

# The Armature



The Sculptors' Association of Alberta Newsletter

December 2021

## Lisa Wilkinson – Raku expert



### **Tell us about yourself and what you do.**

I live in Edson where I am a Species at Risk Biologist. Working with clay has been a passion for over 20 years, gradually transitioning from functional pottery to sculpture. My favourite type of firing is Raku because it is organic and unpredictable (of course there is always more risk with Raku). Not surprisingly, I usually sculpt wildlife. I have always been drawn to realism which is reflected in my

sculptures. However, by using Raku I have to surrender my sculptures to the vagaries of the firing. I try to balance biological accuracy with the aesthetics of form and colour.

### **Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?**

No. From a young age I enjoyed art, and tended towards detailed drawings of wildlife. School and work dominated much of my young adult life, but I was eventually drawn back to art and took a

wheel throwing course. I was instantly in love with clay. I spent many years improving my throwing skills to make large, unique pieces, often decorating them with nature themes. Slowly, small animal sculptures began to emerge.

### **What is the best advice you have ever been given?**

Probably just something as simple as believing in yourself. As a parent, I have tried to find inspirational and motivating quotes to bestow upon my kids (I write them on the blackboard in the kitchen). I like "Don't limit your challenges, challenge your limits".

### **Why art?**

Why not? For those of us drawn to art there really isn't a choice, it's something you feel compelled to do and love doing.

### **What mediums do you work in?**

I primarily work in clay; the possibilities are endless. I dabble in drawing - pencil, pen, and water colour pencils.

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## President's message – Ellie Shuster



As I write this, we are between weekends at the Army and Navy on Whyte. I am blown away by how sculptors in our group shows collaborate to create beautiful exhibitions, share responsibilities, swap insights and promote each other. The first weekend was a success and I expect the second will be equally so. I am grateful for these opportunities and for my sculptor colleagues.... my heart is full!

Our next major group show will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Night of Artists!** I'm delighted that Phil Alain and his team are presenting this wonderful event again, after two pandemic-related cancellations. SAA will again have a double booth for the show which runs March 18-20 at the Enjoy Centre in St. Albert.

With many events taking place across Edmonton, we were at a loss to borrow grid wall for the Christmas Market as we have in the past. So.... SAA managed to secure some of our own. Thanks to Jake Lewis of Jake's Framing for coming through. We now own 10 panels of black 2' x 8' grid wall with feet, fittings and hangers – in excellent condition. It was a steal of a deal, and we are grateful! For the Christmas Market, we draped black cloth to obscure the shelving behind and created a professional backdrop for the banner and hanging sculpture.

The grid wall, along with lights we made for the first Night of Artists, are available for members to borrow (for a rental fee) when not in use by SAA.

The joy of sharing ideas with my colleagues at

the Christmas Market has really whet my appetite for getting back together in person as soon as we can! And at the same time, the news about Omicron sits in the back of my mind as a signal to remain vigilant. I have also heard from many of you about the need to share in person.

I hope the early months of the new year allow us to come together. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to our second annual ornament exchange and to seeing your smiling faces on Zoom for our last meeting of 2021.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a safe... healthy... happy... creative... productive... and lucrative new year!

Ellie Shuster  
President

### SAA Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021**  
**7:30 pm**

**Join us for the**  
**Second Annual Ornament Exchange**

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

**Agenda & Minutes** from the last meeting are distributed by email. Check with [Maria Koulouris](#) if you haven't received them.



## Lisa Wilkinson: con't



### What inspires you?

Most of my inspiration comes from nature.

### What makes you smile?

Wildlife and my kids.

### What is your dream project?

Someday I would like to make a large sculpture in bronze.

### Do you have a favourite work of art or artist?

The wildlife sculptor I most admire is [Nick Mackman](#) from England. She is amazing.

### What is the best thing about being an artist?

Freedom of expression and joy of creating.

### What advice would you give your younger self?

Don't give up. Remember that life is a journey.

### Where can we see your art?

Mountain Galleries, Jasper Park Lodge; Alberta Craft Council; Black Spruce Gallery, Waskesiu, Saskatchewan.

## Exhibitions update

**Night of Artists, St. Albert** – March 18-20

**Visual Arts Studio Association (VASA) Show. St. Albert** – possibly May – waiting for confirmation

**Western Gallery, Drumheller**- June

## January meeting program

If you would like to share your work in a twenty-minute presentation at the next meeting, contact Keith Turnbull at [keithtur@telus.net](mailto:keithtur@telus.net). He is looking for three artists to present at our meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 4, on Zoom.

## Newsletter submissions

We are always looking for your submissions to the newsletter. If you are showing your work, teaching a workshop, working on something special, have an update you'd like to share, or any story ideas, please contact me. Also, please keep the photos coming, they are greatly appreciated.

Submit your items to me, Shawn Olander at: [shawnolander@gmail.com](mailto:shawnolander@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month and contact me with any questions!



## Ice Time – Barb Marcinkoski

Already, we have completed two commissions – an ice bar (see right) for **Luminaria** festival at University of Alberta Botanic Garden which was completed Nov. 25 and 26 by Stephen Chung and Kelly Davies. Unfortunately, the weather has been warm, so I wonder whether it will last for the 43 days it will be needed.



On Saturday, Nov. 27, our carvers completed four ice sculptures at **Christmas in the Heartland** (CITH).

Christian Denis carved the nativity scene from two blocks at Bethany Lutheran Church (left), Warren Finlay carved the Christmas tree with



presents at Moyer Recreation Centre (bottom left), Jeremy McConville carved the Rudolph reindeer at Good Hope Hall (bottom centre), and Randall Fraser carved the forest with the little snowman slider (bottom right).

We are pleased to be back at CITH, although the festival only had half of the usual locations participating.



In December, we will do:

- Two one-blocks in Red Deer at the Gasoline Alley Christmas Market, Friday Dec. 17 (TBC)
- Skate with Santa in Edson, Sunday, Dec. 19 (two one-blocks)
- Three two block carvings in Sherwood Park, Dec. 29-30 for New Years Eve.

There are more ice commissions coming up

and possibly ice and snow workshops in the new year.

Contact [Barb](#) if you'd like to carve ice or snow.

## Sculptors who are now exhibiting...

SAA has two group shows in December through February and will be exhibiting at Night of Artists (see p.7). Here's who's involved right now:

At the Christmas Market:

- Roy Hinz
- Karen Klassen
- Deb Laninga
- Bev Oliwa
- Kay McCormack
- Ellie Shuster
- Keith Turnbull

At the Artrium (see p. 8):

- Shawn Olander
- Keith Turnbull
- Deb Laninga
- Carrie Carbol-Ritcey
- Ellie Shuster
- Bev Oliwa
- Kay McCormack
- Wanda Resek

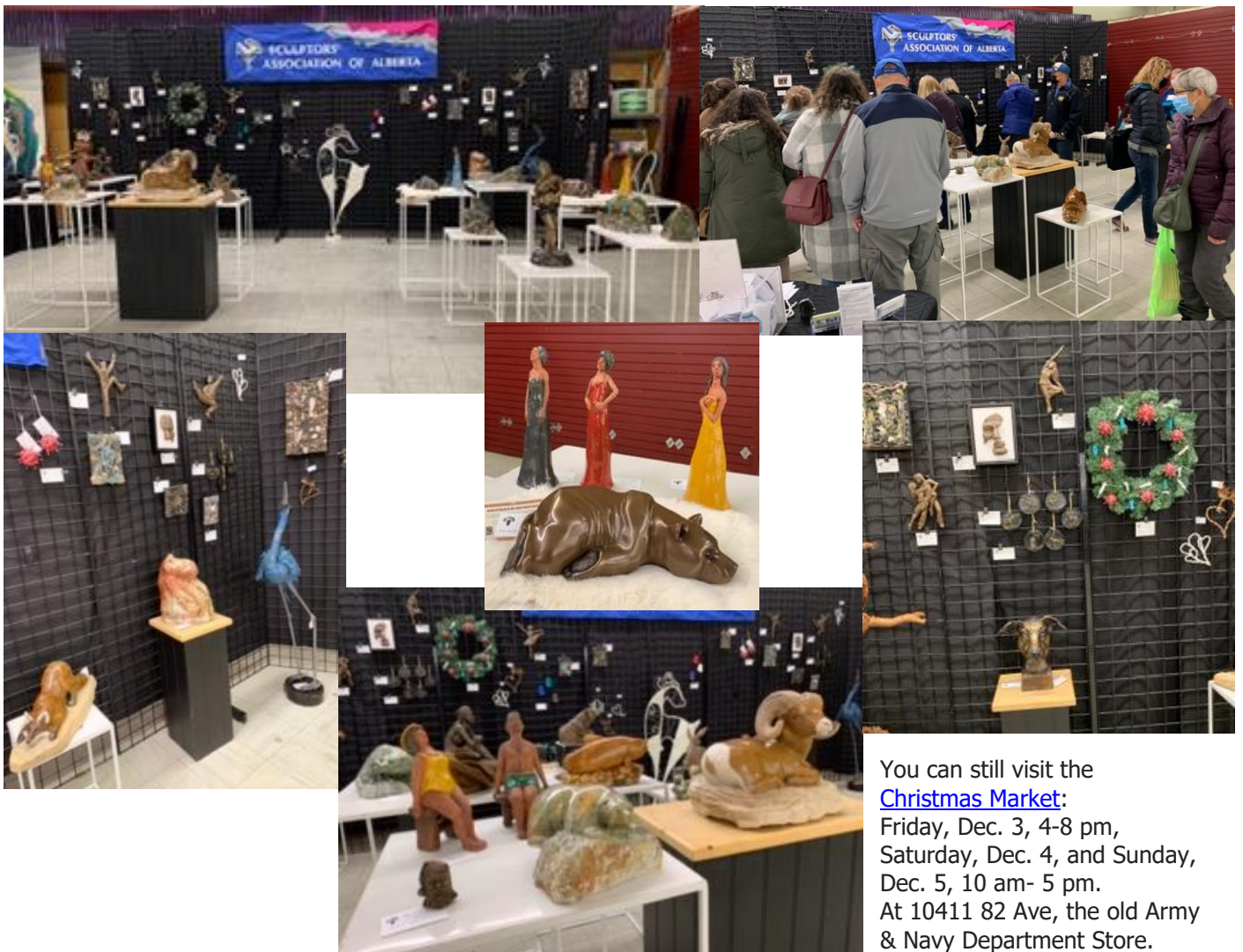
## ...Will you join us next time?

We encourage everyone to take advantage of SAA group show opportunities to showcase your sculpture and the excellence of our association. They are a chance to get to know fellow sculptors, share ideas and technique, meet the public, talk about art and our work, help out with organization and, of

course, make some sales.

Keep your eye out for upcoming shows and plan to take part.

## Christmas Market on Whyte Ave.



You can still visit the [Christmas Market](#):  
 Friday, Dec. 3, 4-8 pm,  
 Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday,  
 Dec. 5, 10 am- 5 pm.  
 At 10411 82 Ave, the old Army & Navy Department Store.



## Photo call: Ornaments for exchange

### January photo call



This month please send us a photo and update for the first issue of the new year. It could be what you are working on, a new headshot, a workshop you are teaching, or where you are showing your work. What do you want us to know?

Deadline for [submissions](#) is Dec. 25. Thanks for your participation.  
- Shawn

Darcy Hoover



Shawn Olander



This polar bear in a Santa hat is not fired yet. He will be a mirror finish with a shiny hat... hopefully!

Ellie Shuster



Bev Oliwa



Barb Marcinkoski



My ornament is also needle-felted (though not nearly as amazing as Darcy's!)

## Art-O-Rama Fundraiser



A number of current and former SAA members are showing their work for sale at Harcourt House's annual fundraiser.

Proceeds from this event help to support exhibitions and art education programs – like our Monday night

sculpture with a model – and the artists who are donating their talents. (Proceeds are shared equally between Harcourt and the artists.)

Harcourt is both our landlord and an important resource for

SAA and our members. Please visit this show and encourage your friends and family!

There is always interesting work to see and buy. You can view and purchase the work online starting Dec 3: <https://harcourthouse.ab.ca/art-o-rama-2021>

Please share the link!

## Keith Turnbull



## Shawn Olander



## Barb Marcinkoski



This soapstone grizzly bear (above) was created at Kay McCormack's workshop. I learned so much about bear anatomy. Thanks Kay.

My latest clay sculpture - my friend's Labrador "Reed", waiting to dry, be fired and painted.

## 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Night of Artists



The annual St. Albert celebration of the arts, [Night of Artists](#) (NOA) that has occurred for 24 years – not including 2020 and 2021 – is happening again March 18-20, 2022 at the St. Albert Enjoy Centre in the Moonflower Room.

SAA is planning to participate with a group display. The show hours are:

- Friday, 7-10:30 pm
- Saturday and Sunday 11am-4 pm

Set up is Thursday/ Friday and take down on Sunday after the show.

At the last NOA in 2019 (see left), the SAA had 13 sculptors in our display. A total of 15 SAA members were to participate in 2020 in the group display.

The 2020 NOA magazine which has already been printed (with our 15 artists included) will be distributed at the 2022 show with a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary insert.

There is also an optional online auction - 50% of the proceeds go to artist and 50% go to a charity, Amy's House.

There will be live music and entertainment during the show and admission is free (donations are accepted). Vaccination proof will be required.

If you're interested in the group exhibit, send an email to: [SAAexhibitions@gmail.com](mailto:SAAexhibitions@gmail.com).

Details for participation will be forthcoming soon.



## The Artrium space – Gallery@501

Eight SAA members are currently exhibiting at the [Artrium](#) in Sherwood Park at the Strathcona County Community Centre. This show was curated by Gallery@501 and runs until Feb. 18, 2022. Here's some pictures.



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](mailto: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](mailto:shawnolander@gmail.com)

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