



Warren Finlay – (N)ice at night



Please tell us how you got started in ice and/or snow. What do you enjoy most?

My name is Warren Finlay. I have always found ice sculptures to be particularly beautiful, so one day I ordered an ice grinder and a few bits and just gave it a go. Later that year, a friend (Keith Kobylka) told me about an ice carving workshop offered by SAA, which helped me improve my skills and choose some additional tools.

I enjoy working outside, and the challenge of working in three dimensions.

How long have you been carving ice or snow?

Since 2019.

What is the most unusual carving you have ever done?

A glass Cinderella shoe to actually fit a man's foot (see left).



What are the coldest and warmest temperatures you have carved in? How do you stay warm?

Snow carvings tend to be large and I carve snow with manual tools, so it's fairly physically demanding work. As a result, it's not hard to stay warm when snow carving, so I've carved snow at -30 C. However, I mostly use power tools to carve ice, so it's not nearly as physically demanding; thus, I don't usually carve ice below about -20 C. I use heated inner gloves (from Heat in Motion, made in Calgary) to keep my hands warm.



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

The "Hand of Adam" (modelled after Rodin's sculpture) reaching out to touch Jupiter and Saturn during their conjunction in Dec. 2020 (see below). It was made from ice that I harvested from a nearby lake. Counting the ice harvesting, it was probably 7 hours of work.

What is the largest carving you have ever done?

A snow carving of a polar bear (modelled after Pompon's sculpture) - see below with the Great Bear, Ursa Major, constellation above.
Can't p. 6.

President's new year's message



Top 'o the new year to you!



January crept up on us so quickly, we decided to create a January/February issue of The Armature this year. Please make sure you take a good look at this issue, as it covers upcoming group shows (Night of Artists and the Allied Arts Council) with deadlines for submission!

December saw the successful completion of three months at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market. Our home there fulfills our mandate in a number of ways:

- It is an opportunity to introduce sculpture and the artists who create it to the public. To that end we counted 1750 visitors to our booth and engaged in conversation with the majority of them.
- It is a venue for artists to sell our work. Together we had almost \$4400 in sales.
- It supports the SAA through commission on sales and fees for the booth. To date our net profit from the market is just over \$600. This income helps to keep us in the black, as our costs increase.
- It will provide an opportunity to educate and engage the public through workshops, demonstrations and attendance - something that grant funders look for in assessing our applications. Along with the other artists in the *Art in the Market* space, we are planning a series of demonstrations and workshops which will be promoted through the market.
- With thanks to the artists who have donated small sculptures, our monthly prize draws have enabled us to increase our e-mail list to over 550 people, and growing! These are folks outside our personal circles with whom we can communicate to promote our group shows and other activities.

We recognize the winter months will be slower at the market, with post-Christmas and winter quiet times - building up through Valentines' Day, Easter and Mother's Day, to spring when the fresh veggies begin to reappear. We hope the plans we are working on - in conjunction with the other artists and the market's own marketing team - will help build the Downtown Farmers Market into a vibrant year-round Edmonton destination for foodies, art enthusiasts and more.

If you are interested in **joining the market shop**, we will have space opening up starting February. If you would like to **conduct a workshop** - even if you are not a market artist - we would welcome your participation. Participants will pay a fee and the income will come to the artist, with a commission to the market and SAA to cover administration. Please contact me at ellie@shuster.com for details.

Of course, the final result of our market shop is extra work for our steadfast Maria. She handles the paperwork, keeps the website updated, posts our social media before and during every weekend, and emails our mailing list as needed.... in addition to her regular duties. **If you have some time to help Maria and SAA**, please let her know! She would welcome the support! With three group shows in the planning, the market shop, workshops, snow and ice, meetings, socials and decisions around the future of Harcourt House (of which I have nothing to report...) 2023 promises to be an exciting year. I trust it will be a good one for us all!

Wishing you good health, happiness and success in the new year... Ellie Shuster

Snow & ice report

SAA carvings completed in Dec.: Saturday, Dec. 10 at Brighten Up Beaumont, Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Winter in Italy festival in Edmonton, Sunday, Dec. 18 at Skate with Santa in Edson, and for New Year's Eve in Sherwood Park.

Upcoming we have one block at Boyle Street Community Services, Jan. 18, as well as Castor Winterfest, Family Day at the Edmonton Garrison, and another possible event at Lac La Biche in Feb. – Barb Marcinkoski, Snow & Ice Director





Holiday potluck & ornament exchange

Ice Sculptures

Brighten up Beaumont - Dec 10, Beaumont, AB - Jeremy McConville (Harp) and Stephen Chung (Reindeer and trees)

Winter in Italy - Dec. 11, Giovanni Caboto Park - Stephen with help (grinch and snow man)

Skate with Santa - Dec. 18, Edson, AB - Randall Fraser (dancer) and Robert Woodbury (creature)

NYE festival - Dec. 31, Strathcona County, AB - Jeremy (snowshoer) and Christian Denis (bowling strike)



Our Holiday Potluck and 3rd Annual Ornament Exchange was a wonderful evening. Many creative and unique ornaments exchanged hands. It's nice to see more members participating every year. It's a lot of fun and I'm impressed with the variety of mini sculptures everyone created. Looking forward to next year.

- Shawn Olander, Director, Workshops and Newsletter

Ornaments exchanged



Warren Finlay continued



What would you like to try carving given the opportunity?

Another hobby of mine is ice climbing frozen waterfalls in the Rockies. I've always thought it would be cool to do an *in situ* carving on waterfall ice.

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

Attend an introduction to ice or snow carving workshop with SAA.

Do you have any interesting or exciting stories?

I like to carve ice sculptures as foregrounds for nightscape photos. One photo I wanted to get was an ice angel sculpture with northern lights in the background. So, I carved an angel out of ice, and then had to wait until we got a clear night with aurora. It took about a week, but sure enough the aurora was forecast to pick up after midnight one night in early February. Of course, it was also the coldest night of the year. So I schlepped my ice angel to a dark site away from city lights, hauling the sculpture on a sled for about 20 minutes through deep snow to a spot I had picked previously. The temperature was -43 C, which really hampered my ability to get the composition right - I just wanted to go get warm!

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

Near a communication tower east of Edmonton where I carved a sword that internally reflected the red lights from the tower below the sword in the constellation of Orion (see above).

SAA to be a focal point at Night of Artists, Mar. 17 -19



This year's Night of Artists (NOA) Gala will become, "Alberta's Biggest Indoor Art Walk" throughout Bonnie Doon Mall and SAA's exhibition will be right in the thick of it. We hope you will be there with us!

NOA now has a permanent gallery at Bonnie Doon Mall, 8330-82 Ave, Edmonton. The NOA ArtWalk will take over the mall Friday, Mar. 17 (12- 8 pm), Saturday, Mar. 18 (10 am - 5 pm for art walk with the gala from 7- 11 pm), and Sunday, Mar. 19 (12 - 5 pm). Load in date TBD and load out Sunday, Mar. 19 (5 - 8 pm).

SAA's space will be a 12 x 20 ft. area in the middle of the mall. We will not have to remove our works during this event as the mall will provide extra security throughout the weekend (however, as usual, any thefts or damage to artwork is the responsibility of the individual artists).

If you wish to participate, please email me by Feb. 10 at SAAexhibitions@gmail.com. We will do a poster for social media, our mailing list and our website, so please include a photo of a work that may be at the NOA Art Walk with copies to Keith Kobyłka at kobyłka.patterson@gmail.com and Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com. We currently have 10 people confirmed but there is room for more! The number of pieces allotted per artist will depend on number of artists in our exhibit and size of works. Because we will not have wall space, there will be a two-foot width limit on hanging pieces to fit on triangular or square grid-wall columns.

As per past shows, participants will be required to work a shift or two over the weekend, as we will be managing our booth and payments. Please advise me of any preferred shifts or shifts you would not be available at SAAexhibitions@gmail.com. Once I have the complete list, I will send it out to the participating artists.

The fee for entering show will be divided between the participating artists. There will be a 15% commission on sales to SAA to cover Square fees, materials, administration and other costs for this show.

I look forward to receiving your information by **Friday, Feb. 10!**

See next page for more Exhibitions news...

Exhibitions continued

Only a few weeks after the NOA Artwalk, we will be showing at [Allied Arts Council Spruce Grove Art Gallery](#). It is a shared show with Allied Arts sculptors. April has an International Day of Sculpture so we are working together for this show. Although load-in is not until Apr. 8, details and images are due by Mar. 11 - the weekend before NOA Artwalk. So please keep in mind that you will probably need different pieces for these shows. We won't need to work shifts at this show. More details about criteria for the show will follow. Important dates so far:

Show dates: April 11- May 5, 2023

Details and images must be submitted by Mar. 11, 2023

Delivery Apr. 8, 2023

Set up Apr. 11, 2023

Reception Apr. 15, 2023 1-3 pm

Take down May 6, 2023

So far, the only other gallery we have heard from is through the Alberta Society of Artists for Nov.-Dec. This show will start in Calgary then move to Edmonton. Once details arrive, I will share them.

The next show on the radar is in Red Deer Kiwanis Gallery, Oct. 2025 dates to come.

We have not yet heard about our Okotoks submission, so I'm unsure if we were successful. Also, we were not accepted by the 501 Gallery or the other Red Deer submission. We are still waiting to hear if we have been accepted again at VASA (Visual Arts Studio Association in St. Albert).

Our 2023 is starting off nicely with two back-to-back shows and we look forward to more exhibitions to show how talented our group is!

- Carroll Charest, SAA Exhibitions Director

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

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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