



Angie Sotiropoulos: So little time!



My name is Angie Sotiropoulos and I was trained as a Scenic Painter and Props Artisan for live theatre. In this world I've made puppets, painted every kind of finish you could ever want, and make all kinds of paper props. In my personal work, I create quirky and whimsical creatures as part of a world I call the Society of Curious Creatures. I love urban sketching and have an ongoing series of watercolour and ink paintings called Storefronts of YEG and more recently I'm starting to indulge my lifelong interest in origami and pop up. I'm learning to bind books and tell stories with movable paper elements. Oh, and I also make custom sketch books for people. So yeah... just a few things. ☺

Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

It took me a while to see myself as a sculptor mostly because I think I had a very narrow view of what a sculptor is. In my mind sculptors only worked in stone and metal. After I left college and started to work with a variety of different artists, I realized that puppetry is sculpture, foam carving is sculpture, working with cardboard, paper, wood, clay, etc. ALL of those things are sculpture! I've always been drawn to making things dimensionally so without knowing it in those terms I guess I have.

What mediums do you work in?

I like polymer clay, paper clays and air-dry clays. Foam in the form of blocks or sheets that can be glued and carved or heated and shaped. I also love painting in watercolour and ink. Paper has always been a favourite of mine but in the last few years I've started to learn more about paper and I experiment in a bigger way. I've been learning to become a book binder. I'm also embracing my love of origami and pop-up to start creating movable zines. I'm also working towards creating other dimensional paper works, based around creature characters I've created.

What inspires you?

Colour, nature, people who are passionate about something, travel, learning about new things.

What is your dream project?

I could probably have a new answer every day to this question. So many interests, so little time! I'll pick something in my current sphere of interest and say that I'd love to assist paper engineer Simon Arizpe on a pop-up book project.

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President's message



Fall at SAA has been a busy time! We had our first monthly hybrid meeting in October (not counting September's AGM which was purely experimental.) Laura Ouimet presented her work and explained her process. It was fun to experience the in-person/on-line mix and wonderful to give our out-of-town members the opportunity to participate in our monthly meetings. From the feedback I have received, it's the way to go.

This month we will learn about Jennifer Martineau Lang and her moss art, in the same hybrid format. I encourage everyone who can't join us at Harcourt House on Tuesday, November 1, to "zoom" in for 7:30 pm.

The Edmonton Downtown Farmers' Market is in full swing, with seven sculptors currently participating and an additional three or four planning to join starting November 1. Their participation takes us above break-even, adding funds to SAA coffers. Please check out the Market Update elsewhere in The Armature, and if you have the opportunity, visit us there. I guarantee you will be impressed!

Harcourt House has given notice of a rent increase starting in December. There are a few ways you can help:

- The first is through membership. Please make sure your membership dues are up to date and spread the word about SAA among your artist network to help us grow our membership.
- The second is our Farmers Market shop. PLEASE help promote the shop by posting about it on social media, encouraging your networks to buy local art this gift-giving season. Like and repost the information from SAA or any of the participating artists, and add a bit of encouragement of your own. The help will go a long way to bring buyers into this hidden gem of a market!

December's meeting will be a Christmas party and ornament exchange. We plan to return to our Turkey potluck, in person. Please think about/make what you want to exchange at on Dec. 6 at the party. For more details see page 5.

Happy sculpting! -Ellie Shuster

SAA Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Nov. 1,
2022
7:30 pm**

At Harcourt House Annex
10211 112 St, Edmonton
(ring the bell)

OR

Join the ZOOM meeting:
Meeting ID 840 2844
1497
Passcode 160357

Program: Jennifer
Martineau-Lang and
her sculpture

For the meeting agenda,
minutes of the last AGM,
Financials and Bylaws,
check your email for an
email from Maria
Koulouris
(sculptorsab@gmail.com).

Ice & snow carvers meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 pm Harcourt House
Annex, Sculpture Room.

We will be talking about the upcoming outdoor
carving season and more. Contact: Barb Marcinkoski
for more information, barbmarcink@gmail.com

Membership fees

Membership fees are now due for the 2022-23 fiscal
year.

Please send \$40 via e-transfer to this email address
(sculptorsAB@gmail.com) or send a cheque to
Sculptors' Association of Alberta, PO Box 11212 Stn
Main, Edmonton, AB T5J 3K5



Special Christmas Market & Winter Solstice Festival

In association with the Chinese Benevolent Association

Friday, December 23 11am-5pm

SAA @ the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market: Update

Our first month at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market is wrapping up and it has been a good experience. It is a beautiful market, drenched in sunlight with cool vendors, great eats, and a very positive vibe. Our fabulous exhibit is at the north end, a little removed from the mainstream, but with excellent artistic neighbours.

As with every new venture, we have been working out the kinks and tracking our every move - including a headcount of people who stop by to look and chat. Those who stop are impressed with the calibre and variety of work. Some visit each week to see what is new. Some have purchased, while others are thinking about gifts, and many are delighted to talk to the sculptors who create the art. The overwhelming feeling is that the market patrons didn't realize there was art at the market and they are happy we are there.

Although at present, the patron numbers are not as high as we would like, they will increase as more people find us on site and online. Still, there have been some positive and unexpected requests, including the potential commission of a life-sized portrait to be done in stone or bronze. I shared information with the full SAA membership and have passed the responses along to the potential client.

The market has recently established Friday hours as well - at least until Christmas. It hosts special events several times a month and that is when we see our visitor count (and sales) rise. The first weekend of every month is a busy Vintage Market. In November there will be an event to celebrate the rodeo, and Christmas markets will begin soon.

The seven participating artists are Keith Turnbull, Bev Oliwa, Shawn Olander, Jennifer Martineau, Pat Prodaniuk, Kay McCormack and Ellie Shuster. Ruby Serben and Carroll Charest will be joining the group in November and possibly one or two more. There may still be room if you are interested. Please let me know via email at ellie@shuster.com.

As the market seems to be fulfilling our mandate - and is a great "home" for SAA to showcase its members. We are thinking about how to carry forward into the new year. If you want to consider joining us then, please let me know that too.

Please visit us (Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-3, Sunday 11-3) and lend your support. See you there!

- Ellie Shuster



Harcourt House Fundraiser: Art-O-Rama

Harcourt House Artist Run Centre (our landlord and facilitator) will be holding its annual Art-O-Rama Art Sale fundraiser. The fundraiser will be held online and in person at Harcourt from Dec. 2-10, 2022.

If you choose to submit a piece (or three), you may donate 50% or 100% of the proceeds towards Harcourt House Artist Run Centre.

As you may recall, Harcourt House and the WECAN Society have launched a GoFundMe campaign with the aim of purchasing the facility from the government. The Alberta government has given them a one-year extension to the current lease so they can do this. If Harcourt/WECAN cannot raise enough money to buy the building, the future of Harcourt House is in doubt. If there ever was a time to contribute to Harcourt House/WECAN Society, it would be now!

Here's some details:

- You can submit up to three sculptural works, with prices up to \$500 each
- The sale will be jointly curated by Jacek Malec (Exec. Director) and Darren Kooyman (Exhibitions)
- 50% of the sale price goes to Harcourt and 50% to the artist or you can donate 100% of the proceeds and receive an official tax receipt (Harcourt has Charitable status)
- There's a submission form attached to an email from the SAA to members on Oct. 25 or contact Darren Kooyman at exhibit@harcourthouse.ab.ca. You'll also need to submit high quality images of your pieces.
- Please confirm your participation with Darren Kooyman ASAP.
- Deadline to submit is **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**.

Deb Laninga at Spruce Grove Art Gallery



Deb is honoured to have been chosen to be the featured artist at the Allied Arts Council of Spruce Grove in their Gallery located inside the public library located at 35 Fifth Avenue, Spruce Grove.

This lovely piece called "The Embrace" is cold cast bronze resin, 12" X 18" X 5".

The show runs until Nov. 12, 2022. For hours and more information see their website alliedartscouncil.com

Christmas Potluck & Ornament Exchange

For the first time since COVID started we will hold our annual Christmas Potluck. And for the first time in-person, we will hold our ornament exchange!

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, 6:30 pm
Harcourt House Annex, Art Education Room
10215 112 Street NW Edmonton (Ring the buzzer to be let in)

The event will be held instead of our regular meeting. We've scheduled the event to start earlier at 6:30 pm since we will be eating dinner.

Please bring a food item to be shared such as a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert and a guest, if you like. Please bring your own beverages.

Please RSVP to Maria Koulouris via email sculptorsab@gmail.com by Tuesday, Nov. 29 and let her know you will be attending, if you are bringing a plus one, and what type of food item you are bringing.

In the meantime, you can make a **Christmas ornament** to be exchanged after dinner. Please send a photo of the ornament to shawnolander@gmail.com by Nov. 25, so we can include it in the December newsletter.

If you are an out-of-town member and wish to participate in the ornament exchange portion of the event via Zoom, we will make arrangements for Zoom for about 7:30 pm. Please contact Maria (via her email address above) to get this set up.

Of course, if group get-togethers like this are deemed to be unsafe due to COVID or other public health issues, at the time of the event, the in-person/food portion may be canceled.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Sculptors'
Association
of Alberta

The 3rd Annual Xmas Ornament Exchange

This is the first opportunity to exchange Christmas ornaments in person and will be a fun and entertaining evening.

To participate: Make a Christmas ornament in your chosen medium. Ornaments will be exchanged at our **December 6th meeting**.

★ Participants will select a wrapped ornament from their fellow sculptors and upon unwrapping, the maker can describe their ornament.

★ Zoom attendees welcome.

★ Please provide a photo of your ornament to shawnolander@gmail.com for the newsletter.



Angie Sotiropoulos continued

What is your outlook on life?

Be curious about everything. Stop. Listen. Look. Laugh always. Linger in as many moments as you can with the people in your life that you love the most.

How has your work evolved over time?

Skill-wise, the more I make, the more proficient I become and I do love collecting new skills. Content-wise, I think I've become more aware of what I want to "talk" about and how I want to do it. Seems pretty basic but I feel like it took me a long time to figure this out.

Do you have a favourite work of art or artist?

I could never choose just one! I love the work of James Jean, Tara McPherson, Mab Graves, Simon Arizpe, Hayao Miyazaki, Ronnie Burkett, to name a few.

What role does the artist have in modern society?

I think there are a number of roles that artists play. They act as a vehicle for reflecting the world around all of us and helping to facilitate conversations about difficult topics. It just as important to be an escape, a reminder to let go and dream, and a place to find common ground.

What is the best thing about being an artist?

Getting to make people smile with my imagination.

What is the worst?

Having to justify why a job as an artist IS a real job and deserves a living wage.

Where can we see your art?

On my website www.angiesot.com and on my various Instagram accounts. @societyofcuriouscreatures, @mittengirl and @dragonflybookpress



Join us for Figurative Sculpture at Harcourt House

Harcourt House will be continuing Figurative Sculpture sessions with a nude model. These sessions do not include instruction.

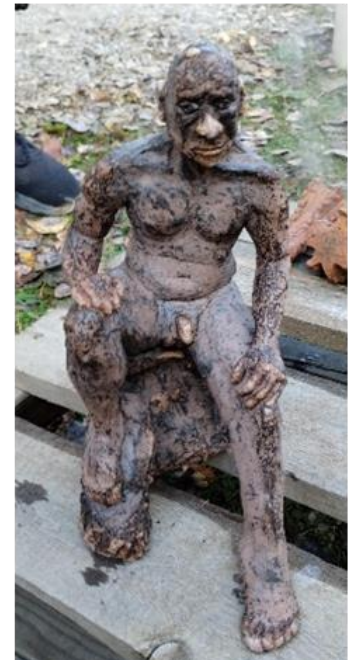
The dates for the second session are Oct. 31, and Nov. 7, 14, and 21, from 6:30-9:30 pm. Currently there are spots available. The block of four costs: members \$53, Non-members \$63. Clay is available for sale at the sessions.

To register, contact the office info@harcourthouse.ab.ca or call 780.426.4180.



Raku weekend

A few of our members joined Lisa Wilkinson and Steve Bradbury for a fun day of raku, a pit fire, and Obvera. Carroll Charest, Wanda Resek, Sharon Moore-Foster, Kay McCormack and Shawn Olander met in Edson for a raku weekend. Carroll successfully tried Obvera, a fermented glaze. It's always amazing to discover the surprise of raku.



Gerry Nason is down-sizing!

He has scraps and larger chunks of various stones including soapstone, alabaster, featherstone and more to get rid of!

Gerry is in St. Albert - please give him a call if you are interested: 780-459-6278

NDP hosts show & sale: Art from the Unknown

The "Art from The Unknown 2022" online gallery is now live featuring 100 Alberta artists. View the gallery here: [Art from the Unknown: Alberta NDP Caucus](#) or visit the in-person show at the Old Strathcona Performing Arts Centre, Edmonton, November 4-6. There is also a formal opening reception at the Centre on Friday, Nov. 4, 6-8:30 pm.

SAA member artist Laura Ouimet is one of the artists in the show.

Vote for your favourite artist for the People's Choice Award. [People's Choice Nominations](#)

Newsletter submissions

We are always looking for 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 shawnolander@gmail.com by the 25th of the month and contact me with any questions! -Shawn Olander



More raku



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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