



The Armature

The Sculptors' Association of Alberta Newsletter

October 2021

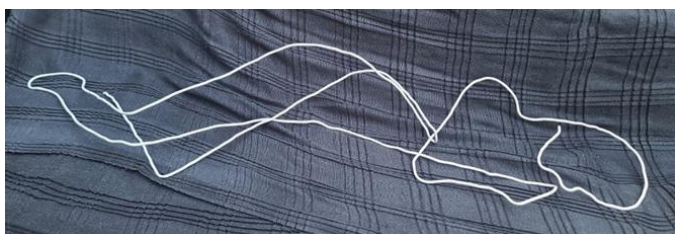
Get to know Darcy Hoover



The Three Graces' Faces, hung by my front door



Green man



Sleep

I'm Darcy. I do what I want. I'm not kidding. I took a political survey recently that pegged me for an anarchist. The survey sat me next to Peter Kropotkin. (It) made me regret that when I was in Paris, I didn't make it to the cafe La Conquête du Pain because in addition to having a strong independent streak I'm a big fan of sandwiches.

Also, I like making 3D objects. As a child I used to build apartment complexes for my dolls out of scrap wood that my dad threw behind the garage. I also made a thing out of clay in junior high art class and papier mâché monsters for my son's Halloween parties, but I didn't sculpt proper until I was in my 40s.

Why art? Because no art is misery for me. I know this from

unfortunate experience.

My creative life is my dream project. It was only a dream for a couple decades and I have a lot of catching up to do. I work in every medium I can think of a way to create in. I've made 3D objects in clay, wire, wood, papier-mâché, rock, fabric and fibre. I also paint, weave, embroider, sew, and garden. The medium is a message to me. If it speaks to me, I give it a go.

Over time my work has become more independent of influence, which I believe is a normal process. There is definitely stuff out there that is derivative and doesn't achieve the level of independent expression that the word 'art' implies, but we all start out by doing what we've seen others do. I do that less now than I did. I now do what I see in my head, but I still borrow techniques and pieces of inspiration from what I see.



Tomb toppers from my Halloween graveyard last year

My son once told me that my work has a strong sense of nostalgia and I think he touched on something. I do not long for or spend time in wistful contemplation of the past, but everything I do has a component that is directly helping me reconcile who I want to be with what has been. My personal past is not always the object of that reconciliation, but it can often be.

I see the question "What art is the worst?"...hmmm

There is no art that is the worst. Creativity is a net good. Even if it's derivative. Even if you create by imitation, if that imitation comes from a

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President's message – Ellie Shuster



Welcome to the wonderful colours of autumn... and a new year gearing up for SAA.

We have exhibitions, workshops and speakers planned – and (COVID-willing) some in-person get-togethers in the coming months. Meanwhile, for safety's sake, we will continue to meet on-line for the time being.

Our AGM last month was well attended, and it is my pleasure to

welcome **Herman Poulin** and **Carroll Charest** as Members at Large on our board. These are new positions to support the organization of events, exhibitions, communications, workshops or to step in wherever needed, and the help is appreciated! There are still opportunities for other members to be "at large" as we work to share the work.

We have an active board – including VP **Robert Woodbury**, Treasurer

YiYi Datar, Snow/Ice **Barb Marcinkoski**, Programming **Keith Turnbull**, and Newsletter Co-Editors **Shawn Olander** and Barb. I am so grateful to them for their enthusiasm, creativity and the responsibilities they take on.

We are still looking for Exhibition and Workshop chairs – and members at large – so if you want to get involved, please contact me at ellie@shuster.com. Your association needs you!

SAA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021
7:30 pm



Speaker: David Cheoros from the Edmonton Arts Council about grants for artists

On Zoom: [LINK HERE](#) Meeting ID: 840 2844 1497 Passcode: 160357

Agenda & Minutes from the last meeting have been distributed by email. Check with Maria Koulouris if you haven't received them.

Annual membership fees now due.

E-transfer \$40 to sculptorsab@gmail.com

We still need exhibition and workshop chairs.

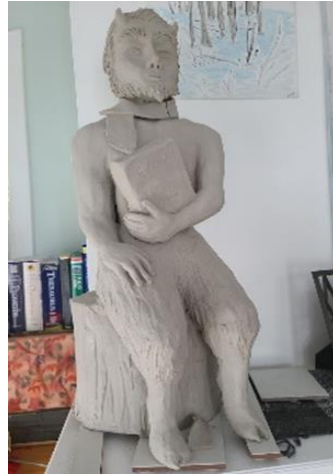
Can you help us out? Contact ellie@shuster.com

Darcy Hoover: con't

desire to create, that is good. Your creativity should be for you.

Don't ever, ever let the world put your creativity into a hierarchy. Creativity is a spectrum, not a hierarchy. You can create and people might like it enough to buy it. That's a beautiful gift to the world. But first and foremost, your creativity should be for you. Never let it be otherwise.

You can see my art in my yard, which I am slowly turning into a living gallery. You can see my art in my house and on Instagram and probably next year I will go back to Strathearn Art Walk. I don't produce enough to sell more often than that because I have a big yard and big house and a big life, I need to fill up first.



A collection of my needle felted pieces (above). I exhibited *Shirley's Ticket to Ride* (the girl sitting on the steamer trunk) in the Edmonton Needlecraft Guild's exhibit in 2019. *On My Honour* won 3rd prize in the sculpture category in the Focus on Fibre Art Association show in 2020. The bust is called *Faux Marble Bust of Persephone*. The two gargoyles are unnamed. The round sitting woman is called *Gaia*. The kneeling woman is called *Sami*. The reclining girl with a book is called *Jane*. The two girls playing a hand clapping game is called *Patty, Kate - Patty, Kate*.

Top left – Mr. Tumnus
Middle – Elf Church
Bottom left – Fenrir's paw print
Bottom centre - Family Fence
Bottom right – Animal Fences



Fall meeting programming

Oct 5, 21 Program:
David Cheoros from
the Edmonton Arts
Council about grants
for artists

Nov 2, 21 Program:
Photographing 3D items
(tentative)

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

Wire Artist Laura Ouimet



Tell us about yourself and what you do.

I am Laura Ouimet and I am the owner/artist behind YEG business, Wemet Wire Work. I make wire art in many forms. I've recently begun making chicken wire sculptures. I have a YouTube channel and teach art classes to all ages.

Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

Nope. At least not in the traditional sense. It wasn't on my radar at all until less than a year ago. The exception to that would be Bonsai (tree) sculptures.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

The best advice I've been given is, don't throw away the projects you feel are failures. Put them away out of sight, and forget about them. Revisit them periodically and you'll likely be surprised that what you find isn't the disaster you thought first go round. I've often found inspiration in that pile of discards. First and foremost, be kind to yourself!

Why art?

Creating Art of any kind makes me smile! It

excites, and calms me all at the same time.

What mediums do you work in?

I work primarily in wire but get a kick out of recycling, so I use old frames, jewelry and found or second-hand vessels. It's fun to search for discarded items I can find a way to reuse! I recently discovered chicken wire and am so excited at the potential it holds for sculpture.

What inspires you?

My art is primarily inspired by nature. Trees historically have been my subject of choice; however, I have branched out to animal and human forms working with chicken wire.

What other work have you done besides sculpting?

I worked with Edmonton Public Schools for a number of years and one of my primary roles was taking the lead with the art curriculum. I got to play around with a lot of mediums and hang out with some pretty special young people over the years. I've enjoyed tole painting, stained glass and mosaic work, and lots and lots of crafting with children.

What makes you smile?

My grandchildren's laughter!

What is your dream project?

I really can't pinpoint one but as of this moment it would likely involve chicken wire.

What is your outlook on life?

Time has a way of slipping away. Don't waste it!

How has your work evolved over time?

My work has gone from pretty straightforward framed wire tree art, to Bonsai, to projects for my YouTube channel now to chicken wire. It's been six years of fun experimenting with all types and gauges of wire and mixed media!

Do you have a favourite work of art or artist?

My favourite painter has always been Picasso. My favourite wire artist is Robin Wight of Fantasy Wire. My favourite sculptor in chicken wire is Derek Kinzett.

What role does the artist have in modern society?

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Laura Quimet con't



With so much screen time and arts programming cuts, I think it's imperative to share the hands-on experiences of tactile art and crafts in all forms and media with the next generation. It's our

responsibility to expose and guide the next generation to modern art forms and processes but also the importance of art throughout history.

What is the best thing about being an artist?

Paints, paper, wire and fabric. Beads, recycling, the smells, the textures...well you get where I'm going with this!

What is the worst?

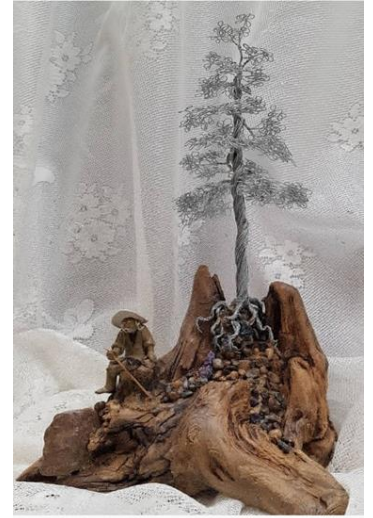
Having too many ideas to ever actually be able to bring to life.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Do you! Don't be afraid to try new things.

Where can we see your art?

You can see my art using this [link](#). I also have representation at Upper Level Gallery in Vermillion, Gossamer Gallery in Wabamun, Painted Door Gifts and Gallery in Beaumont and some artisan events throughout the year.



FACES: The artists & their work

Maggie Slater



The one with me in it is from the Wabamun Art Walk that was on Aug 21, 2021. The sculpture is one of my newest and it's called The Meteor. I used tin foil as a removable armature to make the form using over 500 1/4" steel nuts.

Shawn Olander



As some of you know, I almost always make bears. I'm kind of obsessed. I was asked to make an elephant as a commission and this is it. It still needs to be glazed but I'm pleased that it resembles an elephant.

Kay McCormack



Ellie Shuster



This is a fairly recent photo of me (with COVID hiding in the background... which is the best example of the work I've been engaged in over the last year....) and one of Alexander Graham Bell — which, although not recent, is one of my favourites from the many portraits I've done.

Morton Burke



Photo of me and a nice photo of a piece I did way, way back but it is still one of the ones I am most proud of.

Carrie Carbol-Ritcey



Susanne Scheers



Deb Laninga



This is me, in my happy place, with two commissioned sculptures.

Raku Workshop



On October 2, we headed to Edson for a wonderful day of Raku. The weather was perfect. Lisa Wilkinson and Steve Bradbury (seen in the photo above) were extremely generous hosts.

The participants were Keith Turnbull, Carroll Charest, Wanda Resek, Kay McCormack, Sharon Moore-Foster and Shawn Olander.

The Raku process is interesting and exciting

with unexpected results. It was so much fun.

We are working on more Raku workshops in the spring, so if you are interested in being placed on the class list, please contact Shawn Olander.



Sharon Moore-Foster



Kay McCormack



Keith Turnbull



Raku Results

Carroll Charest



Wanda Resek



Shawn Olander



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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