



The Armature

December 2022

Newsletter of the Alberta Sculptors' Association

Ice master Stephen Chung



Stephen Chung and the serpent carving he did for the SAA ice workshop held at Ice Castles in Edmonton, March 7, 2020.

How long have you been carving ice or snow?

I have been ice carving for over 20 years.

What is the most unusual carving you have ever done?

It was my first carving; my beginning ice carving.

What are the coldest and warmest temperatures you have carved in?

The coldest temperature was -36 C, the hottest temperature was over +15 C. [At the coldest temperature], it was really difficult to stay out carving longer than 10 minutes. It was too cold.

What was your favorite carving? How long did it take to complete?

I have many favourites in my carving time so far.

What is the largest carving you have ever done?

My largest carving was 25 feet tall with heavy machinery helping to put it up.

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President's message



It seemed like a long, lazy autumn. When winter arrived, it came in a flurry – and I'm not talking about the snow! Now the holiday season is approaching and to say there is a lot going on would be an understatement!

Our Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market shop is picking up. We are noticing a steady stream of visitors and those market-goers who come back weekly are delighted to see new work arriving from the 10 participating artists. The snow is definitely putting people in the mood.

Edmonton's Phil Alain is pulling together a major gallery initiative under the Night of Artists banner at Bonnie Doon Mall. It has caused a flurry of excitement in the Edmonton art community and SAA has been watching closely. Some of our members are planning to participate individually and if you are interested, I encourage you to check it out. The hope is there will be a major indoor art walk at the mall in March and SAA plans to take part as a collective. You can learn more about by joining the Facebook Fan page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NightofArtists/> The Gallery's official opening weekend is December 2-4.

We have begun receiving some feedback from the many submissions we made this summer, and have been accepted by the Red Deer Kiwanis Gallery for an exhibition in fall of 2025. Meanwhile, we will be staging an exhibition at the Allied Arts Council of Spruce Grove April-May 2023, and another with the Alberta Society of Artists in Calgary in November-December 2023. It promises to be a busy year!

I'm looking forward to our first Holiday Potluck since the pandemic started... it is always a wonderful opportunity to fill our souls with artist vibes and our tummies with home-made goodies. This year also features an ornament exchange. I hope you've made yours to share!

For the last newsletter of 2022 – I wish each of you a happy holiday season and a *healthy*, fulfilling new year!

May the wind be at your back...
- Ellie Shuster

Membership fees

If you haven't yet paid your 2022-23 membership fees, please send \$40 via e-transfer to sculptorsAB@gmail.com or send a cheque to Sculptors' Association of Alberta, PO Box 11212 Stn Main, Edmonton, AB T5J 3K5.

Shawn Olander teaching at Leduc Arts Foundry

Shawn Olander will be teaching After School Clay at Leduc Arts Foundry Mondays from 4-5:30 pm and Adult Hand building Mondays 6-9pm. Register at artsfoundry.ca

There will be a Junior Sculpture Gallery opening at the Leduc Arts Foundry in January. If you are interested in teaching sculpting to young people, please contact Shawn at shawnolander@gmail.com. You can also contact Leduc Arts Foundry at www.artsfoundry.ca



Exhibitions report

We are still waiting for feedback on our submissions for 2023. The only confirmed shows are at **Spruce Grove Allied Art Council** from April 11 to May 5 (with details and images of pieces by March 17). Still confirming if a theme is required or not.

We are also accepted to the **Kiwanis Gallery in Red Deer**, Alberta. This show is based on our theme of Creature Comforts, like our show in Drumheller. It is scheduled from Oct. 7 to Nov. 29, 2023. Details to come.

We heard back from **501 Gallery** in Sherwood Park and have been declined at this time.

There is a new opportunity for the Night of Artists show. It is no longer at the Enjoy Centre but part of an indoor Art Walk at Bonnie Doon Mall as an all-year gallery - the **NOA Art Gallery**. We have an opportunity to rent space inside it for a month at a time. The board is meeting soon and we will confirm at our meeting, but it may look like a show in March with them. No theme.

Things look like they are starting to pick up! I am looking forward to seeing everyone's new creations for these shows!

We are working with the **Alberta Society of Artists** on a joint show in Nov.- Dec. 2023. Starting in Calgary and another location TBD. This may include ice and snow works as well! Details to come.

- Carroll Charest, SAA Interim Exhibitions Director

Karen Begg recognized with Platinum Jubilee Medal



Karen Begg, a SAA member in Calgary/Cochrane was recognized on Nov. 21 with a Platinum Jubilee Medal from the province for her contributions in the field of art.

Karen Begg is a third-generation worker in her family's foundry, Studio West, which created the bronze monuments around Cochrane. She has worked on pieces in Cochrane including "The Kids" at the Cochrane Library, the bronze work on the Cenotaph at the Legion, the commemorative work dubbed "Jack" located near North Star Ford, and the famous Legacy Statue better known as the "Chicken Lady" on 1st St.

She believes her support for new and emerging artists is what led to her nomination. She has been a good liaison between the artists and the bronze foundry to help artists go from their studio practice into public art. And she's done quite a number of projects herself.

Karen spearheaded various art projects in the Greater Forest Lawn communities of southeast Calgary, where she resides. One project she completed during the COVID-19 pandemic involved assisting seniors in the community. She designed a painting kit that she could give to senior's centres.

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Snow & Ice report

It seems once the snow fell, people started to think about ice and snow sculptures! We've had quite a few inquiries, including some that we were not able to fill.

A wolf was demonstration-carved a wolf at St. Angela School on Friday, Nov. 25 and seven of our members carved at Christmas in the Heartland on Saturday, Nov. 26. Pictures below.

Ice carvers will be carving in Dec.: Saturday, Dec. 10 at Brighten Up Beaumont, Sunday Dec. 18 at Skate with Santa in Edson, and just before New Year's in Sherwood Park for New Year's Eve. Some of our SAA snow sculptors will be carving at Candy Cane Lane in December.

- Barb Marcinkoski, Snow & Ice Director



Top left - Wolf, Barb Marcinkoski

Top row, L to R - Angel, Deb Laninga; Nativity relief, Fran Cuyler and Barb Marcinkoski; Pysanky egg, Robert Woodbury

Bottom row, L to R - Doorway, Randall Fraser; Reindeer sleigh, Stephen Chung; Yeti on a toboggan, Christian Denis

Holiday 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.

The RSVP deadline has now passed; however, if you still want to attend, please contact Maria at

sculptorsab@gmail.com

ASAP. 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.

You can also make and bring a **Christmas ornament** to be exchanged after dinner.

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.

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 shawmolander@gmail.com for the newsletter.



Stephen Chung continued



What would you like to try carving given the opportunity?

Everything is interesting, and fun.

Do you have any advice for anyone thinking about trying ice and snow carving?

My advice for beginners is they have to have a strong interest in carving to help them keep working at it.

Do you have any interesting or exciting stories?

It is the first sculpture I carved. It didn't turn out to my expectation. But my supervisor asked me to put the sculpture on the buffet, and then a guest asked me what the sculpture was! I felt so bad when I had to answer their question.

What is the most interesting place you have done a carving?

Basically, I enjoy all the places I have been, because I have many wonderful memories.



Top left - Ice bar at Luminaria 2021

Top right - Snowmobile in Sherwood Park

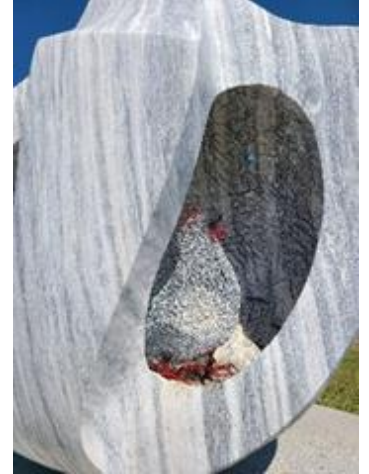
Right middle row - Snowflakes in Edson

Bottom - Valentines and local culture in Castor

This chick(en) gets around – Laura Ouimet

@thisyegchickengetsaround ended up in Olds, Alberta this summer and unexpectedly, lined up against Hwy. 27, where you'll find these beautiful sculptures at (SAA member Morton Burke's) Bergen Rocks Sculpture Park.

Artists from all over the world are represented in these works of art carved in everything from marble to sandstone.



Top row, Left to right –

1. Thierry's Spirit (Bison) by Morton Burke
2. Ancient Cultures by Paul Patrick Haggins
3. Desire to be by Gerard Motondi
4. Rising Sun by Peerapong Doungkaew

Bottom row, Left to right –

1. Maintain by Nguyen Tan Cuong
2. Canuck by Tony Deguglielmo
3. Yin and Yang by Hung Tran Viet
4. Prelude by Carlos Velazquez Darias

Talent runs in the family



Jeremy McConville's ten-year-old daughter Frances did this cat carving with zero direction from an adult. He was really impressed. He had no idea she was so capable. (So are we!)

Bronze ingots & lost-wax for sale

Tania Garner-Tomas has Everdeer bronze ingots for sale, around 20 lbs. each. This is about 10% less than market price. Tania also has brown sculptor's wax for sale, the lost wax type. Contact her at 780-464-0723

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

Karen Begg continued

Another notable project involved the painting of different amenities along 10 blocks of southeast Calgary's West Dover community.

She has had a hand in monuments like Wayne Gretzky, the Mayerthorpe Fallen Four, and a number of pieces that have gone right from Sechelt B.C. to Gaagetown N.B.

Not the first recipient of a Jubilee medal in her family, she is following in the footsteps of her mother, who also received the award in the past.

- Excerpt from the *Cochrane Eagle*, story by Daniel Gonzalez

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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