



the ARMATURE

September
2019
Vol. 5

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 ...



Photo above:
Helen Rogers - first prize winner for Dragonflies in Van Gogh's Garden in the Seniors Open Competition - Spruce Grove.

Photo right: **2007...** Help comes in all sizes (see Editor's note)



NEXT

MEETING... at

Harcourt Annex, (Ring the bell to be let inside)...

10211- 112 St.,

Edmonton –

Tuesday,

September 3, 2019

Executive Meeting

at 6:45pm;

Member's Meeting

at 7:30 pm.

On the Agenda:

We welcome everyone
with an interest in
sculpture!



Message from the President...

Well... another year about to start! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer filled with vacations, creations, art walks, inspiration, family and friends.

Last year was a good one for SAA with workshops and group shows in venues we have not enjoyed before and welcoming some new members.

Next year promises to be even better! We are confirmed for a group show in a gallery for December and January, have had a proposal accepted for a pretty special group show in another gallery later in the year, will present our work at Night of Artists, with more on the horizon. We are lining up some cool workshops and speakers – thanks to our dedicated board from last year and the almost-formed one for the coming year.

And speaking of the board, we have one key spot that needs to be filled... the role of Workshop Chair. If you are interested in taking on the responsibility – or sharing it with someone else as Helen and Gerry have done for the last couple of years – please let me know ASAP.

If our plans for next year have piqued your interest and you want some details... if you want to contribute some ideas for the coming year... if you have some time and/or talent to share on the board... *please join us at our AGM on Tuesday, September 3.*

Oh yes... and our annual memberships are due this month as well!

Looking forward to enjoying a creative, inspiring and educational year ahead with all of you, my colleagues!

Ellie Shuster

ellie@shuster.com

www.behindthefaces.ca

There are two exciting **SAA WORKSHOPS** coming up...

Mosaic Workshop

Date: Saturday, Sept. 14 -- 10:00 - 4:00

Saturday, Sept. 28 -- 10:00 - 4:00

More info at meeting. Register through Helen

dhrogers2@shaw.ca

Freeform Ferro-cement Sculpture Workshop*

Date: September 27-29/19

September 27; 7-10 p.m.

September 28/9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.

September 29; 10 a.m.-4 p.m

*SAA members get a 10% discount. More info attached.

Register through Ivano ivano.ongaro@gmail.com

Am I an Artist?

by Eduino M. Sousa

How many of us are truly peaceful and confident with the artist within us? Does our work show it? Artistic creativity is a communication device. Whatever feelings we put into it, will be the reflective response it will receive. It is also a proven fact that we are our own worst critics and biggest enemies when it comes to personal evaluation. Perhaps, what I am about to share will open up some insight about the artist within us all.

I have known Don for about five years now. Our acquaintance is very casual and on rare occasions. But I have listened to Don speak, and I have watched him influence people's lives. You see, Don is a people builder. This event that I am about to disclose took place a couple of years ago. Early in the year, right after Christmas, the greatest promoter of my work, my wife Bonita, had the opportunity to meet with Don.

During their meeting, the Christmas gift subject came up. My gifts to my wife and two sons were sculptures that I created especially for them. My wife being excited and proud of that fact, had to show Don photos of those pieces. The following was later told to me by my wife.

Don looked at the photos of my works and very appreciatively demonstrated his enthusiasm about them. After a silent pause, out of Don's heart came these words, "Do you know that every second of time that passes us by is gone forever?" Don continued, "The time it took Ed to create these sculptures, he will never get it back again. Although, through his creativity, he has frozen the time within his work and every sculpture made, a piece of his life stays with it."

As I listened to my wife document this event to me, I felt a growing sense of accomplishment and value for what I had done, that I never really thought much about. Don went on to say that when someone buys one of my works, they are not just buying art, but a piece of me, a portion of time from my life.

Our creations are not just objects seen on the surface. They are living emotions that we transmit into our outer environment. So, what kind of messages are we sending out? Are they peaceful, are they happy, are they positive or negative, are they going to be a magnet or a repellent to the viewer. These questions we must ask ourselves all the time.

Very well, we may think. Truth of the matter is that most people do not understand or perceive art like we do. Also true, however, this is where I think we make two horrible mistakes.

First, we fail to understand that emotions cannot be controlled by intelligence or the power of thought. The Greatest Artist and Creator that made us all, says, "As a man thinketh in his heart..."

Secondly, sometimes we think that ninety five per cent is just good enough.

We are all like drops on water that ripple outward into the infinity of human existence. It starts within each and every one of us. So, the next masterpiece that we create and as many times before, do we ask our wives, our husbands, or our best friends what they think! Or do we search for the artist within us and ask "Is it everything I want it to be?"

Which part of us are we willing to share, the good enough or the best?

I think the secret of a truly successful artist lies within the ability to live in harmony with one's creative genius----the artist within us.

(reprinted from the newsletter- 2004-02-03)

THIS IS YOUR LIFE. FIND A PASSION AND PURSUE IT.
FALL IN LOVE. DREAM BIG. DRINK WINE. LAUGH EVERYDAY.
EAT GREAT FOOD. AND SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH GOOD FRIENDS.
BELIEVE IN MAGIC. TELL STORIES.
REMINISCE ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS BUT LOOK
WITH OPTIMISM TO THE FUTURE. TRAVEL OFTEN.
LOVE WITH ALL YOUR HEART. NEVER GIVE UP.
SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE YOU ADMIRE. SEIZE
OPPORTUNITIES WHEN THEY REVEAL THEMSELVES.
TRY NEW THINGS. DO WHAT YOU LOVE. BE TRUE TO WHO YOU ARE.
FORGIVE EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.
MAKE TIME TO ENJOY THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE.
SMILE OFTEN. SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY.
FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS. WORK HARD. BE THANKFUL.
BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD.
DONT COUNT THE MINUTES COUNT THE LAUGHS. EMBRACE CHANGE.
LIVE FOR TODAY. TRUST IN YOURSELF. BE NICE TO EVERYONE.
BE HAPPY. AND ABOVE ALL. MAKE EVERY MOMENT COUNT.

**MAKE EVERY
MOMENT COUNT.**

**Photo Above:
Profound message in wall
decor at Tiramisu Bistro at
10750- 124Street**

**The Sulptors' Association of Alberta
MEMBERSHIP Fees:**

\$40.00 (newsletter emailed)

\$45 (newsletter mailed)



Figure in Clay

w/ Ritchie Velthuis

Fee: Members \$250, Non-Members \$280

Date: Thursdays, September 26 – November 14, 2019. Hours: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

@ Harcourt House Artist Run Centre

Art Education Room #2, Annex Building, 10211 – 112 Street NW, Edmonton, AB

Please ring buzzer upon arrival

To register: email harcourtinfo@shaw.ca / call 780 426 4180

Method of Payment: In the office or online through this [Eventbrite link](#)

Are you looking to develop or improve your figurative sculpting in clay? Using live model, participants will study various clay-modeling techniques, complexity of a human figure and will create successful ceramic sculptures. The properties of clay as a sculptural medium, basic anatomy, armatures, and various hand building techniques will be covered over the course of the workshop.



NEWSLETTER PRODUCED & EDITED

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

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

Editor's note:

Again... my apologies for not getting out the newsletter reminder... Since I got no response on this holiday weekend, I went ahead with a few oldies- the piece by former member, Ed Sousa, who now resides in a warmer climate, and the front photo, which was taken when we were moving the Salute to Volunteers Sculpture out of my studio.

As I stood back to take the photo, my grand-daughter went in to help. (One of those LOL moments when this little three year old child pipes up, "I can help too, Grandma.")

And I guess she was right because the sculpture slowly moved out the door... the upraised fingers just missing the door frame while Grandma & child stood back marvelling over the success..

The Salute to Volunteers Sculpture brings to mind the fact that this sculpture is now 12 years old and the Lendrum Sisters are 18... Concrete that is created in layers is somewhat more vulnerable than a poured concrete piece, but I have been called upon to repair solid poured concrete pieces too. The knowledge accrued through working concrete in layers lends itself to being able to repair broken or damaged pieces. One of those pieces, I repaired over 20 years ago, and the repair is still working, the piece still standing.

There are a couple of factors that I have discovered that affect the success of maintaining a concrete sculpture... the finish chosen (and it's being maintained over time) and the weather before and during the maintenance work as well as what happens in-between maintenance... like wind, rain, hail, snow freezing and thawing and impacts, etc..

The piece I restored years ago was repaired during really hot days with no rain. The sculpture had been baking in the sun for a week or so and winds had driven out any moisture. The client chose to use paint (which has been maintained repeatedly over the years) and it seems to be working.

However, during a summer like this one, it is difficult to find a window of opportunity to do any repairs... And I can tell you we have had no windows of opportunity to do some small repairs and be assured that the moisture had been driven out.

As I get older and I contemplate the future, I think more about adding to the longevity of sculpture. It is fine to say we like the effect of aging on a sculpture, but that attitude really does not work for public sculpture.

I would encourage the SAA to consider ways to extend the life of sculpture... maybe there is an actual job there for some enterprising individual. Personally, I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has an interest in conservation.

On the other hand, I am doing a small scale experiment of my own. I have been spending the summer, focused on creating a sculpture garden on our acreage. Over the next months, I am planning to do some restoration work on old pieces that have been cluttering my studio because they have been damaged by the ravages of time and the elements. However, the space is taking shape and the first sculpture stands under the beautiful canopy of trees- the environment almost has a spiritual element... such a wonderfully peaceful spot to sit and contemplate life and as my grand-daughter (the now 15 year old artist) put it, "It's a great place to sit and draw."

My friends, whatever your age, let's get excited about art and particularly sculpture. See you at the meeting....

Marjorie Davies