



A summer trip to MISSA



I made three rats. The first rat was a normal looking rat, smelling the glorious picnic foods. The second rat is plumper and sitting up, eating a double scooped ice cream cone. The third rat is an ice cream bike vendor riding quickly to the scene to make his sales.

This summer, I traveled to Victoria BC to engage in an arts program at the Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts (MISSA), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1984 in Metchosin, BC. Every year, this organization offers two weeks of classes to adults from around the world. This year's event took place on the beautiful campus of Shawnigan Lake School in the Cowichan Valley.



The repetition of form in a line with red clay against the green grass, really helped to draw in viewers.

The class I signed up for was called "Revealing New Worlds: Small Scale Clay Figures" taught by Joe Batt from Olympia, Washington. Joe creates figurative sculptures, usually of animals or children, using red clay from the Seattle Pottery House. This clay choice is important because after the first kiln firing, he finishes his artwork with Prismacolor pencil crayons. The mark-making from the soft color pencils allows him to create the illusion of fur for his animal sculptures.

Our first assignment from Joe was to make our own narrative using anthropomorphic animals. As a class we chose the rat and the scene was a family picnic! Each sculpture was made solid and then hollowed out once the clay was closer to the leather-hard stage.

The second assignment was to sculpt loosely. We had 30 minutes to create as many rats as we could. I was able to make six nicely sized rats during this time. This exercise was important to change our mindset from the perfectly smooth sculptures to maximizing product for an installation. We took our unfired pieces to the hall that evening for an event in which each class would showcase their work for all the other artists. Our class decided on an outdoor location for our installation which we named "Rat Race". Not only was this assignment good for me to work loosely, I also learned more about the various possibilities when installing artwork for a show.



I enjoyed my time at MISSA and would recommend it to anyone wanting to travel to Victoria to learn something new. There were many workshop opportunities including ceramics, fabric arts, and painting. They also have a residency program with a mentor, which is unique. I made lots of new friendships with artists at various stages of their career from places all over the world.

- Shelly Leroux

President's message



Welcome to a new year for SAA! I can't believe how quickly summer has flown and here we are planning for the upcoming fall/winter season.

Our Annual General Meeting is Sept. 5 and I hope you will join us as we review the year just past and look forward to interesting times ahead... and "interesting times" is a choice of expression, as we still have no word what will happen to our home at Harcourt House. Your board is hoping for the best and planning for the worst.

Our other up-in-the-air home is the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market. Their board has decided not to renew their lease in the beautiful - and costly - old building. They are working on finding

a new home before the lease expires in spring. Depending on the location (indoor/outdoor) we will make a decision on our future there.

Meanwhile, the first 10 months of our market gallery allowed us to engage with approximately 4000 visitors, resulted in sales for about a dozen artists who participated, and netted SAA over \$2000 - among other benefits. *We look forward to the Christmas season and do have room for three or four more sculptors to join us.*

This year we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts - we qualified partly because we have operated in the black for the last few years, and partly from a connection made at the market. We will put it to good use: planning to upgrade our website, communications materials, snow/ice equipment and do some workshop planning. Stay tuned!

We have some great group shows coming up this year: Two Night of Artists (October and March), a show in Calgary this fall and another in Drumheller in summer. Unfortunately, our wonderful Exhibition Director, Carroll Charest, has had to resign and we are looking for someone to fill that chair. It would be great to have a team in place rather than the onus on one person. If you are interested in helping out with exhibitions, please let me know!

It promises to be an interesting AGM with lots to discuss and some decisions to make. Edmund Haakonson will talk to us about the situation with Harcourt House as well. I look forward to seeing you there... it will be "interesting" indeed!
- Ellie Shuster

SAA Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday, Sept. 5,
7:30 pm**

In-person and on Zoom

Program: AGM + Harcourt House update from Edmund Haakonson

Harcourt House Annex
10211 112 St, Edmonton
(ring the bell to be let inside)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID:
848 2457 4125

Passcode: 003403

Your SAA Board:

Ellie Shuster: President

Darcy Hoover: Vice President

YiYi Datar: Treasurer

Shelly Leroux: Director,
Workshops

Barb Marcinkoski: Director, Ice
and Snow

Keith Turnbull: Director,
Meeting Programs

Ritchie Velthuis: Newsletter
Editor

Herman Poulin: Member at
Large

Robert Woodbury: Member at
Large

Exhibitions Director: Vacant

Maria Koulouris: Administrator

Exhibitions

Our first show, **Night of Artists (NOA)**, is coming up fast. It has become a twice-a-year event, so it is now spring and fall. The details are follows:

Oct. 13-15, 2023 at Bonnie Doon Mall

Load In

Thursday, Oct. 12, 4 p.m. – 10 p.m. or Friday, Oct. 13 - 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Artwalk Hours

Friday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 15, noon - 5 p.m.

Night of Artists Gala

Saturday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. (The mall closes and becomes a giant ballroom)

Load Out

Sunday, Oct. 15, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Please send your intent to show to SAAexhibitions@gmail.com by Sept 15. The list of items is due by Sept. 30.

We are to be showing with **Alberta Society of Artists** and are waiting for confirmation on details. This will be in Nov./Dec., starting in Calgary then moving to Edmonton, if this show moves forward. After that, it will be March **NOA** again. Details to come. - Carroll Charest

Exhibitions Director & team needed

With the retirement of our current director, we have a vacancy on the board for an Exhibitions Director. This is a pivotal role for SAA, as we have several group shows on the horizon and need a person - or a team - to make them happen.

The Exhibitions Director's responsibilities are to coordinate with the venue, recruit interested members and schedule their participation for set-up, tear-down and shifts if needed; print labels and a master list for the show; and be the point-person for the show itself. As well, the director seeks out show opportunities and writes proposals; however, that role is often delegated to others. Our administrator, Maria Koulouris, collects and handles payments. The Director is an SAA board member.

Please consider volunteering to be an exhibition team member or the Director role. If you are organized and have a little time to spare, please contact Ellie Shuster (ellie@shuster.com).

Huge thanks to **Carroll Charest** for her many years as our excellent Exhibitions Director! She assures us she is willing to share her wisdom and insights with our new team. - Ellie Shuster

Deb Laninga

Thanks so much for the Pumpkins After Dark event info. I have signed on as a pumpkin carver/demo artist. They are still looking for someone to fill Thursday evenings. (Contact is Brock Howard Brock@lanternevents.ca if you're interested.)



Also, I am super excited I just found out I won first place for sculpture in the AIRE (Annual International Representational Exhibition) for the Federation of Canadian Artists. The show runs at the [Federation Gallery](#) in Vancouver (Granville Island) until Sept. 3.

Membership renewal time

It's that time of year again... your annual membership is due. With inflating costs, uncertainty about whether we will soon have to move, and after holding the line for several years, we are increasing our annual dues by \$5.

SAA memberships are now \$45 per year which runs from August through July. This entitles you to participate in group shows and the Market Gallery, ice and snow carving commissions, workshops, the newsletter, and great networking at our informative and entertaining monthly meetings!

Please send your dues by e-transfer (sculptorsab@gmail.com), cheque payable to Sculptors' Association of Alberta to PO Box 11212 Station Main, Edmonton T5J 3K5, or bring your payment to our AGM Sept. 5.

Downtown Edmonton Farmers Market

The Christmas season is right around the corner and SAA has room for three or four more sculptors to join the market gallery. The cost is \$80 per month, and each member typically works one shift in a four-week period - although that could increase slightly as the market gets busy closer to Christmas. Hours are 9-3 Saturdays, 11-3 Sundays. If you are interested or have questions, please contact [Ellie Shuster](#).

Snow & Ice Program 2023-24

A meeting of all SAA ice and snow carvers will be held in October, date TBD, to discuss the upcoming season, see who will be available during the season, and take a look at the equipment in our storage room to see what can be fixed.

I have already received inquiries for three commissions.

If you are a snow/ice carver, please attend! If you have expertise in the repair of chainsaws, please come too!

If you would like to try ice and/or snow carving this season, please let me know. Workshops for these sculpture arts depend on the demand for them.

- Barb Marcinkoski, Ice & Snow
Director barbmarcink@gmail.com

Newsletter layout volunteer needed

Unfortunately, I can no longer edit and format this monthly newsletter. I have been using a Word template and once you get to know it, it is fairly easy to do. Ritchie Velthuis collects the content for you.

There has been discussion about doing it quarterly instead, with a more external focus to promote our artists.

If you can help, please contact Ritchie at ritchiev@telus.net.

- Barb Marcinkoski

Metal workshops instructed by Tania Garner-Tomas



Tania, with her sculpture, the Farm Woman, now installed in Leduc.

Introduction to Metal

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023
\$200 + \$40 for supplies

Or

Saturday - Sunday, Nov. 25 -26, 2023
\$375 +\$40 for supplies

The intention of this whole weekend workshop would be to create a small sculpture in steel using some of the techniques taught in last spring's course, or the first day of this course.

Full PPE required:

- Steel-toed boots
- Welding helmet
- Scalp protection/ Beanie
- Hearing protection
- Overalls
- Gloves
- Particulates respirator recommended

Waivers must be signed. I could possibly make both courses work if some people wanted to just do the one-day intro course (Nov. 25). Please email your interest and e-transfer your fee to sculptorsAB@gmail.com

Model sessions at VASA

The Visual Arts Studio Association of St. Albert is holding live model sessions in 2-hour blocks this fall/winter season. So far, we are looking at Sunday afternoons instead of evenings but will see what a consensus will be for those interested. It will be \$15 per session. There are four spots available. If you are interested contact Carroll Charest at carroll.charest@gmail.com

Human sculpture courses with Ryan Kurylo

The Art Society of Strathcona County is hosting two human sculpture classes in October and November at the A.J. Ottewell Centre, 590 Broadmoor Blvd. in Sherwood Park. Both are 9:30 am - 4 pm.

[Face Sculpting - Sunday, Oct. 29](#)

\$90 for non-members + \$30 for supplies

[Figure Gesture Sculpting Workshop - Sunday, Nov. 12](#)

\$100 for non-members + \$30 for supplies

<https://artstrathcona.com/>

Ritchie Velthuis instructing at City Arts Centre - Fall 2023

Autumn Garden Sculpted Statues & Ornaments

Mondays, 6-9 pm, Sept. 25, Oct. 2 & Oct. 30

ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Arts Studio

ID: 727646

Put your green thumbs to another use and create using the medium of clay. Learn hand-building and sculpture techniques while creating unique pieces for your garden or favourite outdoor space. Guided by artist and sculptor Ritchie Velthuis, bring your own design and ideas to life - try your hand at sculpting planters, garden gargoyles, or masks. Cost: \$108

Sculpted Clay Animals

Mondays, 6-9 pm, Oct. 16 & 23, Nov. 6

ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Arts Studio

ID: 727646

Love animals so much that you want to recreate your favourite pal or furry friend in clay? Perhaps you want to sculpt your favourite wild animal to cherish in your home for years to come? This three-week class with sculptor Ritchie Velthuis is the perfect opportunity for you to learn the basics of clay as a sculpting and modeling medium. Enjoy creating a simple animal of your choice as you learn strategies of animal representation, proportion, and sculpting from photos. Cost: \$108

Figurative Sculpture

Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 pm, Oct. 19 - Dec. 7

City Arts Centre, Pottery 1 Studio

ID: 727582

Experience a classical art form by sculpting the human figure working with live models. In this 8-week course use the medium of clay to explore the anatomy of the human body and successfully create multiple figurative sculptures. Guided by artist and sculptor Ritchie Velthuis, learn step-by-step techniques and remove the intimidation of working with figurative subject matter. Referencing a live model you will develop a sense of proportion, 3D-design, and capture unique and individual qualities while finding your own sculpture style. Cost: \$288

Portrait in Clay: Figurative Sculpture

Mondays, 6-9 pm, Nov. 20 - Dec. 11

ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Arts Studio

ID: 727629

Experience a classical art form by sculpting the human figure and focusing on portraiture. In this 4-week course, use the medium of clay to explore the anatomy of the human head and create a portrait bust in clay. Guided by artist and sculptor Ritchie Velthuis, learn step-by-step techniques and remove the intimidation of working with figurative subject matter. Referencing a live model, you will capture unique and individual qualities while finding your own sculpture style. Cost: \$144

For these courses call 311 (City of Edmonton) to register. Or, for more information or to register online go to movelearnplay.edmonton.ca Search Adult Art Programs.

Raku workshop with Lisa Wilkinson



This exciting workshop teaches you the basics in a Raku firing for ceramics. Raku is when glazed ceramics are taken from the kiln while they are still glowing red hot and are then placed in a material that would be able to catch fire, such as sawdust or dried leaves. This process starves the ceramic artwork of oxygen, which creates cool effects on any areas that have glaze, and black matte for any areas with no glaze. Each piece will be unique because there is never a certainty as to how the final piece will turn out.

Saturday, October 21.
10 am (Leave Edmonton at 8 am)
Edson, Alberta
Member Fee: \$150
Non-Member Fee: \$170
Maximum participants: 6 (3 spots left)

Carpooling is an option. Bring your own lunch. Dress for the weather.

Raku glazes are included with the fee. Each participant can fire 6 medium-sized pieces (6"x 6" each). You can substitute smaller pieces if you would like to fire more. For example, 3 medium and 6 small (3"x3"). Each ceramic artwork needs to be bisque-fired before the Raku glaze firing process. Since raku glazes are not food safe, sculpture and non-functional artworks are usually best.

Please email your interest and e-transfer your fee to sculptorsAB@gmail.com

Keith Turnbull instructing at City Arts Centre - Fall 2023



Keith Turnbull will be showing 8 or 9 of his COVID-19 mixed-up animals at the Nina Haggerty Centre as part of the art show at its Stollery Gallery, Sept. 15-17. The show is in conjunction with the [Kaleido Family Arts Festival](#) on 118 Avenue.

Sculpted Clay Animals

Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 pm, Sep. 21 - Oct. 12

City Arts Centre, Pottery - 1 Room

ID: 728465

Love animals so much that you want to recreate your favourite pal or furry friend in clay? Perhaps you want to sculpt your favourite wild animal to cherish in your home for years to come. This three-week class with Sculptor Keith Turnbull is the perfect opportunity for you to learn the basics of clay as a sculpting and modeling medium. Enjoy creating a simple animal of your choice as you learn strategies of animal representation, proportion, and sculpting from photographic references. Cost: \$108.00

Holiday Sculpted Figurine Workshop

Saturdays, 1-4 pm, Dec. 2 & Dec. 9

City Arts Centre, Pottery - 1Room

ID: 727647

Sculpt your very own set of standing figurines with a Holiday twist and create a fun memento, decor item, or personalized gift. This project-based workshop is perfect for anyone - beginners and intermediates. The goal is to have fun and get creative with clay! Artist and sculptor Keith Turnbull will instruct you on sculpting techniques, and ways to include your own style, humour, and flair. Cost: \$76.00

For these courses above call 311 (City of Edmonton) to register. Or, for more information or to register online go to movelearnplay.edmonton.ca and search Adult Art Programs.

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 compiled by Ritchie Velthuis and edited/laid out by Barb Marcinkoski. If you have anything for the newsletter, please contact Maria at sculptorsAB@gmail.com.

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