



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 ...



**Canadian legends
Bob &
Doug
McKenzie

Bronze
Sculpture
By
Ritchie
Velthuis

more
inside...**

NEXT MEETING

(cancelled due to COVID-19)

Usually held...

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

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

On the Agenda: T.B.A.

We welcome everyone with an interest in sculpture!



Message from the President

What a weird time we find ourselves in! It is both present and remote; Stressful and relaxing; Motivating and demotivating. I guess it is what we make of it, and we will find the silver lining.

On a personal note, news and social media invades my time. While the news causes emotional turmoil, social media gives me an opportunity to enjoy the art, music and humour provided by my friends. I'll be the first to admit I am spending way too much time on my devices! But while selling my art may be a challenge right now, appreciating the art of others motivates me into the studio to experiment and sculpt, and to look for new opportunities.

It is sad to have all our exhibitions and workshops cancelled right as we were heading into the busy season. **NOA** has been moved to November 6-8. The magazine has been printed and will be distributed throughout the summer. The auction did continue and sales were not what everyone had hoped, but they will support printing of the magazine, so that is a positive. I'm certain there will be another auction as part of the November event.

VASA is closed until the end of May, but our exhibition may still be a *go for now*; but things may change between when I write this and when you read it. The best we can do is keep producing for the exhibition while crossing our fingers that it will not be cancelled or in the hope it will only be postponed!

The **Jasper Artists Guild (JAG)** is really enthusiastic about doing joint exhibitions with us. Tentatively, we are looking at August/September in Jasper – with an opening reception timed to allow those of us who are trucking our work out there to participate. Studio YEG Art is on board to host the Edmonton exhibition and will share commission with us. We have tentatively booked November/December at the gallery; however, with **NOA** opening November 6, it would make sense to move it to October/November so the opening will not interfere with **NOA**. This is still to be confirmed with the gallery and **JAG**.

I have not heard from **Northlands** about the potential art exhibition we have been planning for K-Days. I'm hearing the future of the Stampede uncertain; so I would expect the same for K-Days. When I hear more I will let you know.

Shawn Olander is working to cancel and reschedule **workshops** and will be in touch with some of you about your interest in sharing your knowledge when this pandemic has been tamed. I'm grateful to her, Carroll Charest and everyone on the board for working to make the necessary adjustments as we move through this.

On a more positive note: Our submission, "Magic of a Smile", has been sent to the **McMullen Gallery** for the 2021 season. Here's hoping we will receive some good news! Thanks to the 12 sculptors who shared your work for

the submission! I think it was a good representation of who we are as an association.

WEBSITE NEWS! Thanks to Ryan Horricks, Robert Woodbury and Maria Koulouris for their diligent work on the website. It is looking great and I'm grateful to have it up and running in time for the jury on the McMullen submission to be able to use it for reference. Again... please check it out <http://sculptors-alberta.com> If you have not submitted information – if we have missed you – if your information needs changing – if you want to add/change photos – **contact Maria ASAP.**

Spring will soon be here to lift our spirits as we adjust to the "new normal". Please keep smiling, keep connected, and most of all, keep yourselves and our community healthy!

I appreciate you, my artist family. Please take care,
Ellie Shuster

ellie@shuster.com

www.behindthefaces.ca

SAA PROGRAMS... As program director, I can say that all speakers have been cancelled until further notice. Ritchie Velthuis was scheduled for the April meeting, and as I write this I am listening to him being interviewed on CBC radio (March 25) about his sculpture of Bob and Doug MacKenzie from the SCTV show from 40 or so years ago. It was installed last night in the Ice District. Hopefully he will get the chance to explain the process to us all next fall!
Keith Turnbull

Workshops...

Both the mask and the mosaic workshops are cancelled until further notice.

SAA WEBSITE

Our website is up and running and looking good! Big thanks to Ryan Horricks for the excellent work and the speed of getting it set to rights. **FOR EVERYONE...** Please look at the members' page and if your information is missing, needs updating, or you want to add/delete photos, or if we have missed you entirely (!) **SEND THE INFORMATION TO MARIA ASAP.** Our membership is growing and dynamic... but It looks bad when we have so many empty member pages. Please get something to Maria soon! <http://sculptors-alberta.com/members/>

Also, if you have any photos of ice/snow carving we can put onto that page, we'd be grateful! It is looking pretty lean. <http://sculptors-alberta.com/ice-snow/>

*"Sometimes the fear won't go away so
you have to do it afraid."*

Unknown

GOOD NEWS in difficult times... Ritchie Unveils His Bronze Sculpture in Ice District



Ritchie Velthuis with Bob & Doug in process...

An epic 5 year journey is coming to an end. It is every sculptors dream to create a public bronze sculpture but when your first commission is the iconic Canadian legends, Bob & Doug McKenzie, it is truly an honour.

It all started when fellow artist, Barb Paterson recommended me to submit a RFP for the SCTV monument project. I submitted my cv, a concept for the project and some rough costs. I and several other artists were chosen to submit a Maquette along with a more comprehensive and accurate budget. I spent a few months creating clay models of six original cast members and stepped back in time as I created the heroes of my youth. All the while I did not think I had a chance. The day came to present my project to the committee. I knew that creating all six characters would be too expensive so I shared that Bob and Doug McKenzie would my choice to honour the Edmonton Entertainment Industry in the SCTV monument. The committee agreed.

Filled with many challenges, stops and starts, the project was made possible by a committed and passionate group of people. Many thanks to Rick Moranis and Dave Thomas for their valuable input; it made for a better sculpture. Thank you to Paul Allard and the SCTV monument committee for their tireless work, support and belief in me and the project. Blessed to have artist, Barb Paterson, creator of the Famous Five monument, recommend me as a potential candidate. Eternally grateful to Vaughn, Mel and the crew at Bronzart who transformed my original clay sculpture to a magnificent bronze. They say they are technicians but they truly are artists and amazing humans. Many thanks to talented photographer, Marc Chalifoux for his help to document the work and

install and to Fish Griwkowsky for his thoughtful article. Thank you to Stuart Ballah whose support and generosity fostered an environment to become the artist I am today. Thanks to Erin Topshee-DiLoreto and so many other friends and family who shared my journey and kept my secret for five long years. Grateful and blessed.

I finished the patina in February and the unveiling celebration was planned for the end of March and I was over the moon with excitement. Then the coronavirus hit and everything changed. My first reaction was "It's the flu? How bad can it be?" Well we all now know how bad it can be. Social distancing and self-isolation are the only way we will beat this thing. The unveiling was cancelled but we decided to install the sculpture anyway.

And so, on the afternoon of March 24th, we began the installation of the boys **on 103 avenue & 103 street** at the entrance to the Winter Garden at Rogers Place. No fuss, no fanfare, they simply appeared but as I unwrapped the protective styrofoam padding Bob and Doug emerged. I knew the boys were home. Grateful and Blessed.

No longer a secret, the sculpture appeared on social media and the outpouring of positive reaction has been overwhelming. Grateful and blessed that people connect with and enjoy my art honouring two amazing artists.

I look forward to the day when we can get out of the house and celebrate this tribute to Edmonton's Entertainment history. Until then I will practice social distancing in my studio or home and make art.

We can beat this. Let's do our part to make the COVID pandemic Take Off! Eh!

Edmonton Journal Link...

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/bob-and-doug-mckenzie-return-to-edmonton-as-statues-during-covid-19/wcm/08348e4c-0add-463e-bbab-d1d16e23f723/>



The sculpture begins to take shape...

EXHIBITIONS REPORT...

By Carroll Charest

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are all surviving this strange time we are in. I just have a few items to talk about. Of course, the big one is the postponement of the Night of Artists. It was disappointing but understandable as we try to keep this virus from spreading further. Keep Nov 6 booked for the postponed opening. Any tickets bought will be honored at the new date. Thank you to Ellie and Barry for their donation to the NOA Auction that did proceed in order to pay for the magazine that was printed, as Ellie mentioned, although the bids were few and not what was hoped for, it did cover the costs of the magazine. Ellie will be picking up a few copies for us once we are able to get together in person again.

The next subject is our Show in June at VASA, "What moves you." To date, St. Albert has extended shut down of all public facilities until May 31. Our show is scheduled for June 2 with the opening June 4. For those of you who are participating in the "What Moves You" show at VASA, I hope you are taking this time to create more wonderful pieces, maybe even experimenting with not only a new subject matter but also a new style or medium, pushing ourselves to try something different. I, myself, have a few different things on the go; unfortunately, none of them are at a place to share. Perhaps for the May newsletter my new pieces will have progressed enough to share. Let's show St. Albert what we can do in these challenging times. In the interim, VASA is looking to do an online gallery of the shows that were supposed to take place in April and May. Once this is up and running, I will send you a link to see this as April's show was VASA's members' show, and with many of our participating sculptors in the VASA June show who have joined VASA, we can see some of their other works too.

Thanks to Ellie, we have an opportunity to work with the Jasper Art Guild and another venue to show our work for new eyes. All being well this summer, I anticipate that many people will come out due to "cabin fever" from the self-isolation. Then there is the followup show at Studio Yeg in late fall/early winter. Let's keep our positive thoughts for a faster containment of the virus or at least a working vaccine or new antidote that I hear are in the works.

I hope that everyone is finding a positive outlet for this isolation, perhaps even creating something new from this experience, a cathartic creation so to speak....

Take care of yourself and stay healthy.

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS...

(Our members share how they have been coping with the social distancing scenario)

Ivano Ongaro... One of the Best ways of coping with the social distancing and unable to meet in person, is to hold a zoom meeting. We can sign up for free at Zoom.com. Someone can initiate an invitation to other members by email and when clicking on the link one appears at the meeting at the scheduled time. I've attended and hosted a number of Zoom meetings. Works GREAT!

Tania Garner-Tomas... Hello sculptors, being an artist is an advantage since we are used to entertaining ourselves and staying on top of negative self-talk. I'm working on some multimedia works made of paverpol, wire and that tin foil technique many of us learned from the workshop. I also made a couple of birds out of cutlery, and somehow got a commission as well. It's been a while. It's for a sign, but it's got artistic elements to keep me challenged. I have good days, great days, and very down days, but I try to keep the good days as the most regular. It's a good time to play around with your art and try new things. It's a bit of a normal for us artists in my opinion. Take care everyone.

Keith Turnbull... Kathy and I are isolating ourselves but going for long walks... so happy to have the studio in the garage and kids to bring groceries.

Yi Yi Datar... I am out in Sturgeon County on an acreage and loving it. I still have my job in Edmonton but I am practically all alone in the office. I am now using Simply Accounting at work to help out. I am glad to be able to use the program for a real situation. I enjoy the challenge of learning something new.

I have amassed some supplies for sculpture projects so I hope to work on the pieces when I can. My daughter and her family have decided to come back to Edmonton to get away from New York. They are in quarantine in our old house for the time being. I look forward to doing a sculpture of my ten month old grandson. In the picture below he is being chased by my daughter's friend. I love the picture! Stay well!



Shawn Olander... I have been coping by tackling my to-do list and sculpting like crazy (both at home). Feeling like you have accomplished something counteracts feeling anxious. I have been spending my time making sculptures. So many sculptures... I have been contacting some artists about doing workshops when this passes. I can't wait to get back to the group. It's lonely here.

Doug Warren... Working on several projects, some of them had stalled for quite a while. Very satisfying; Relying on UPS, FEDEX and Canada Post to deliver tools and materials.

Keith Turnbull... I have been preparing for the VASA show based on the photos posted by Carroll. I chose the magpies and a Portuguese man repairing a cobblestone street.



The magpie, along with other Corvids (not to be confused with Covid 19!!), has long been one of my favourite birds. It is smart, beautiful and sassy, and does much less damage to the songbird population than the neighbourhood outdoor cats! The piece in the photo is made of paper mâché clay over a styrofoam and wire armature. It is over 42 inches in length, painted with acrylics, and weighs only about 8 pounds



The sculpture of the Portuguese man is made of clay and will be painted after firing. It is about 12 inches square. I put gloves and knee pads on him to enhance his safety. (The man in the picture was using neither).

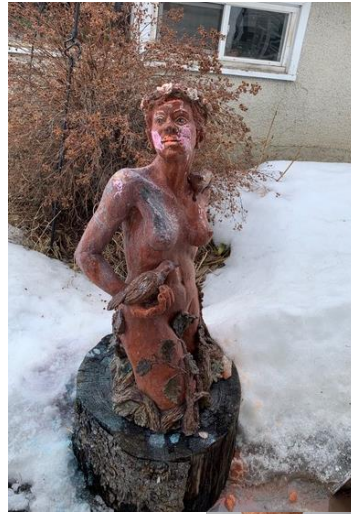
*"Even if you feel discouraged or afraid,
move forward with your dreams anyway."*

Doreen Virtue

"Make time for yourself."

The third one (right) is an Acoustic guitar during the wet sanding process.

Carving these guitars is really cool because you can make them look however you want to.



And just as a joke — my 6 and 4 year old grandkids thought that a couple of my sculptures needed "tarting up", and the pictures show the result. It was hard having a visit with the kids, keeping over 6 ft. distances from

them, but we all did it!! I hope everyone is well and looking after themselves and their families, friends and neighbours.

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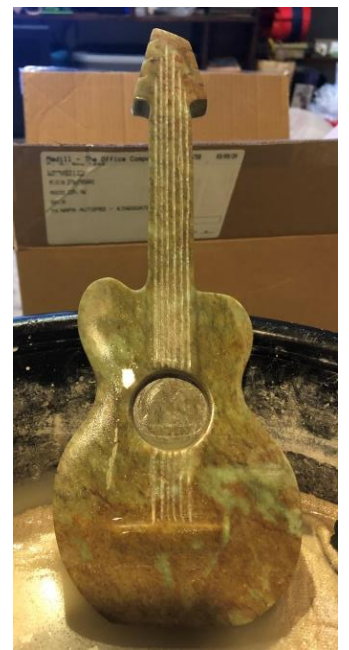


Barry Kostiuk...

Here are a few pics of some Guitars I've been carving from soapstone.

The first one (right) is an Electric guitar almost ready for wet sanding after I scribe some strings on it.

The second one is in the early stage and is a Gene Simmons (from the rock band KISS) Axe bass.



Gordon Pengilly... I'm making sail boats... Clay sails attached to driftwood from Tofino. These days I wish I could just sail away from it all.

Morton Burke... I have a small commission and also preparing for three university students from Vietnam as residence is closing and if they travel home they may not be able to get back here for fall classes. The sculpture park may be open as it is an open air venue- will see what is recommended come summer.

Leila Bjerland... On Facebook- I talk to my family & friends; I've viewed some music videos that people have posted for everyone. And I've watched some films on Netflix. I listen to my music on satellite radio.

I've posted details of my artwork on fb. I've given people my website address to view my artwork online. One of my friends is in hospital, I thought they could still view art online- you know to cheer them up .

I'm presently creating my art (painting, drawing, and sculpting). TBA- I've 2 art projects that I'm currently working on. Also, I'm currently reading a book entitled "Visual Intelligence" by Amy E. Herman. I highly recommend it.

As you know the museums are closed, so I heard some art Museums are posting virtual art on their websites for people to view. I plan to get to that perhaps myself soon. I hope this helps give other people ideas.

Delayne Corbett... I have been working as a sculptor in the film industry for the past few years. I have been laid off for 2 weeks now due to complete work stoppage from corona fears. I have been gardening, carving stone and making sand sculptures in my yard.

Brian Menegozzo... I've not been active in the Association for some time so I'm fine if I don't make it into the section. But, here's where the Menegozzo clan stands

Our clan is 7 souls strong. Of that 5 are fortunate enough to be able to work digitally and at home. What that meant was a mad scramble to rejuvenate and configure our systems and then discover idiosyncrasies such as don't run the microwave while your spouse is on a video conference because ambient radiation scrambles the wifi (router is in the basement, right below the microwave). We've learned sharing space may be dangerous to relationships, each should have their own workspace.

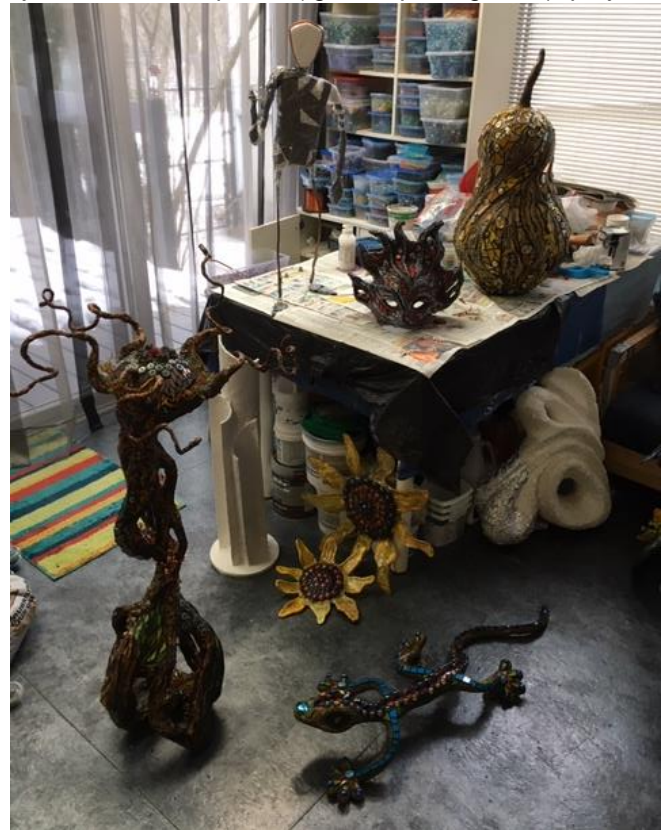
6 of the 7 can self-isolate. Staying home does have its limits though... I couldn't resist any longer and broke confinement today to go buy olives, cheese, bread and pastries (Italian health food).

So, we're all safe, healthy and as well-adjusted as we ever or never were. Sincere best wishes to all and those we all love.

Editor: I asked Brian if he was sculpting... he responded... "Generally no... too many other things going on; BUT... I'm going to spend a minimum of 2 hours per day tomorrow and Sunday. Thanks for being my muse."

Lynette Johnston... "The only thing I am close to is my art, before, during and after any pandemic".

Helen Rogers... This is my studio with some of the art projects I have completed (golden pear, gecko), projects



I'm working on (mask, Ludwig, untitled sculpture in foreground) and ideas that are lying around waiting for inspiration. In addition to working on art, I am cleaning one cupboard a day, crocheting scrubbies, and making more treble clefs (have about 80 done, reading books (latest is A Warning by Anonymous and Russka by Edward Rutherford). I still feel that I could quite happily be a hermit - no problem finding enjoyable things to keep busy. I do miss getting together with SAA members and sharing ideas. Thanks Keith for suggesting we share how we are coping with social distancing - great idea!! Cheers to all and keep healthy!

Editor's Note... Because you responded so wonderfully to my request for your input, I am publishing the April edition of the newsletter in two parts... if you have sent me something and it is not in this part, please be patient and wait for part two which will be coming in a few days. If you have not yet responded to my request to *share how you have been coping with the social distancing scenario... please do so... I hope you enjoy reading the responses as much as I have... more to come!*

Marjorie Davies



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