

DAY 1: Instruction on mosaic materials and techniques. Begin putting tesserae on supports (styrofoam ball and/or Ikea mirror).

HOMEWORK: finish putting mosaic on project

DAY 2: Grind off sharp edges of glass or mirror tesserae. Grout project. You will have a choice of black, white or grey grout. Keep this in mind when you are choosing colors for your mosaic pieces--contrast works best.

HOMEWORK: wipe off excess grout and put project in plastic to dry slowly. (24 hrs.)

HOMEWORK: Remove any dried grout from mosaic tesserae. Paint wash of India ink to make the black grout really black and blue paint to brighten up the blue grout. Wipe projects with clean water and polish with cloth. When dry, paint grout with sealer to protect from stains, etc.

MOSAIC VOCABULARY

Mosaic: Many pieces of any material, which, when put together, make a picture or complete a surface area.

Tesserae: Pieces of any material used to make mosaics. These include traditional materials such as smalti (a kind of stone that is used in mosaic art), vitreous glass, marble, stones and pebbles but also broken tiles, stained glass, seeds, beads, jewellery, washers and many more found materials.

Tools: Glass cutters, nippers, tile breakers and the more traditional hammer and hardie (upside down v that you place your smalti or other tiles on to break them with a hammer).

Supports: Mosaic can be done on many different surfaces. The placement (where the mosaic will be placed), longevity (how long you want it to last) and surface itself (very shiny and very bumpy are difficult) will determine the surface you choose. MDF - medium density fibreboard, plywood (marine for outdoors), styrofoam, raw ceramics are some that work. The surface must not be pliable otherwise you run the risk of it warping. Most surfaces should be scored or sanded to provide better adhesion.

Adhesives and Glues: Used for attaching the tesserae to the backing. For indoor projects, tile adhesive works--for outdoor work, thinset mortar (cement based) is best. White glue (PVA) may also be used for lighter tesserae.

Grout: This is used to fill in the spaces between tesserae. Unless the spaces between tesserae are consistent, sanded (as opposed to non-sanded) grout is best. Grout comes in powdered and pre-mixed packages, the former being less expensive.

Grout Sealer: Once the grout is dry, this is painted over all grouted areas to prevent it from getting stained or dirty.

Other Materials: Containers for water and mixing grout, safety glasses (when cutting glass), face mask (when mixing grout), rubber gloves (for applying grout), sponges (wiping off excess grout), clean rags to do the final polishing. Also, acrylic paint for finishing sides and back or some added details.

WHERE TO PURCHASE MATERIALS

- Bissett Glass: 99 St. 31 Ave.--stained glass, tools, books on mosaics.
- Home Depot or most hardware stores: tile adhesive, grout, sealers, safety glass, masks, gloves.
- Re-Store: Mayfield Road 107 Ave. and 88 Ave. and Yellowhead Trail
- Garage sales: for unexpected found materials.
- Michaels, Dollar Stores or other craft stores: for glass beads, stones, rubber gloves, styrofoam balls.



Gesture Workshop with Herman Poulin



Yiyi Datar at Gesture Workshop

EDITOR'S NOTE... I want to share this lovely poem that speaks to me just now as I am recovering from a virus and infection as well as the loss of a loved one. This old saying comes to mind- "When it rains, it pours."

**If the mountain seems too big today,
Then climb a hill instead.
If the morning brings you sadness,
It's okay to stay in bed.
If the day ahead weighs heavy
And your plans feel like a curse,
There's no shame in re-arranging,
Don't make yourself feel worse.
If a shower stings like needles
And a bath feels like you'll drown,
If you haven't washed your hair for day
Don't throw away your crown!
A day is not a lifetime,
A rest is not defeat.
Don't think of it as failure,
Just a quiet, kind retreat.
It's okay to take a moment
From an anxious, fractured mind.
The world will not stop turning
While you get realigned.
The mountain will still be there
When you want to try again,
So climb it in your own time
...and love yourself 'til then.**

My apologies for missing the last month's newsletter and my apologies to Ritchie who had made the effort to send me the photos and his article about his work with Ice Castles Edmonton for the newsletter that did not happen; however, as you may have noticed it may be a little later but I appreciate the contribution for this newsletter.

I am in awe of the wonderful efforts of Ritchie and his team. I am certain that a decade ago, you (Ritchie) had no idea that you might be capable of creating this wonderfully interactive art that the public would get to enjoy so much.

I find it absolutely inspirational when I consider this project and all the wonderful accomplishments of members of the Sculptors' Association over the years of its existence.

In just the area of Ice and Snow, members of this group have created numerous sculptures locally and provincially to add to many community celebrations. Our members have also competed nationally and internationally with wonderful large sculptural creations.

As a group, SAA members have produced large works that ended up becoming public pieces that were purchased. Individually, there have been many members who have garnered commissions to do large public pieces which include a variety of mediums like bronze, stone, concrete, and metal.

Collectively, the SAA and its alumni have a rich incredibly rich history of accomplishment... one only needs to peruse archived issues of the Armature to get a glimpse of the many triumphs.

In addition, the SAA has an active exhibition history which

allows its membership to grow. The SAA has been largely encouraging of all ages and stages of accomplishment. Each of the people who eventually went on to doing large public pieces began with the smaller pieces and exhibition opportunities... and most continue to produce work for exhibition

And the reality is that there is merit in either path. It is all about creating and following through on challenges. When you create something that resonates in the viewer, you have succeeded whether the piece is large or small.

Pablo Picasso once said, "The artist is a receptacle for emotions that come from all over the place; from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider's web." When you capture something that resonates with another person, you have put that understanding, that thing that you recognized into your work. You have, in essence, transferred your energy into your work.

Make no mistake, the Sculptors' Association of Alberta affects other people- artists as they are developing and the public who view the work created by SAA sculptors. You, as a member, can be proud of what we have achieved together.

Marjorie Davies

Please note immediate deadline!!!!

**The ACACA (Alberta Community Art Clubs Associations)
shows/competitions are coming up.**

You must be a member to enter (**deadline is Feb 28**) – there are sculpture categories.

North AB Zone Show May 9-10 in St. Paul AB
South AB Zone Show May 29-31 in Duchess AB
Central AB Zone Show June 13-14 in Lacombe AB

Website is <https://acaca.ab.ca/>

Sincerely,
Debbie Cameron-Laninga

All submissions will be gratefully accepted
but may
be edited due to space considerations...

**NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
end of 3rd week of each month**



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