



The Armature

The Sculptors' Association of Alberta Newsletter

March 2021

Mosaic master: Helen Rogers



Explain what you do. I mainly do mixed media art, both 2 and 3 dimensional. Most of the time I play with various materials like cut offs of wood, copper tubing, chicken wire or construction mesh, scrap metal and more. By manipulating these materials, I come up with the base for a sculpture or wall art. From that I add other materials. The process is entirely intuitive. The final layer is usually a variety of mosaic materials.

What mediums do you work in? Whatever works. Technically, mixed media is what I do. I have made art from usual and unusual materials including wood, cement, wire, rocks, tile, stained glass, driftwood, seed pods, copper tubing and many more.

What inspires you? Mostly I get inspiration from my "mess". I also get inspiration from looking at art in galleries, artists studios, art books, and magazines. Talking with other artists is also very inspirational.

What other work have you done besides sculpting? As an art teacher I have had to do all kinds of art- painting, drawing, printmaking, clay, mixed media and, of course, sculpture.
(con't on p. 4)



Next SAA All-members Meeting:

**Tuesday,
March 2
2021
7:30 pm**

Program: Member Ritchie Velthuis about his Bob & Doug Mackenzie sculpture and more

On [Zoom](#)
Meeting #: 825 8753 6290
Passcode: 849945

Agenda and minutes from the last meeting have already been distributed by email.

Join us at 7:15 pm on Zoom for a catch up and chat.



I was wet sanding this emerald green soapstone heart and it broke. It must've had a weak spot in it. I decided to put it back together, mounted it on a red alabaster base and call it "Broken Heart".

Happy accident: Barry Kostiuk

President's Message – Ellie Shuster



Ahhh... March... the days are getting longer, the sun is feeling warmer, and an artist's thoughts turn to spring. I'm feeling good about the workshops and events our board has planned for us and am looking forward to the opportunity for collective creativity through outdoor workshops as the snow melts.

As I mentioned at our last meeting, our grant from the Edmonton Arts Council will be half our usual amount. This leaves us with a major deficit which the board has agreed should be filled through fundraising, where possible.

- **Workshops** are one avenue for fundraising, and I am hugely grateful to YiYi Datar and Ritchie Velthuis for leading just such a venture with our upcoming Willow Workshop.

- **Membership** is another avenue – and we decided not to raise our dues, but instead to ask everyone to make sure your dues are paid in full, and to ask each of you to work toward building our numbers by inviting everyone in your artistic circle with an interest in sculpture, to join us.
- An **on-line sculpture sale** was another avenue we discussed. With the members' agreement after our upcoming meeting, we will look into setting up a sale, with income shared between member and SAA and a commitment from participating artists to promote the sale.

Please give these and other ideas some thought and bring them to our March meeting for discussion.

For the last two years, we have operated in the black. This is not only an accomplishment, but a third year will give SAA the opportunity to apply for other grants – a compelling incentive for us to achieve a balanced budget for 2020/21.

I'm looking forward to Ritchie Velthuis's presentation on his journey to create Bob and Doug McKenzie at our March meeting. With gathering restrictions, it is unfortunate his show at Harcourt House cannot attract the attendance it deserves. We appreciate the opportunity for a front row seat!

Much to discuss and a fascinating presentation to enjoy Tuesday, March 2. Hope to see you all on-line!

Ellie

Failure? Wes Leonard

This is a piece that spent years in the scrap pile. A while back I pulled it out and began grinding and sanding in hopes of salvaging it!!! I polished it up yesterday. I don't think it's going back in the scrap pile!!



Broken heart: Shawn Olander

This is Oliver. He exploded in the kiln. Don't fall in love until it comes out of the kiln.



Exhibitions - Carroll Charest

As mentioned in previous newsletters, all the shows we were to have in 2020 are now postponed to 2021.

Night of Artists Gala March 19 to 21.

As before, costs and number of pieces is determined by how many would like to participate. Once we have been accepted, I will put out the call again.

Drumheller GM Gallery for June

The theme is Creature Comforts (What brings each of us serenity... pleasure... satisfaction... what soothes the body and fills the soul... rounds out our lives... our environment... what makes us human). Initially we had hoped that our annual BBQ may happen in Drumheller as set up would be end of May/beginning of June with opening around

June 3 or 10 (waiting of course based on COVID protocols and status). Start creating an expectation that it goes through.

VASA show in St. Albert "What Moves You."

This was a show where we asked the St. Albert public to submit photos of what moved them and we were to transform them into a 3D (or relief) image. For those of you who had intended to participate but then due to other circumstances had to back out, there is still time to create. If you are new or had not shown interest before, you are welcome to join up. Email me at SAExhibitions@gmail.com for details on how to access photos.

Jasper Artists Guild

We should be having a shared show with the Jasper Artists Guild this year- our spot at

Studio YEG Arts and their spot in Jasper. Once we get a confirmed date, I will put out the call.

Muttart Conservatory

As soon as the Muttart puts out their call, we will submit and hopefully get a good showing there.

We, unfortunately, did not get a show at the **McMullen Gallery**. We will try again for 2022/23 season.

Take care and stay safe,
Carroll

Info resources:

The **newsletter of the Edmonton Arts Council** has a wealth of information published weekly. They have a community classified section that is great — Click on this [link](#). You can sign up to receive it.

Taproot is a great resource. They have several online publications, including one for the arts, as well as a municipal one. It is a free resource, but they would prefer to sell subscriptions. Check it out [here](#).

Member: Helen Rogers (con't)



Do you have a favorite work of art or artist? I am totally inspired by the mosaic architecture of the Spanish artist Antoni Gaudi and the French-American mosaic artist Nikki de Saint Phalle.

What role does the artist have in society? Art in any age feeds the soul and artists will always fill this need.

What is your dream project? My dream project now is to do a huge mosaic orb that has a community participation aspect to it. We are moving to Ottawa in May to be closer to our daughter and I hope to do this project there. She sent me a link to the sculptor's group in Ottawa so I hope to work with them on this project. I have been so fortunate to belong to the SAA and have learned so much from participating in many projects with them from ice and snow to wood carving to huge cement sculptures- I am confident this experience will help with my dream project.

What makes you smile? Bright colours.

Best advice you've been given? This is not necessarily

advice but my daughter sent me a clip that says – "creative people don't have a mess; they have ideas lying around everywhere." That "mess" is the source of ideas that eventually become a work of art.

What is your outlook on life? I am doing what I love, making art, and I have an amazing family who support me. I enjoy a comfortable living. Life is wonderful!!!

Why art? Why not? It fills a significant part of who I am. I expect I will be making art as long as I can use my hands and then it will be something I enjoy with my mind.

Did you always want to be a sculptor? I never thought of being a sculptor. I just always loved making things with my hands. I became a public-school art teacher and many of my assignments included a three-dimensional aspect.

What is the best thing about being an artist? The satisfaction of making something original – there will never be another work of art that is exactly the same as the original. Even with 3D printing,

the handprint of the artist stays with the original.

What is the worst thing about being an artist? Not being able to translate all my ideas into a work of art. Limitations of access to materials, tools, space and time all enter into this equation.

What advice would you give your younger self? Since I don't think I really thought about anything much before I was 30. I would advise myself to stop being so academic and take more risks, e.g., Major in Art instead of Social Studies even if full-time art teachers were basically non-existent in the 70's.

Where can we see your work? Mostly in our house right now. I had two sculptures juried in the International Society of Experimental Artists exhibition which was supposed to be in the Art Gallery of St. Albert last Aug. and Sept. but was cancelled because of COVID-19. Once Muttart Conservatory opens, four of my gecko sculptures can be viewed in the Arid Pavilion as part of their permanent collection. VASA artist collective has a piano which I covered with mosaic as part of St. Albert's Keys for the City project.

Call for artist submissions for new ROXY

In January 2015 the ROXY Theatre on 124 Street in Edmonton, AB was lost to a fire. The Board and Staff of the Theatre Network who operate the ROXY have undertaken to rebuild the ROXY and increase its usable spaces to include a 200-seat main stage theatre,

a multi-functional black-box studio performance space, a rehearsal hall, and three gallery spaces (one on each level of the building). These new gallery spaces will offer visual artists another space and opportunity to showcase and sell their works. The new building is scheduled to open

in the fall of 2021, and they are now accepting expressions of interests from artists who wish to be considered for future showings in the ROXY.

<https://www.mcqueenagency.com/roxygallery>

Willow workshop



"Poppy seed pod" by Tom Hare is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/)

DATE: TBD, A weekend in the spring and one harvest day.
COST: Members \$90, Non-members \$125.

Please join Ritchie Velthuis and YiYi Datar for a willow workshop weekend.

Come with an idea in mind. This is hosted by Ritchie Velthuis but the project is self-directed. There will be a harvesting day about three weeks prior to the workshop to harvest willow that needs to be partially dry. Some sculptures and furniture require willow to be harvested the same day as assembly. Please research your idea ahead of the workshop to determine which kind of willow you require.

An assortment of nails and screws will be provided. There will be tools available but if you have your own, please bring them such as a hammer, drill, saws, shears, screwdriver, and gloves. Bring a chair and a lunch. There is ample space for social distancing. YiYi has a large property with several spaces for working.

Please email shawnolander@gmail.com to reserve. Payment can be made by e-transfer to sculptorsAB@gmail.com, or mail a cheque to Sculptors' Association of Alberta, PO Box 11212 Stn. Main, Edmonton AB, T5J 3K5.

Instagram workshop on Zoom



DATE: Thursday, March 25, 6 - 9pm
INSTRUCTOR: Mars Fluet of Fluet Photography
COST: Members \$25, Non-members \$35

Do you Instagram? If not, join us for a beginner's guide to Instagram. If you are an artist and not on Instagram you are missing a huge opportunity. Instagram is a visual platform that is vital to developing a network. You will learn the basics of Instagram, how to use hashtags efficiently, develop an artistic network and interact with your followers.

To reserve your spot, please contact shawnolander@gmail.com. Payment can be made by e-transfer to sculptorsAB@gmail.com or mail a cheque to Sculptors' Association of Alberta, PO Box 11212 Stn Main, Edmonton AB, T5J 3K5. This workshop requires a minimum of ten participants to prevent cancellation. Payment must be received prior to workshop start day.

Common Ground Café news

Common Ground Café in Sherwood Park has elected to remain closed temporarily. When we hear about re-opening, we will revise the schedule and advise participating artists.

As a reminder, there are three showcases available

for sculptors to use as they wish for a six-week run. The café will handle cash sales and asks prospective buyers with credit cards to contact the artist directly. The café does not expect a commission; however, SAA requires 10% of sales.

If you are interested in showing your work, please contact [Ellie Shuster](mailto:Ellie.Shuster). Dates are allocated on a first come basis.



Snow & Ice – Barb Marcinkoski

In February, we had one last-minute commission in Drayton Valley for four blocks that were carved by Stephen Chung on Friday, Feb. 12.



Other member carvers were busy with snow and ice at the Silver Skate festival. Christian Denis and team won the people's choice vote (see left).

Stephen Chung completed several sculptures at the Deep Freeze festival including these three.



Failure? Bryan Jackson



Honestly, I think every one of my art projects has had a significant failure at some point in its genesis. Painting, wood sculpting, clay, software, hardware, and pretty much everything creative goes through that cycle. And, there are a host of causes for failure including materials, techniques, training (both too much and too little). My god, now that I think about it, it's amazing any get finished and they don't all end up heating the house or composting somewhere! Perhaps after the hours, days and even sometimes the years, I just readjust (lower) my standards to meet the newly revised timeline to finish as quickly as possible.

The project below is one that had been in the works for 30 years. No sense rushing into these things.

I had read [Art Boxes by Po Shun Leong](#). Full of self-doubt and trepidation, I plunged into making hundreds of the building blocks he talked about in his book. Perfect – that was easy. Then, there was a long period of reflection (30 years) on how to put it together. After re-reading his book, I seized upon a line describing the fluid motion of creating his Art Boxes. It was like Chinese wok cooking, done quickly within a clear framework. Off I went to the shop, assembled the bits, grabbed a base and away I went.

The result was quite satisfying. Until of course I noticed the warp in the base. Damn, so close and still so far. The piece sits on my living room table awaiting more inspiration and a few strips of tiger wood to divert attention away from my failings. Progress, no matter how slow or how many mistakes needed to be corrected is still progress.



The [Mystery Box Art Challenge](#) is a creative opportunity for 10 local artists. These artists will receive a box of collage, art, and unexpected materials. The challenge: Use at least a little bit of each material (box included) in the creation of an original artwork.

One of the ten artworks and artists will receive a \$250 gift card to the Paint Spot art store and the title of "Mystery Box Art Challenge 1 Champion."

Mistake: Lloyd Giebelhaus

This is my least artistic carving. I try to make carvings fit the piece of stone and in this case, I just didn't have enough stone to work with, but thought I'd make the best of it.



Firing failures: Ivano Ongaro



Happy accident: Ellie Shuster

There was a time when my portraits were cast in concrete. As I was learning about cold-casting in bronze, I attempted to mix the two media, hoping the heft of the concrete would make the bronze feel more "real". It worked on a smaller portrait, but... on a large piece, instead of bronze-coated concrete I had a mess of bronze pieces stuck to the mold, and a blob

of a face exposed to the world!

Never one to waste... I kept the bronze pieces thinking "Hey... I can do something with this!" and Voila! Fractured Faces were born. I now use bronze and resin. Technique is different but the result is very similar... and compelling!



Accident: Angelina Lee



This was supposed to be my last kiln load before I moved out of my home. I dropped the ware board and broke everything. I guess I didn't get to fire that last kiln load, huh? Ugh! Lol. Sh** happens.

Polar Bear workshop on ZOOM



Date: Postponed – due to Shawn’s hand injury (new dates TBD)

Cost: \$120

Part 1: You will learn how to make a hollow clay polar bear. No experience necessary.

Part 2: Final finishing and face painting prior to firing and glazing. You will have a choice of two glaze colours for your bear.

All supplies are included in the cost of the workshop.

Supplies must be picked up from either a north or south location just off Anthony Henday Drive. Completed bears will need to be dropped off at the same location for glazing and firing. Bears cannot be fired until completely dry so final pickup date will be announced at a later date.

Payment must be received prior to workshop. It may be cancelled if there is not sufficient participation. To register or inquire, email

shawnolander@gmail.com.

You can pay by e-transfer to sculptorsAB@gmail.com or mail a cheque to: Sculptors' Association of Alberta, PO Box 11212 Stn. Main Edmonton, AB T5J 3K5

If you are interested in hosting a workshop or you have a great idea for a workshop please let Shawn Olander know. In the interest of safety, we are currently providing Zoom and outdoor workshops until further notice.

Sturdy birdy: Helen Rogers



This was supposed to be a bird but I didn’t really know whether I liked it enough to continue so it has been part of the “mess” in the basement. Since we are in the process of clearing out our house in order to move, I decided that I would garbage it. I twisted off the

head all right but when I tried to smash the rest to fit it in to put large garbage container it would not break. I took a hammer to it and tried to stand on it but - - - I could not condense it at all. So, here it lies!! Maybe a sledgehammer??!!

Open call for Alberta Craft Council Gallery Shop

The ACC is calling out to artists interested in being part of the Alberta Craft Gallery Shop. The Gallery Shop retail spaces in both Edmonton and Calgary generate sales for artists and provide valuable career mentorship, product feedback, teachable opportunities for the public,

and revenue for the organization to deliver additional programming.

ACC is looking for all levels of emerging to established artists working in craft specific media to apply if they are looking for a retail venue to develop their professional craft career.

Applicants must be Alberta-based artists.

Deadline: Friday, March 26, 2021

Visit the [website or download the PDF files](#)

Ready to apply? [Click here](#)

ACC Feature Gallery call for entry - Kitsch

Kitsch: craft so bad that it's good

Alberta Craft Feature Gallery
- Edmonton exhibition dates:
June 26 - October 16, 2021

Call for entry deadline:
March 28, 2021

ACC Discovery Gallery exhibition proposals

The Alberta Craft Council is calling for exhibition proposals for the 2022 line-up at the

Alberta Craft Discovery Gallery. Annual Deadline for Entry: June 1

Click on this link to the [Alberta Craft Council calls](#)

Meeting Programming 2021*- Keith Turnbull

Mar 2, 21 - Speaker: Ritchie Velthuis about his work

Apr 6, 21 - Speaker: Member Show & Tell "COVID Edition"

May 4, 21 - Speakers: Sculpture in the time of

COVID-19: Works by Alberta sculptors

June 1, 21 - Social: BBQ or on-line gathering

Sept 7, 21 - AGM

Oct 5, 21 - Program: Sculpture "Hot Seat Round Table"

Nov 2, 21 - Program: Photographing 3D items

Dec 7, 21 - Social: Christmas ornament exchange / On-line or in person TBC

**This plan for 2021 is subject to change.*

Gilding Instructions - Kim Fjordbotten of The Paint Spot

Supplies

Gesso
Acrylic paints
Gold leaf size (oil-based or water-based adhesive)
Imitation leaf (booklet is 25 sheets of 5" x 5")
Soft hair brush for applying gesso and size
Squirrel hair brush for burnishing gold leaf
Scissors

Instructions

1. Prime the surface with gesso.
2. Paint a dark colored acrylic as a basecoat. For Gold leaf choose Red Oxide or Burnt Sienna. For Silver choose Black or Dark Green. For Copper Choose Red Oxide or Burnt

Umber. Let the base coat dry before continuing.

3. Use a ¾" or 1" brush to apply gold size. The metal leaf will only adhere to the surface where you apply the size so be sure that you have not missed any areas. For imitation leaf, use either water- or oil-based size. For real silver leaf, use only oil size.

Let this application reach the necessary stickiness to receive the leaf. This should be between one and eight hours. Follow the manufacturer's directions.

4. Apply the sheet of metal leaf to the sticky surface.

Tip 1: If you have trouble transporting the sheets of leaf

from the book to the surface, cut a piece of wax paper slightly larger than your sheets of leaf. Place the wax paper over the sheet of leaf and rub the back to create static, then lift the wax paper up and the gold will cling and be easily transported over the tacky surface to be gilded.

Tip 2: If leaf is too large, it can be easily cut with scissors. Note a single sheet is too delicate to cut separately. It is better to cut 5 or more sheets together (with the tissue interleaving still attached).

Tip 3: If it is your first attempt at leafing, the leaf may crumble or tear as you lay it down.



www.paintspot.ca 10032 81 Ave.

Do not be discouraged; you'll get the hang of it - it just takes time. Save scraps and pieces for other projects and touch-ups.

5. Protecting the leaf with tissue, press it onto the surface with a soft blending brush.

6. When the leaf is dry, burnish it with a soft flat brush to remove the excess. Then polish the surface with a soft cloth to buff to a shine.

7. Apply a coat of gloss varnish to seal and protect the fragile metal leafing. We recommend Golden MSA Varnish.

The Armature is published by the Sculptors' Association of Alberta. Images have been supplied by artist members and may not be reused without permission of the artist(s). For more information contact Maria Koulouris, SAA Administrator at sculptorsab@gmail.com.

This newsletter was prepared by Shawn Olander and formatted by Barb Marcinkoski. If you have anything for the newsletter, please contact Shawn at shawnolander@gmail.com