



the ARMATURE

**October
2019
Vol. 6**

*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: EAGLE by Gordon Pengilly

As a veteran playwright I learned that to overwork a piece is often as bad as underworking it. Same goes for sculpting, I'm finding. One has to know when to let it go. This new eagle in process might be more vital than the same one "finished", if you see what I mean. We tend toward realism, it's only natural, but sometimes, maybe often, I think we should fight the impulse. The power of suggestion can be immensely satisfying. I think I'm right about this new eagle and will try to let it go. There's always more clay.

www.gordonpengillysculptor.com

NEXT MEETING

**at Harcourt
Annex**, (Ring the
bell to be let inside)...
**10211- 112 St.,
Edmonton –
Tuesday,
October 1,
2019**

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

On the Agenda:

Speaker: Vince
Gaspari, Assistant
Director of the Rowles
Gallery. He will be
talking about the
gallery and in
particular the art
market and dealing
with it in these trying
times. Vince was the
Executive Director of
Harcourt House and
was also involved
with The Works for
several years.

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



Message from the President...

I can't believe it is already autumn... and the new year of programming is in full swing!

Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM, and to all the members who stepped into leadership roles on the executive. A special thanks to Treasurer

YiYi Datar and Workshop Director Shawn Olander who are new to their positions. Yes, it promises to be a good year!

The mosaic workshop run by Helen Rogers has been a success, and (as I write this) I'm hoping that Ivano Ongaro will have enough participants to run a successful ferro cement workshop as well.

For those of you who missed the evening with Blake Ward... my sympathies! His presentation was inspiring and informative. We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to hear from Blake when he comes to town, and I was happy to see such a good turnout. Thanks to Harcourt House for working with us to present an evening with this outstanding sculptor.

I am looking forward to learning more from Vince Gaspari about Rowles & Co at the October meeting, and to our road trip to the Alberta Craft Council for our meeting in November. Then we get to set up and open our group show at Studio YEG Arts, enjoy our December potluck, tackle a number of ice carving projects... and it is Christmas! (*Did I really say that?!?*) It feels good to have so much planned for the next few months, with more to come.

So... lots happening for us as an association over the coming year. I'm glad to have you with us. Please encourage any sculptors – or aspiring sculptors – in your orbit to join us as we explore the next year's creative activities, networking and socializing. Then spring will be here before we know it.

Ellie Shuster

ellie@shuster.com

www.behindthefaces.ca

The Sculptors' Association of Alberta MEMBERSHIP Fees:

\$40.00 (newsletter emailed)

\$45 (newsletter mailed)



From Reality to Abstraction

Join instructor **Sharon Moore-Foster** for an exhilarating workshop exploring human form and energy. The properties of clay, basic anatomy, various sculpting techniques, and the fundamental skills of looking, seeing, and making will be covered over the course of the workshop. 4180

Beginners to Advanced students welcome! Individual guidance and mentoring, as well as the energies of other creatives, will ensure this Sculpting weekend intensive retreat shifts *your* energy, confidence and ability into high gear ...all while you are smiling!

SATURDAY + SUNDAY October 26 – 27, 2019 from 10 am – 4 pm

FEE: Members – \$220, Non-Members: \$240

@ **Harcourt House Artist Run Centre**
ANNEX Building, Art Education Room #2
10211 – 112 Street NW, Edmonton

For more information or to register

email: harcourtinfo@shaw.ca

call: 780 426 4180

EXHIBITIONS REPORT:

Hi Everyone,

I am excited that things are progressing along with exhibitions. As mentioned at the last meeting, we have a few options coming up.

1. Our first exhibition is at Studio Yeg from Dec to Jan 31. This is a small retail gallery located at 13B Fairway Drive, N.W. Edmonton (just off of 119 St and about 38 avenue). Load in time will be Nov 29, opening reception Dec 5, and load out Jan 31. As it is a narrow gallery, there is limited space for a large group such as ourselves, so perhaps smaller to mid-size, retail like pieces may suit better, plus works for the walls for those who do relief.
2. Our proposal for VASA (St. Albert Studio and Gallery) has been accepted. This is the show where we will take submitted photos from the public (theme: What moves you?) and turn them into a sculpture, either high relief or 3D, interpreted into our own personal style. I have done this before and the challenge to turn a flat photo into a sculpture is rewarding. The show will be June 2 to 27 (loading Sunday, May 31 and open reception June 4). We have started putting out the call for photos and the deadline will be Nov 15. This will give us a bit of time to create as they will require some good quality images for the invite by Feb 28 and a final list of artwork by May 5. There will be commission fees with this gallery so a signed affidavit from all participating artist stating they are aware of this is required, more on this to come.
3. Night of Artist in March, St. Albert Enjoy Center. Dates and details TBD.
4. Dow Center- Fort Sask - Submitted but have not heard back- theme: Creature Comforts.

Email SAAexhibitions@gmail.com or let me know if you are interested in participating in either of the above shows.

Your exhibition director
Carroll Charest

"Creativity is allowing oneself to make mistakes."

"Art is knowing which ones to keep."

Scott Adams, the Dilbert Principle

Ice & Snow Update

We are eagerly anticipating the start of the outdoor ice and snow carving season again in November. Once again, we expect to be using the Clinebell Ice from Ontario(through the good people at Ice Castles) for most of our ice sculptures.

So far, we've had interest from Edson and Medicine Hat but without carvers in these locations, it quickly becomes too expensive for the festival hosts and hard for us to find carvers to travel there.

We've also had interest from:

- ☐ Brighten Up Beaumont – Nov. 29
- ☐ Luminaria (University of Alberta Botanic Garden) – Dec. 6-9 (carving prior to the festival)
- ☐ And a one-time event in Strathcona County next year

I'll soon be contacting our other clients:

- ☐ Christmas in the Heartland
- ☐ Strathcona New Year's Eve
- ☐ And others

Stay tuned for more info. If you'd like to carve ice and/or snow this upcoming season, please email me at barbmarcink@gmail.com or come to the monthly meeting.

Barb Marcinkoski
Snow & Ice Director

OPPORTUNITY...

I'm looking into opening a permanent indoor public artist, artisan and crafters market in Red Deer running from Friday to Sunday. As you know currently Red Deer does not have such a market.

For the first year, we are offering spaces for a lower than average market cost to entice vendors to come join us.

We have two tier levels for vendors. By the weekend @ \$75 + gst or by the month @ \$50 a weekend if you commit to a month.

We want our vendors to make money not spend it on your space.

Speaking of your space you will be able to customize your area how you want. We only provide the space. No tables or chairs. But the good part of that is you don't have to set up and tear down, transport products back and forth except to replenish.

Right now I'm looking for vendor interest and input and hopefully a commitment.

If all works out you will be able to set up your space in November so we can be open for December.

If this peaks your interest send me an email. Let me know what you think.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely
Gypsy Garcia
Red Deer

Gypsygarcia@hotmail.com
403-396-4828

Introduction to Free Form Ferro Cement Sculpture Workshop... happened on the weekend of September 27-29. There were four participants and that worked out very well. This course was Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday. Friday evening included a lecture for about an hour, experiential exercise with diamond mesh and design exercise for about an hour and about one hour of working on the armature. Saturday morning we completed the Armature components and by the end of the day we finished the first cement coat on all components. Cement cured overnight and components were assembled Sunday morning. These photos were taken first thing Sunday morning. By the end of the day all works we're assembled and most of finish was completed.

Cheers, Ivano.





Behind the Faces Debuts in Invermere BC

It was a great summer jaunt through the Rockies... From Waterton through BC and home via Canmore. One special stop was in Invermere, which has a vibrant arts scene... always a favourite destination. While there, we visited Black Star Studios – an eclectic gallery and workshop studio. One of the partners commented on my Yoda necklace and before I knew it, I had contract in hand to sell my art! Check it out... <http://www.blackstarstudios.ca> You'll see my work on display!

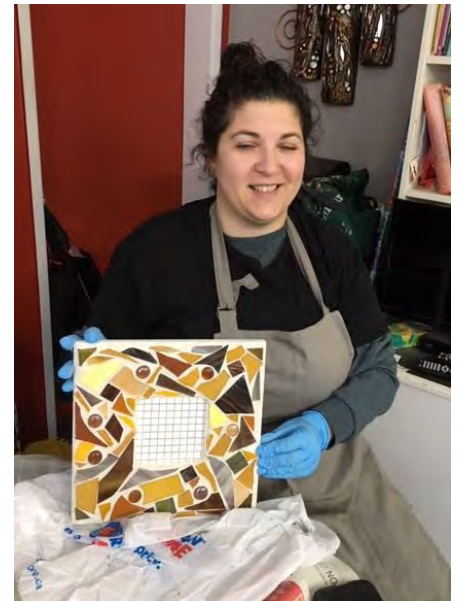
Ellie

Two Shows Upcoming... Please join me!

Head Space, a portrait exhibition, opens at the Renaissance Airport Hotel Friday, October 4, from 7 – 9 with the curator's talk at 7:30. I am among eight artists and photographers included in what promises to be a dynamic exhibition. The show runs until November 30 and I hope you will join us for the opening. (Parking will be covered by the hotel.)

Art from the Unknown, hosted by Hon. Rachel Notley, is an exhibition featuring 70+ artists at the Old Strathcona Performing Arts Centre October 25 – 27. I am honoured to have been chosen – along with SAA member Bev Oliwa – to participate in this exhibition. The opening reception with live music is Friday, October 25 from 6 – 10. Should be a fun time... Please join us!

Ellie



THE MOSAIC WORKSHOP...

These were taken at the mosaic workshop held on September 14 and 28 at my house. Wonderful group of participants who produced some amazing works of mosaic art.
Helen



Editor's note:

At the moment, my well of creativity has been temporarily exhausted by the demands of my life... so instead, I shall give you the wisdom of others...

"The artist has one function to affirm and glorify life." – W. Edward Brown

"Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working." Pablo Picasso

"Far better to live your own path imperfectly, than to live another's perfectly." Bhagavad Gita

"Every artist dips his own brush in his soul and paints his own nature into his paintings."
–Henry Ward Beecher

"Art washes away from the soul, the dust of everyday life." –Pablo Picasso

"The main thing is to be moved,
To love
To hope
To tremble
To live"
–Pablo Picasso

"In order to create, we draw from our inner well. This inner well, an artistic reservoir, is ideally like a well-stocked fish pond... If we don't give some attention to upkeep, our well is apt to become depleted, stagnant, or blocked... As artists, we must learn to be self-nourishing. We must become alert enough to consciously replenish our creative resources as we draw on them — to restock the trout pond, so to speak."—Julia Cameron

I find that Cameron's comment is very applicable to my life. The amusing thing is that I have a fish pond in my studio... my grandson's koi are currently in residence. And it is so true, the pond requires upkeep. Unless the environment is closely monitored, the fish will soon begin to demonstrate signs of stress.

Sometimes life does that to us. When there is so much going on in one's life, it can be difficult to maintain that creative well. And yet, it is so important.

I remember a time in my life during which life had gotten very complicated. I found that there was no time for creativity. Then one day I found myself looking at a stone that I had not been motivated to carve. As I pondered its shape, an inspiration took hold and I followed the inclination. Amazingly, as I applied my energy to that stone a feeling took hold of me and I felt such an electrical feeling coursing through my veins. My creative spirit had returned.

Sometimes however, I think there are times in one's life when we need to stop, sit back and consider where we are going and what is truly important. Life is a process. As we go through various stages in life, the demands upon us also change. As things in our lives change, there are often times when we really do come to a crossroad... which way to go???

While many of my artist friends are focused on creating and marketing, I find myself wanting to carve out a wonderful space that gives me peace and inspiration... my sculpture garden. Will I keep creating... always, but right now, the creativity is very personal and satisfying. Eventually, who knows where it will lead me.

Marjorie Davies



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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