



The Armature

The Sculptors' Association of Alberta Newsletter

May 2021



Member artist: Ivano Ongaro

What do you do?

My passion for sculpture is in the exploration of the medium, acquiring the skills and expression in the work.

Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

As long as I can remember I wanted to do art. I wanted to take art lessons but my parents could not afford that luxury. I taught myself as well as I could. By high school I couldn't take art because of scheduling conflicts with my matriculation requirements.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

My father suggested that I should consider dentistry as a career. I ended up taking his advice and it was the right choice for me. The professors always referred to the art and science of dentistry and this was a perfect mix for me. I learned artistic skills previously inaccessible to me and enabled me to run a business and earn a good income. I was able to pursue and further my artistic skills particularly figurative and portrait sculpture.

What mediums do you work in?

My favorite medium is clay and the human face is my favorite subject. I'm intrigued by the infinite variability within tight



physiological and morphological constraints. I also enjoy making larger sculptures in Ferro cement.

What is your outlook on life?

I'm 'poly-passionate'. There is so much to learn, so much to do and so little time to do it all. I'm easily distracted by new ideas and projects...
Go to p.3

Saskatchewan arts council
 Keith Turnbull
 Ritchie Velhuis
 Fran Cuyler
 Carroll Charest
 Pivot point sculpture show & SALE
 May 1-31, 2021
<https://sculptors-alberta.com/art-sale>

President’s message – Ellie Shuster



Summer is around the corner... Evenings are lengthening, geese are returning, trees are budding and the sunshine feels so good after a long, isolating winter. Time to turn our thoughts to shows, sales and outdoor workshops!

The Willow Workshop has been a test – making sure everyone is safely distanced, health measures are accommodated, and everyone has an enjoyable, productive time. We are exploring ways to host other outdoor workshops, given the restrictions.

Thanks again to Yiyi Datar, Ritchie Velthuis and Shawn Olander for making this one happen.

Pivot Point Show and Sale is about to launch as you read this. It has been a steep learning curve and a fun project to work on. I’m looking forward to the May 1st opening! More about it below, and a simple reminder to all – whether you are participating or not – please check that your member profile on our website is current www.sculptors-alberta.com

And for some good news... the Edmonton Arts Council

has approved our Activate grant application! We will be receiving funding to help us keep our programming going for the remainder of 2021! With these funds, and proceeds from Pivot Point, we should be able to finish the year in the black for the third straight year. Thanks to Barb and Maria for their work on our grant applications. Well done!

I understand COVID has not been kind to some among us over the winter and spring – and wish everyone good health as we look forward to a vaccine-filled, enjoyable and creative summer.

Keep safe and healthy,
Ellie Shuster

Pivot Point virtual show & sale

Next SAA All-members Meeting:

**Tuesday,
May 4
2021
7:30 pm**

Program: Members will speak about the art works that they have submitted to the Pivot Point show.

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

Agenda and minutes from the last meeting will be distributed by email.

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

It has been a long pandemic, but we are at the point of pivoting to a healthier time. We are turning the corner toward strength and healing, warmth and sunshine, early mornings and long lazy evenings. Pivot Point Show and Sale is our members’ celebration of our collective pivot toward the light.

Some 32 current and former SAA members submitted their work to be exhibited and sold through Pivot Point. This first-ever on-line show and sale will showcase and support

our artists while raising profile and operating funds for the association. It enables us to pivot to a new way of growing our membership and collector base. Its success will hinge on you – our membership.

The show and sale will be housed on our website at www.sculptors-alberta.com/art-sale from May 1-31. Visitors can browse and click, making their purchases via credit card directly on the site. If visitors have questions or need to see more views of a piece they may contact Maria (sculptorsab@gmail.com) Delivery or pick up will be

handled by each artist, with any shipping costs borne by the purchaser.

Your help is needed to promote it

Whether or not you are a participating artist, it will be up to all of us who are able, to help promote Pivot Point through our social media and email networks. We have established a schedule and a series of messages that you can easily cut, paste, and post, OR even more easily share/retweet or add to your story from the Sculptors’ Association social media post(s). Each week we will send you the social media posts for the week *cont. on p. 4*

Ivano Ongaro: con't

that it's difficult to stay focused and on task to complete works. It's especially challenging, I would say impossible, to create a consistent body of work that would satisfy the arts establishment. Life is good.

How has your work evolved over time?

My early attempts at working with clay were quite rudimentary. I was a student of facial growth and development and that led me to a deep understanding of facial form. At the age of fifty I took my first formal sculpture course through Grant MacEwan College. The 22-week evening course included doing a seated figure and a portrait bust. I

was pleasantly surprised with the results and immediately purchased a kiln so I could use it for my own works. I participated in the Harcourt House drop-in sculpture sessions and my skills gradually improved and my style became apparent.

Do you have a favourite work of art or artist?

I was 6 years old when I first saw Michelangelo's Pieta at the Vatican. It was December of 1958 and at the time it was customary to have visitors kiss Christ's foot. I remember feeling the coolness and smoothness of the marble as I ran my fingers along the edge. Now it lies behind

bulletproof glass. It is my favorite work of art and Michelangelo is among my favourite artists.

What role does the artist have in modern society?

Artists throughout history have sought to capture in the most durable materials the ideas and events that were important at the time. The role of the artist hasn't changed. Modern art reflects the freedom of expression that we currently enjoy as well as the broad range of materials and techniques that allow that expression. Helpfully some of these works will survive to leave a record of what our dreams and aspirations were, once we are gone.

What is the best thing about being an artist?

I find the creative process satisfying. Starting with nothing and eventually there is an enduring work.

What is the worst?

Art for me is not a business but a passion and personal indulgence. I'd have to say that the worst thing for me is that I have a broad range of interests that compete for my time.

What advice would you give your younger self?

I would tell me to be patient and make sure to let the clay work dry thoroughly before firings. Things blow up in the kiln. Everything else is alright.

Where can we see your art?

On my website
www.ongarosculpture.com

Exhibitions - Carroll Charest

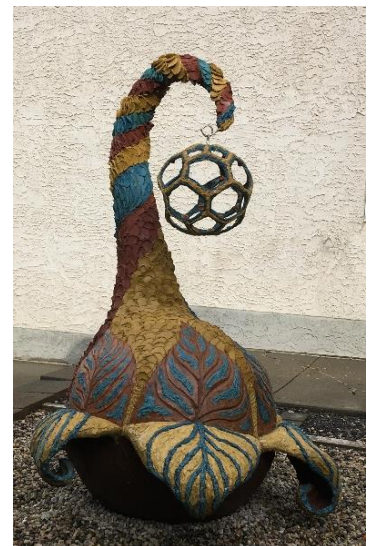
Hello everyone. I hope you have all been able to keep up with your creative works of late. It was sad that we had to cancel the [Night of Artists](#) (NOA) again. Kudos to those SAA members who had pieces in the NOA auction; I noticed that they went for much less than they were worth. Because of the current lock down, we are at the same point now as this time last year, waiting for phase three to open up. Although I have not heard from [Western GM Gallery \(Drumheller\)](#) or [VASA](#) as of yet, they will

let us know as soon as they know. I can only surmise that as long as phase three remains to be on hold, so too will the galleries. I am still hopeful we may show in the fall, but not sure where. The [Muttart Conservatory](#) is also not taking any applications as of yet due to the shutdown and are awaiting further opening up as well. We have submitted to the [Art Gallery of St. Albert](#) for 2022 and are waiting to hear back about our proposal. We

will continue to look for show opportunities as things start opening up. Stay positive!

All I can recommend is to continue to create works for the shows that are postponed - like VASA. If you are still interested in turning a photograph into a 3D piece, let me know. Google can be a stickler for security so if you are having issues logging into Google photos, let me know and I will share the album with you.

Take care,
Carroll
SAAexhibitions@gmail.com



Upcoming meeting programming

May 4, 21 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

More about Pivot Point show & sale



with images that we have prepared.

We are also reaching out to traditional and on-line media, allied arts organizations, Facebook groups and others who have an interest in the arts. You should have received a poster in the first email from Barb Marcinkoski on April 28. It can be printed and/or sent to shops etc. to promote the sale.

In-person pop-up sale?
 We hope – COVID permitting – to host a Pivot Point Pop-up Sale, ideally in the Borden Park

sculpture garden, toward the end of May or early June. We will have to pivot quickly to make this happen, and we will let you know as soon as we can figure out location, logistics and permissions.

Great volunteers make things work

A project like this doesn't happen without many hands. It has come together quickly thanks to a supportive board and some very talented and dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Ryan Horricks, our technical guru, for setting up and populating the website/storefront and making the payment work. Thanks to Keith Kobyłka for the incredible graphics – from logo to posters and all the post graphics – we could not have done this project without his talent and skills. Thanks to Barb Marcinkoski for putting together the marketing plan, creating the wording for posts, keeping us on track and "herding the cats".

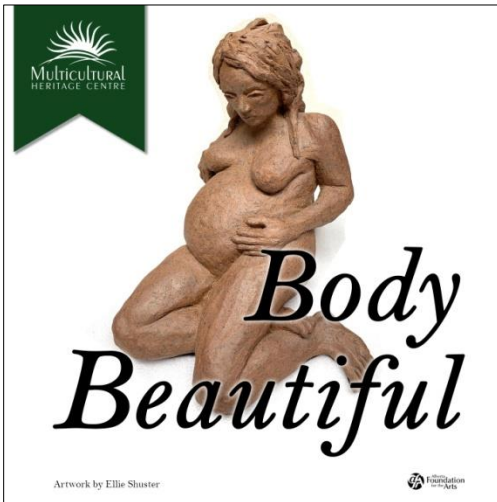
Thanks to Robert Woodbury for assisting Ryan with all things technical and to Shawn Olander and Keith

Turnbull for their great ideas and sage advice, and for connecting with so many of our members past and present. Thanks to Will Johnson for allowing us to "voluntell" him as needed. Thanks to Maria Koulouris for cheerfully and capably taking on what could have been an administrative nightmare, and for handling our social media (and all of us) with style. As the instigator of this adventure, I could not be more fortunate to have this wonderful team to rely on. They pulled it together so quickly!

And most importantly... thanks to each of the sculptors who is sharing the proceeds from their work for sale and to all of you who are helping to promote Pivot Point. SAA is a wonderful community! I am honoured and privileged to be part of it.

Ellie Shuster

Body Beautiful May 13 – July 26

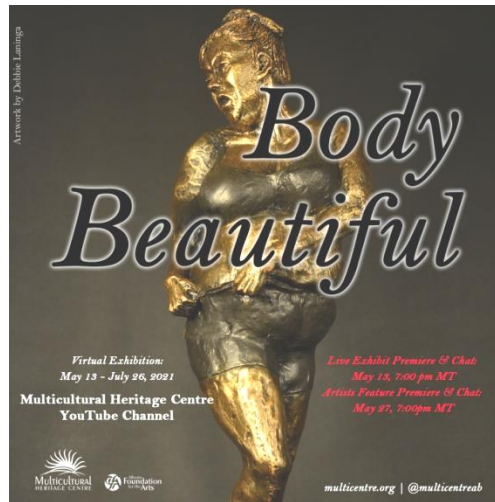


An exciting exhibition is soon to open at the Multicultural Heritage Centre Public Art Gallery in Stony Plain.

The works of SAA members Ellie Shuster (left) and Debbie Laninga have been chosen as two of about a dozen artists included in Body Beautiful, an

exhibition which “celebrates the physical form... and the artists’ unique ability to capture the subtleties that make us human.”

A live premiere and chat focusing on the artwork will be hosted on the gallery’s YouTube channel: Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. A



second event will also feature artist videos and chat: Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. You can participate at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCstuw8HHqgE1kbMkp4bicQw>

The exhibition runs at the Multicultural Heritage Centre 5411 – 51 Street, Stony Plain.

Call for submissions: “Mourning Parents...”

“Mourning Parents: Memorializing Short Lives & Long Love” is a group exhibition about love, loss, grief, and community. It centres on one of the most primal experiences—parenthood—and the

profound effects of miscarriage, stillbirth, pre- and postnatal loss, and other types of death of children. Parents break the taboo in sharing their experiences through deeply felt and sensitively portrayed art exhibition.

More information about this call for submissions from the Multicultural Heritage Centre and the application form may be [found here](#). Deadline is July 14, 2021.

ACACA virtual art show

The ACACA (Alberta Community Arts Clubs Association) is having a virtual juried art show. There is no fee to enter artwork, but you must be a member (\$30 annually). They have

categories in 2D, digital, fiber arts and Sculpture/3D. Sculpture has various levels and up to 3 artworks in a category can be entered. Entries

accepted May 3 - 14, virtual show starts May 24 with awards announced June 5, 2021. Info from ACACA’s [March 2021 Newsletter](#)



Artwork Archive's Art Business Accelerator Grant

- Award: 10 unrestricted cash grants of \$2,500 each. A lifetime Master Account with Artwork Archive (valued at \$1,000). Educational resources/expert guidance.
- Categories: Photography, Drawing, Mixed-Media/Multi-Discipline, Painting, Sculpture
- Deadline: May 14, 2021
- Entry Fee: Free

[Artwork Archive's Art Business Accelerator Grant](#) provides visual

artists with unrestricted funds, resources, and a curriculum to help establish, grow and manage their art careers.

The grant is designed to arm artists with the necessary business skills to succeed as artists and entrepreneurs—and to make a living through their artwork.

Grant Details

Open to both emerging and established artists, the Art Business Accelerator grants resources to invest in your art business as well as six weeks of career-

building modules that increase business skills, economic proficiency, marketing knowledge and more.

Recipients receive funding and expert guidance in order to make the growth process easier, to gain confidence, and establish a solid business foundation for their art practice.

Grant recipients will receive grant funding, a lifetime account to Artwork Archive, and one-on-one access to expert career guidance.

The Hopper Prize

- Award: Two (2) artists will each receive \$3,500 grants & four (4) artists will each receive \$1,000 grants
- Who: Artists worldwide working in Craft/Traditional Arts, Photography, Drawing, Film/Video/New Media, Mixed-Media/Multi-

Discipline, Painting, Sculpture

- Deadline: May 18, 2021
- Entry Fee: \$40 to submit 10 images

The Hopper Prize offers unrestricted cash grants to individual artists through an international open call juried by leading contemporary curators.

[The Hopper Prize](#)

supports artists working in all media, from diverse backgrounds, in wide-ranging geographic locations. There is no restriction on genre, style or subject matter—all media is eligible. Artists must be at least 18 years of age at the time of their submission.

<https://hopperprize.org/>

Workshop report – Shawn Olander

The Willow workshop is full at seven participants. We will be moving forward with the workshop as it is being held on a private acreage which is extremely well spaced and all health protocols will be exceeded.

Unfortunately, at this time the city will not allow outdoor workshops at City of Edmonton parks. Outdoor gatherings of ten people

must be cohorts or from a single family. When we are safely able to do so, outdoor workshops in the park will resume. Hopefully that will be **this** summer.

We have been offered an opportunity to tour Behrends Bronze to see their foundry facilities in operation. This will have to be in very small groups and masks would be mandatory. If you are interested, please let me

know. There is no cost for the tour. Will be scheduled sometime later this summer.

In the meantime, please take lots of pictures. We love to see what you are doing. If anyone has any ideas for photo calls, articles, newsletter ideas or suggestions, I would love to hear them.

Shawn Olander
shawnolander@gmail.com

Studio pics - missed in the last issue



Angeline Lee

This is my current workspace, smack dab in the middle of my living room because sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do--create when and where you can.

Also, this is my canine studio buddy, Chewy. Felines are not shown. They like to crawl into the bowls I make and break them, and they like to eat my clay. The doggo butts my arm to get me to pet her while I am working. Also not shown is my large family who also lives with me in my "studio space."

More studio spaces – Herman Poulin

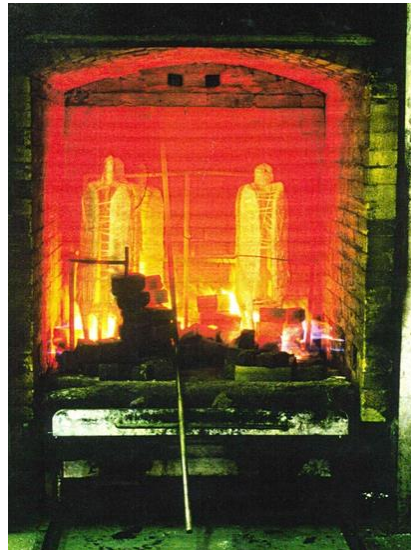


Stages of a sculpture – Keith Turnbull

Four images of a piece that I did for the unfortunate VASA show - a papier-mâché clay magpie. It is about 42 inches long.



More stages of a sculpture – Don Begg



Photos of the armature, for 9-foot figure **Donald Smith, Lord Strathcona**: enlargement, ceramic shell, de-waxing, casting, seams in bronze, patina and the finished work.

There are two copies one in Calgary and the other at the Legislature in Edmonton.

Foundry - Studio West Ltd., Cochrane, Alberta (soon celebrating 50 years in the arts!)

Location - Military Museum Calgary, Legislature Grounds Edmonton



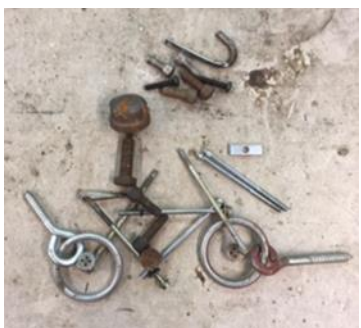
More stages – Darcy Hoover



"On My Honour"
Won 3rd prize in the Sculptural Works category for the Focus on Fibre Art Association juried 2020 competition Theme: Future in Focus.

Stages - Susanne Sheers

Here's some pictures of a bike sculpture I was commissioned to make for a customer's grandson who was just learning how to jump his mountain bike.



Stages – Helen Rogers



“Down the Rabbit Hole”

Along the way this kept looking like a rabbit head aka Playboy bunny. Not sure why I did not take a picture of it at that stage so this part is missing. It was really challenging to get rid of that image but I finally did it. Hence the title.

Papier-mâché clay recipe



Please try this easy recipe, make an amazing sculpture, and send us pictures of your work.

- 3 cups damp toilet paper (cheapest quality you can find, about 1 roll)
- 2 cups premixed drywall compound (not DAP)
- 1.5 cups white glue
- 1 to 2 cups white flour (depending on desired consistency)
- A cardboard and newspaper armature

Mixing Instructions

Soak toilet paper in hot water until it breaks apart (about 15 minutes) Scoop the paper fibers out of the water and squeeze half the water out. The fibers should not be too dry. Continue until you have 3 cups. Flush leftover water. (con't next page)

Stages – Lloyd Giebelhaus



Papier-mâché- continued

Add glue and joint compound and mix well.

Add flour slowly. Start with half a cup. For an all over coat, you want a thin mixture. For sculpting fine details, a thicker mixture. How much flour you add will depend on how much water remained in the paper fiber and your desired purpose. I often divide the batch $\frac{3}{4}$ thin and $\frac{1}{4}$ thick.

Application

Apply a thin 1/8-inch coat to your cardboard and newspaper armature. Think of it like icing a cake. Let dry up to two days over plastic or newspaper. Store leftover mixture in the refrigerator. Apply another coat where needed and finish fine details and texture. Let fully dry. Finish with acrylic paint and sealer.

Notes

- Store in a sealed pail in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. For indefinite storage, freeze.
- This dries extremely hard and durable.
- Please take pictures of what you make for the September newsletter.
- My finished snowy owl will be in an upcoming newsletter. - *Shawn*

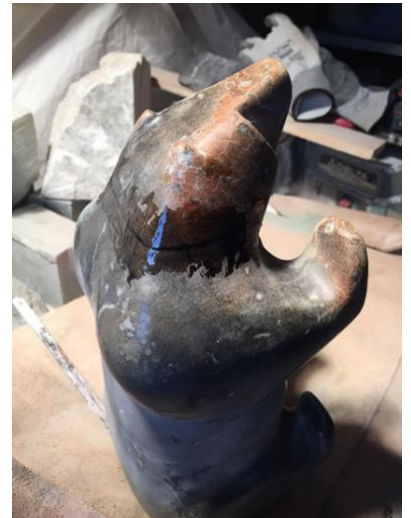
Barry Kostiuk

In 2013, I was commissioned by a longtime friend to carve a bear from Black Chlorite. After it was completed and delivered, it sat on a small table inside the front entrance of his house in Fort McMurray for all visitors to see.



In the devastating fire of May 2016, my friend's house was completely destroyed. When they were eventually allowed to have their property searched for items that had survived the fire, the bear was found. It had fallen into the basement and broke in two.

He asked if I could repair it for him, leaving some scars to show what it had been through. With great pleasure, I started the repair.



That same Bear complete with a few scars and heat spots showing its fiery journey is now back in its new home to be enjoyed by my friend, his family and his friends once again.

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

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