



The Armature

The Sculptors' Association of Alberta Newsletter

June 2021

Get to know Bryan Jackson



Tell us about yourself.

I'm a happily retired artist that after 50 years of trying, I still have a bad case of ADD which forces me to work on too many projects (usually all at once). Diversity is the spice of life, so I continue. Fortunately, my partner indulges me.

Be a modern Renaissance man, we don't have enough.

Why art?

Davinci was a brilliant mathematician, designer, thinker, an observer of nature, and of course possibly one of the world's finest artists. I've studied many arts and found great pleasure in seeking an understanding of their styles and stories.



What inspires you?

Nature, the juxtaposition of forces, the human form.

What other work have you done besides sculpting?

My most frequent go-to's are woodworking and painting.

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Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

My first sculpture was in grade 4. It was an Inuit hunter in a kayak. It's still on display on one of my shelves. Wood, clay, papier-mâché, and Ferro cement - I've tried them all.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

What mediums do you work in?

Wood, clay, glass (blown), stained glass, papier-mâché, paper, acrylic, and oil painting, charcoal sketching and polymer clays, soapstone, and cement. (Told ya, I'm ADD).

Year-end SAA All-members Meeting:

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

7:30 pm

Program: Pivot Point Wrap Up, Art Walk + Social

On [Zoom](#)

Meeting #: 825 8753 6290

Passcode: 849945

Agenda & Minutes from the last meeting have been distributed by email.

President's message – Ellie Shuster



I can't believe this is the last newsletter of our fiscal year. I say "fiscal" rather than "program", because we traditionally wrap up our year with a pot-luck barbeque (and Muttart opening) in June, take the summer off, and reconvene with a fresh slate in September. But.... this year has been anything but typical!

Instead of the summer off, we are finally participating in the Whyte Avenue Art Walk! We have secured the west window of the old Army and Navy for our members' sale for the month of July. More about Art Walk elsewhere in the newsletter.

Of course, thanks to COVID, we haven't planned our annual BBQ. The June 1st meeting will be more

of a social, with updates on Pivot Point and planning for Art Walk on the agenda. Please pour yourself a glass of wine and join us to toast a successful year with more to come!

Speaking of more to come, we were *just* advised that SAA has been selected to exhibit at the Strathcona County's Artrium (Gallery@501) from Nov. 23 through Feb. 18! Another high-profile group show (with sales opportunities) to begin our 2021-22 year. Hopefully before then life will return to a reasonable normal and we will have resurrected other stalled exhibitions, sales and workshops.

Through this unexpectedly busy year, I have SO many people to thank! Our board – Keith Turnbull, Barb Marcinkoski, Shawn Olander, Carroll Charest,

Yiyi Datar and Robert Woodbury have been industrious and supportive. Most of them have also contributed to or led Pivot Point and Art Walk initiatives, along with other team members, including Ryan Horricks, Keith Kobylka, Ritchie Velthuis, Will Johnson, Bryan Jackson, Cindy Calnea – and of course Maria Koulouris, without whom, none of this would be possible!

Our September meeting will be our AGM on Sept. 7, via Zoom. If you are interested in sitting on the board, whether as a director or member-at-large, please contact me! It is a great group and new hands/ideas are always welcome.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer. Hope to see many of you at the Art Walk!
Keep safe and healthy,
Ellie Shuster

Maggie Slater

Here's one of my latest pieces of functional art. I am so proud of this one! It's a hanging flower basket I made as a gift for my mom. I have recently started incorporating live plants into my art pieces. I laugh that it took me this long to start doing this! I've always loved tending to plants whether indoors or outside in the garden.



Industrial Growth, what I call my art business, comes from the idea of metal growing into the landscape. So, I've really been enjoying this creative burst this spring!

Bryan Jackson: con't

What makes you smile?

Karry makes me smile. My grandchildren (6 of them) make me smile. My dad makes me laugh.

What is your dream project?

A recreation of a life-sized sculpture of a woman in a sitting position blowing a trumpet. The trumpet squirts water into a duck pond. This was a sculpture my grandfather made nearly a hundred years ago. I got to grow up with it on my summer vacations to the farm.

What is your outlook on life?

90% positive and optimistic. 10% pissed off with some of the fools we elect.

How has your work evolved over time?

Better storytelling! When I start with a medium, I'm just happy to get something that looks pleasing. The more I work at it the better the piece is able to convey whatever message I'm trying to convey at the time.

Do you have a favorite work of art or artist?

So many. Picasso, Chagall, Dali, Rodin and Kandinsky.

What role does the artist have in modern society?

We make change happen. We daylight the inequalities and injustices that exist and put them on display.

What is the best thing about being an artist?

Total freedom to create anything I want.

What is the worst?

Not having any good ideas to work on.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Do more art.

Where can we see your art?

My home - or for sale at Pivot Point online auction.



Karen Klassen

Here's an update of what I have been working on and my summer plans! I've started a new series, inspired by NASA's Exploration Rovers, I will continue to add to the series. I continue to create my outdoor/indoor mosaics and new sculptural driftwood pieces that I hope to show off this summer with my own exhibition in my backyard. I'm on the planning committee of the Canadian Annual Mosaic

Exhibition (CAME) to be held at the Art Gallery of Alberta this summer, July 31-Sept. 5, 2021. This juried exhibition showcases talented mosaic artists across Canada. The purpose of the exhibition is to promote mosaic art in Canada and to expose fellow Canadians to this exciting medium. The theme this year is "Roots" It was cancelled last year due to the pandemic. We are still waiting on confirmation of the dates as the Art

Gallery is closed due to COVID, and that the exhibition dates may only be moved further into the fall and not cancelled until 2022. My BIG plan for the summer is to explore the artistic potential and technical challenges of working with large-scale rock sculpture. I'm thrilled that the Edmonton Arts Council awarded me with a grant, and I can't wait to get started!



Fall meeting programming

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

Exhibitions - Carroll Charest

It is exciting news for our group that, thanks to Ellie's persistence, we have been accepted into this year's [Whyte Avenue Art Walk](#). It is being handled differently this year - all artists will be in the Army and Navy Building with limited entry (by ticket sales I believe). Most other artists will get one weekend but we are fortunate to get all five weekends in the month of July! We have the west side of the front window space to set up and leave up for the whole month. This is great exposure- all week long. If you are interested, it will be set up like the Night of Artists was in the past: the cost will be divided between the participating artists (works out to \$40 for each participant) plus a 10% commission fee to SAA for

use of the Square device and other expenses. Some volunteer shifts to staff the exhibit will also be required. Please let me, Maria or Ellie know ASAP if you are interested in participating as we need to get advertising as soon as possible.

On another note, we have been accepted into Strathcona County Artrium space from Nov. 23 to Feb 18 in the Strathcona Community Centre where the [Gallery@501](#) and library is located. This space is frequented by a large number of county employees and members of the public so it is a perfect place to display our works. More details to follow.

Unfortunately, it is with disappointment that we did not get accepted into the Art Gallery of St. Albert. It was a great submission and I would like to thank Ritchie for the use of his COVID-theme paintings "From Darkness Comes Light." They had 115 applicants to fill only about 8-10 spots throughout the year, so competition was fierce.

With the recent news about Alberta opening up again, hopefully we will hear soon from VASA and Western Gallery in Drumheller on when the postponed shows can continue. Stay tuned and stay safe!
Carroll
SAAexhibitions@gmail.com



Gordon Pengilly



This is an owl from my new series of Garden Sculptures. This piece is unique for me because it is created from plaster and is finished such that it can withstand the

elements. Working with plaster is much different than working with clay. For one thing, it's much messier, and, for another, it involves additive and subtractive procedures.

You form it when wet and carve it when dry. The tools you use are different too. I look forward to doing more plaster work this summer.

Barry Kostiuk



Throughout this coming summer and fall I'm certain I'll be carving a fair amount of Whoville trees and evergreens for the upcoming Christmas season.

Body Beautiful May 13 – July 26

Members Deb Cameron-Laniga and Ellie Shuster are featured sculptors in Body Beautiful, a virtual exhibition at the Multicultural Heritage

Centre of Stony Plain Art Gallery. Curated by Alexis-Marie Chute, this exhibition is being hosted on YouTube, with [videos of the premiere](#) and [two artist](#)

[interview videos](#) which will be live May 27 (including [Deb's interview](#)) and June 24 (including [Ellie's interview](#)). The show runs through to July 26.

Raku Workshop with Lisa Wilkinson

- Lisa Wilkinson, a new member from Edson, would like to host a raku workshop at her home.
- Date: One day sometime between mid-Aug. and late Sept. (TBD)
- Cost: \$60 (due when date confirmed)
- Location: Edson
- Maximum participants: 8
- If 6 people register, they can bring up to 5 bisque-fired pieces. If 8 people register, they can bring up to 4 pieces. (Bisque firing is included by contacting Shawn)
- Reserve your spot today – email shawn.olander@gmail.com



Raku is a fast and exciting, process – pieces are heated to about 1800F (outdoor kiln heated with propane) in a short period of time (30-60 min) then carefully removed and placed in metal bins with combustible materials (the pieces will be glowing orange from the heat). The bin is then closed, creating a reduction atmosphere.

Raku glazes are designed to mature in the bins and are influenced by the amount of smoke in the bin. Pieces remain in the bins for 10-20 minutes and then you have your finished piece! The results are mostly unpredictable, and often spectacular. I've attached a few photos to give you an idea, and you can look for more info and ideas on the internet.

Grogged clay (available at Plainsman) is preferred for raku because it is more resistant to the thermal shock, however, regular clay pieces are usually fine provided they are small, e.g., M370 clay. Raku pieces are decorative and not suitable for food, water or outside placement



because they are low-fired. There is always a risk of cracking so you have to be prepared to lose a piece, however, there is a high chance of success.

Kinds of pieces to make & glazing considerations:

- Not excessively thick or thin, and not with lots of variation of thickness because they heat at different rates and are more likely to crack, i.e., ½ - 1 cm thickness with 2 cm max.
 - Hand-built and wheel-thrown pieces both work well. Also, flat pieces, like tiles. Again, the bigger the piece, the more chance of cracking. I suggest not exceeding 20 cm as the biggest dimension, especially if your clay is not grogged. If most of your pieces a bit smaller (less than 15 cm) you have a higher
- chance of success – especially with your first raku.
- I prefer hand-built pieces for raku (partially because grogged clay feels like sandpaper when you're throwing it!). 'Imperfect' pieces are often well suited to the look of raku. That being said, I've seen some beautiful raku wheel-thrown pieces.
 - I'll have several glazes available for use. There is a high degree of variation with the glazes so you can't guarantee a certain color (except for the white glaze, which is designed to 'crackle')
 - Unglazed areas will go black from the smoke, so you could incorporate this into your design.
 - If you don't like the look of the piece, you can glaze again and refire, although the chance of cracking increases.
- Edson is about two hours from Edmonton. Glazing and firing would take place over the course of a day, and we could finish with a potluck. I live on 80 acres of mostly forest with walking trails. A day of raku is fun!

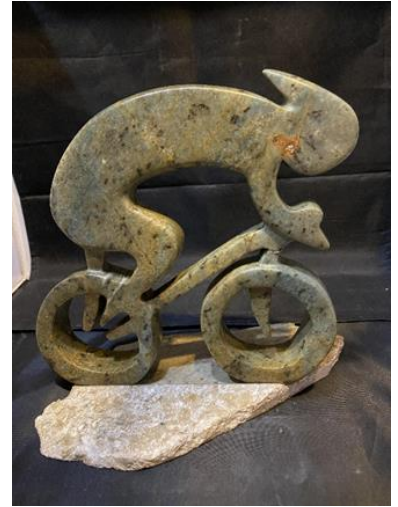
Questions ? Email me at frogpots@gmail.com.

Barry Kostiuk



The piece that I'm most proud of is my very first attempt at carving stone.

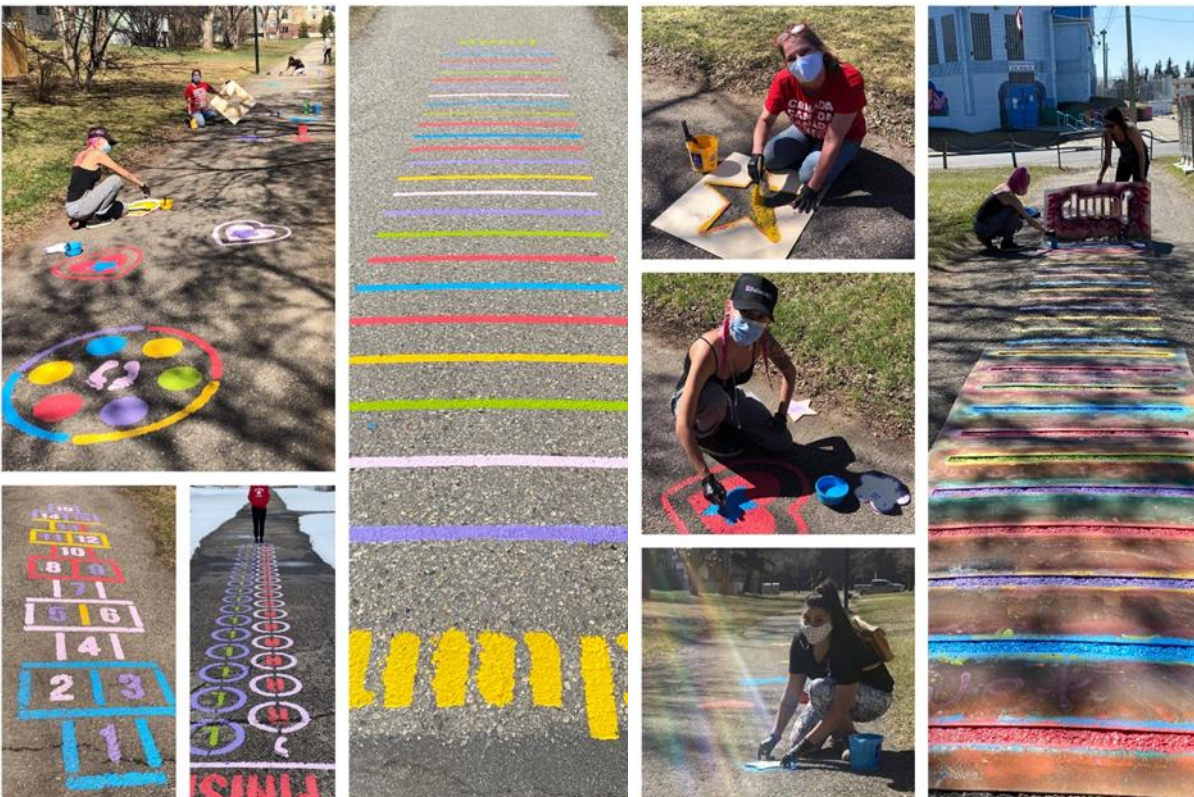
This 12" long Grizzly Bear I carved from Brazilian Brown Soapstone took approximately 80 hours from start to finish. I was about 1/2 way finished when I became hooked on carving Stone.



I stepped out of my comfort zone for this piece. A friend asked me to carve a bicycle for her husband who is an avid cyclist as an anniversary gift.

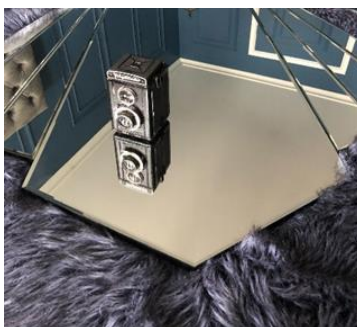
Karen Begg

I'm still working full time as a mold maker and sculpture technician but [I took advantage of] an opportunity to initiate a meaningful community beautification project through the Parks Foundation Calgary, the City of Calgary, and Embrace the Outdoors. Paint the Pathways Dover is a large-scale paint project involving five artists with COVID-safe practices, socially distanced and masked. Ten neighborhood pathways were painted with whimsy, colour and joy, encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors, local amenities, neighborhood parks and pathways.





All of the photos here were captured using an iPhone 8 – and not using Tigz's usual collection of digital SLRs and studio-grade lighting. Under lockdown, she's used what she has on hand as subjects for her photos – with her own book [Strip/Tease – The Burlesque Photography of Tigz Rice](#) standing in for flat artwork or books you have created, and an antique camera representing sculptures or other three-dimensional objects.



How to photograph artwork & sculptures at home during lockdown – Tigz Rice

Camera Settings

Unless you have a professional camera, the next best thing will be the camera in your phone. [If you have other cameras at home] take a couple of test shots on the back facing camera on each device, in the same lighting conditions, and find the one with the best image quality.

Most phones now offer RAW or DNG shooting formats, so check your phone's settings for this functionality and make sure it is turned on. If you're using an iPhone, you'll need to shoot through a third-party app like [Adobe's Lightroom](#) (free to use). You can toggle between JPG and DNG shooting mode easily in capture mode.

Lighting

Shooting during daylight in a room with white walls will provide the easiest and most color-balanced lighting, whilst minimizing noise in your photos. The weather will affect the quality of your light, so pick a good weather day if possible. If it's nice outside and the light looks great, do it now, don't put it off until tomorrow.

Find the spot in your home with the best diffused natural light, ideally from the largest window in your home. If

you have net curtains, these do an excellent job of diffusing light. If not, you'll need to be a meter or two away from the window to avoid hard or direct sunlight.

If you need more light, consider other options. Camera flash is often harsh, but if you have a portable selfie light or ring light, you could use that.

I've also been known to open my laptop, create a new blank document, and turn up my screen brightness. The benefit of this method is you can also add 'color gel' effects by changing the color of the onscreen 'document'.

If you're shooting through the Lightroom app, make sure to use Professional Mode, which will allow you to set a custom white balance. Simply click on the eyedropper icon and focus your camera on a natural color (ideally grey). Of course, if that golden, grainy tungsten aesthetic suits the mood for a more artistic shot, you have options.

3D objects

Consider the environment you are presenting your artwork in and how it complements or contrasts with your

object. You could find a picturesque spot in your home, create a set using found objects, or even put together a little makeshift studio set up with white card, some neutral wood and/or a fabric backdrop. If you're struggling, I've also included a basic example using wooden floorboards and a white cupboard door.

A sheet of acetate, mirror card or even a mirror will provide a reflective surface to shoot off, which might add a nice finish. Shoot your object from multiple angles, and focus on the details, so you can give viewers the full dimensional experience. You could also put together a video of your product.

Editing

Spend a little bit of time afterwards cleaning up your image, either in-app or on your laptop.

Crop the image where necessary and lift the exposure as needed. You could also add a small amount of Sharpening/Texture/Clarity and a touch of Vibrancy/Saturation if required.

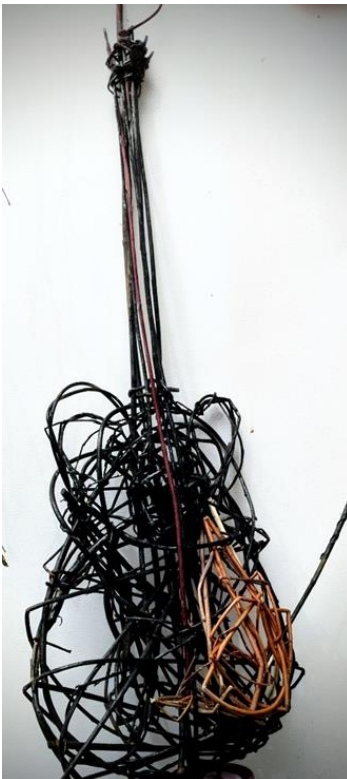
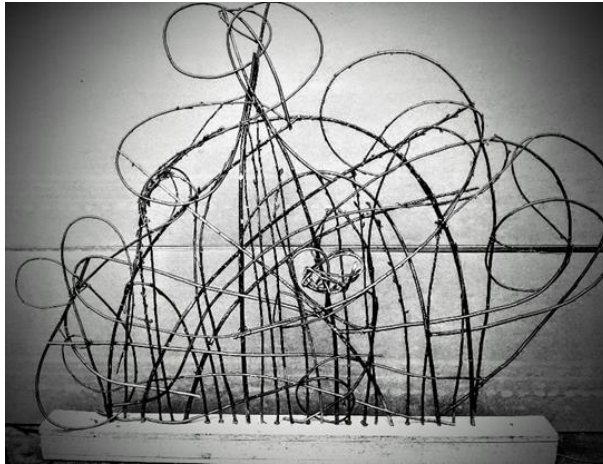
[How to photograph artwork and sculptures at home during lockdown - Features - Digital Arts](#)

Willow workshop – May 1-2

Thank you to Ritchie Velthuis and Yiyi Datar for generously donating their time, and to Yiyi who provided the materials and space to for this workshop in support of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta. A total of \$575 was raised.



More willow creations



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 edited/formatted by Barb Marcinkoski. If you have anything for the newsletter, please contact Shawn at shawnolander@gmail.com

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