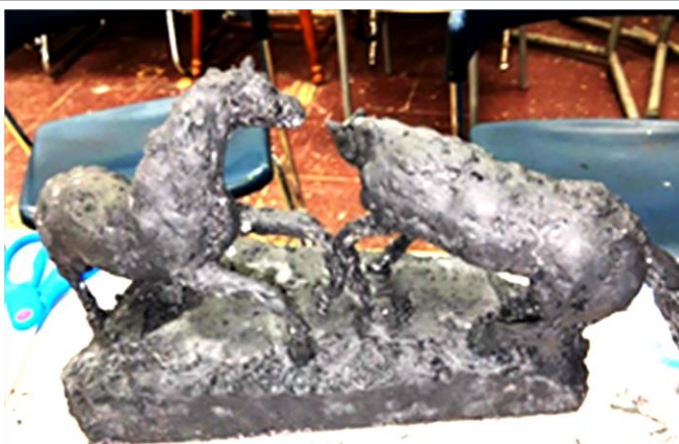




SCTV's Bob & Doug McKenzie by Ritchie Velthuis

"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."

Pablo Picasso



Horses... from gesture workshop- more in part 3

The Creation of a Sculpture...

Since his talk is being postponed, Ritchie has shared some of his process in creating Bob & Doug

First the armature...



... roughing out the form in styrofoam



...the figures take shape



Sculpting the plastiline



The figures gradually develop



The figures are disassembled for molding



Molded wax pieces prepared for bronze process



Breaking ceramic shell mold



Pouring the bronze



Extracting bronze from mold



... putting them all back together in bronze

Our Last Meeting... Member Sharing

Rick Rogers presented on the International Symposium of Experimental Art (and not his own art)
www.iseaartexhibit.org



Karen Klassen www.karenklassenmosaics.ca

From her website:

Karen's contemporary mosaics are a celebration of the natural world and an exploration of imagination. Creating and experimenting with materials, texture, and color, she sees unexpected potential in a variety of materials.

Karen creates fine art mosaics for residential, business, gallery, and public.



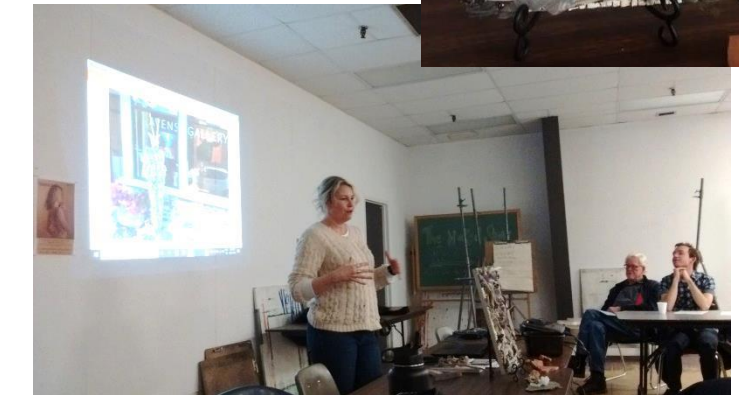
Maggie Slater www.industrialgrowth.ca

From her website:

I'm Maggie Slater, a welder turned metal artist from Edmonton. Discovering my passion for creating artwork completely changed my life and allowed me to find my self-expression. My art pieces are made from both upcycled and new materials. I love taking material that is heavy, cold, industrial and often thought of as scrap and turning it into



something beautiful that has flow and character. Some of my pieces are designed for the home and others can be incorporated into the garden. I enjoy the challenge of creating Fine, Fun and Functional artwork.



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS...

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

Ellie Shuster... It seems that increased time on my hands equates to "more"... but not necessarily productivity! More news and YouTube, more comfort food snacking, more virtual-visiting with friends and family I haven't seen in a long time, and yes, a little more experimenting in the studio....

More fractured faces! I hope everyone is keeping safe and happy, and that their studios are humming more effectively than mine!

Herman Poulin... "Coping with the unknown ... I've indulged to experiment by closing my eyes and discovering creation again through drawing, paint and clay... It's amazing what you see and discover not knowing which side is up or down."

The Sculptors' Association of Alberta

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

\$40.00 (Newsletter emailed)

\$45.00 (Newsletter mailed)

*"Art enables us to find ourselves
and lose ourselves at the same
time."*

Thomas Merton

Don Begg...

(Foundry Studio West Ltd)
Photo-... starting patina on a horse and rider.

Final home for the sculpture is Toronto, Ontario



Leila Bjerland... wiebeandbjerland.ca A Drumheller artist, I'm generally known as a painter. You can view my other paintings and artworks on my art website.

However, I did take sculpture at Red Deer Art College. I do know how to sculpt and throw on a potter's wheel in clay. Last Nov, 2019. I joined and became a member of The Sculptors' Association of Alberta. I showed one of my clay sculptures at the YEG Gallery, Edmonton, with the SAA group last Dec/19- Jan/20.

Here is a grouping of my pottery and clay sculptures to share with you now for your newsletter. The left vase (photo right)... I've carved into my vase, a peony flower shape on the front of it. A peony represents the area where I live since they grow here. The size is 5.5 inch. I glazed the outside to create a green lovely surface. The vase on the right is 4 inch in height. This glaze surface resulted in a green bubble water effect on top of the rim. They are both medium fired.

I also carved the left sculpture (photo right)- the abstracted head, in red body clay. The sculpture on the right is an abstracted body/ bust carved in porcelain. Both are low fired. I'm drawn & influenced by abstract art. It occasionally comes out in my work. I am continually evolving & trying new things! I have included all four items to show you my abilities regarding clay. If you can imagine it, you can create anything using clay.

Since I joined the SAA group last year, I have been inspired to create sculptures myself & to think of my own artwork in 3-D using clay. Working in clay takes a bit of process and time to do. The results, once completed, for

me, are wonderful surprises. But then I've always been drawn to clay. Enjoy!





Ice Carving Workshop...

Who instructed: Eileen Heidler and Barb Marcinkoski

Who took part: Tristan Campbell, Mell Wolfinger, Keith Kobylka, Warren Finlay, and Maria Koulouris

7 block demo by Stephen Chung... photos in future issue.



EDITOR'S NOTE... Leonardo Da Vinci was reported to have said, "Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else."

In working on this newsletter, I got the idea to ask you how you are coping during this difficult pandemic and social distancing. I was touched by the responses I received. Thank you.

Personally, I am staying very close to home. Fortunately, Roy and I live on an acreage so we have the luxury of space, although the snow has been a hindrance to our mobility... I am longing for the time when the piles of it disappear; however, I am excited to report that just the other day, I shovelled a path through the knee high drifts so that I could walk my path to my studio and I am delighted to say that there is now green grass on that path.

There are a couple of things that keep me feeling more positive during this stressful time of social distancing- the thoughtfulness of my children & grandchildren with drive by visits, grocery runs, video calls & texts; having to get out each day to look after my studio cats & my grandson's koi; and the challenge of our VASA show... and doing this newsletter.

We are all connected through our love of sculpture. The interesting thing is that we seldom consider how we affect others in this group or how others affect us.

I am one of those members who have been involved in this group since its inception. I welcome all our new members. It is wonderful to see ideas being shared and new energy directed at creating opportunities for sculpture to grow in our community. I read a quotation that I think is the premise of what makes the SAA really work...

"I'm not interested in competing with anyone; I hope we all make it." Erica Cook

That attitude is what makes us share and learn from one another. And sometimes we are influenced when we are not even aware. Is there ever competition... I guess that is a human trait that is stronger in some than in others but mostly we do not see it at our gatherings.

I got to thinking about my influences... last summer I began working on creating a sculpture garden near my studio. I had always loved sculpture gardens but although I had a few pieces around our yard the concept of a garden had not occurred to me. Actually, it was a post that was made by our own Ritchie Velthuis that got me thinking larger... he had created a spot in his yard where he put a grouping of pieces that had not found a home elsewhere for various reasons. This got me creating what I called my sculpture graveyard of pieces that were damaged or had flaws that made them appropriate for discard. Then as I worked on my landscaping, the idea grew so that I began restoring pieces to adorn my garden until it has become a place of peace and solitude for me.

Other people from the SAA have influenced me over time. I learned so much about sculpture through our early classes... Pat Galbraith, Zazo, Sandy Segal, Gerry Nason, Fran Cuyler, Bill Skelly are just a few of the names that come to mind. Sometimes, it takes only a question that causes us to take a turn in our path.

In 2001, I was 50 years old and had been doing sculpture for about 30 years. Joan Brownell, who was then SAA President asked me if I was going to make a submission for the call for sculptors for the Sherwood Park Lendrum Sisters project. That conversation was what motivated me to take the chance to put together a proposal for the competition. If it were not for the influences of the members of the SAA, this sculpture (photo right) would never have happened. That success gives meaning to this quotation... **"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."**

Francis of Assisi

When I began sculpting, I could not even imagine that one day I would do a public piece. Now, after two decades and multiple large sculptures, I can tell you that it would not have happened were it not for the influences, opportunities and knowledge I gleaned through my connection with the SAA. I encourage all our new members to get involved. You cannot know what might be ahead. You cannot know whom you might meet. You cannot know what you might do. Just remember, **"Energy flows where attention goes."**

Pablo Picasso said, **"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."** Let's keep sharing through our Sculptors' Association of Alberta.

Keep safe, everyone.



Marjorie Davies

*"Every artist was first
an amateur"*

Ralph Waldo Emerson.



NEWSLETTER PRODUCED & EDITED

by: Marjorie Davies

theARMATURE@xplornet.com

780-929-8866

Copy Editor: Keith Turnbull