



The Armature

February 2023

Newsletter of the Alberta Sculptors' Association

Carroll Charest: Inspired



My name is Carroll. I mostly work in figurative sculpting, but have done some animals as well. I am now incorporating both together.

Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

No. When in school, I actually did not take to sculpting. I preferred drawing. I think I was too clumsy at sculpting.

What is the best advice you have ever been given?

It never hurts to ask. This has been a motto of mine for some time. I was quite shy and a huge introvert growing up so this used to be simply about not being afraid to ask anyone something I was curious about. It now is the catalyst behind my creations - What if I did this? Could this work? The other best advice I got came from a wonderful woman and instructor, who I am now privileged to call a friend; "Accentuate and exaggerate!" Take that little movement from the model and then exaggerate it, push it, give it life, movement! I know I have learned many things from Sharon Moore-Foster, but this is what has stuck in my mind and what I strive for each time I create something. Whether I am successful every time or not is yet to be seen, but I try.



Why art?

I am not sure. I have always had an underlying desire to create, from simply copying an image from a colouring book as a very young child to drawing to craft and now art. If I am not doing something/creating with my hands, I am bored with life.

What mediums do you work in?

For sculpture, I mostly work in wet clay. I have tried other media (aluminum foil, ferro cement, and soapstone) and enjoyed them but have not fully pursued them. For 2D works, it is now mostly soft pastels. After years of trying various workshops and media, I have decided to focus on what I really enjoy, which is anything that I use my hands directly to create; hence, clay and pastel.

What inspires you?

Working alongside other artists, feeding and learning off of each other. My time spent with Sharon and Wanda Resek these past years has helped me grow as an artist and person. Mythology has inspired me a lot too. It is the basis of my most recent works of morphing figures with animals, like our inner animal spirit.

Dragon Stance



Ravenheart

President's message



As the world continues to open up - so too does opportunity for the sculptors in our community!

We have group opportunities that will more than carry us through the year, with shows at Night of Artists, the Alberta Arts Council, and VASA leading up to summer, and the Alberta Society of Artists in Calgary and a potential at Leduc Arts Foundry in the lead-up to Christmas. More info on all of these to follow here and elsewhere in the newsletter.

Of course, there is our gallery at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market which is gaining attention, repeat visits and a growing mailing list of interested art-lovers who want the news of upcoming events. If you have not come down to visit, please do!

It is a beautiful, professional exhibition (with free parking!) We do have a couple of spots open at the market... *please contact me if you would like to join us!*

Our ice and snow carvers have been busy too, with repeat clients and new opportunities coming our way this winter. I'm proud of the work we do and the attention it brings to SAA and our talented sculptors.

Because we have been operating with a balanced budget for the last few years, we finally have the opportunity to apply for a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Thanks to Darcy Hoover for working with Maria and me in what we hope will be a successful submission! Deadline is March 1.... Stay tuned!

And lastly, we are looking for workshop opportunities. If you would like to broaden your artistic horizons in a new medium or develop new skills in an area of interest, please send Shawn Olander your suggestions for workshop topics! We have the space at Harcourt House and will find the expertise from our membership or beyond. We just need to know what you, our members, want.

The Rabbit is known to be the luckiest sign in the zodiac. With the opportunities shaping up this Year of the Rabbit, I'm inclined to agree. May this be a lucky year of opportunity for us all!

Ellie Shuster

Next SAA Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 7

7:30 pm

HYBRID MEETING (online and in-person)

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

OR

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84028441497?pwd=YWdkKV3h4MGFYeFZFSmNrd1Fab1BUdz09>

Meeting ID: 840 2844 1497

Passcode: 160357

The speaker for our February meeting is Tammy Salzl and she will be joining us via Zoom. She currently has an amazing show on at Harcourt House until Feb. 17. It is especially spectacular since an incredible soundscape has been added to the show that was first presented two years ago. Check out the info about her show [here](#).

Boredom Fix

Art Grind podcast

<https://www.artgrindpodcast.com/>

- Submitted by Ruby Serben



Morton Burke, Christian Denis and Will Truchon (all current or past members) competed in the World Snow Sculpting Championship in Stillwater, Minnesota in January. Christian reports that competition was amazing with so many people with incredible talent.



While he was there, Christian also carved this octopus at the Minnesota Ice Castles. As you may recall, Christian worked for Ice Castles Edmonton then later headed it up, when it was here in Edmonton.

Some of our members - Jeremy McConville, Lucy Cook and Barb Marcinkoski - were invited to carve in a masterclass with Scott Harrison and Ross Baisas on Jan. 27 at Chiseled (aka Ice on Whyte) at McIntyre Park in Strathcona. Jeremy carved Bambi and Barb carved the bird. Lucy carved a free form sculpture (no picture). Three ice blocks were used for each one.

Snow & ice report

In the past month, we've had only one commission, and that was a one-block eagle ice sculpture at Boyle Street Community Services completed by me, Barb Marcinkoski. right.

Upcoming we have one block at Edmonton Garrison on Family Day, Feb. 20, and the Winter Festival of Speed in Lac La Biche, Feb. 25 - 26 where we will be carving three 4-block ice sculptures and 2 snow sculptures. The ice sculptures will be a car, a snowmobile and a plane.

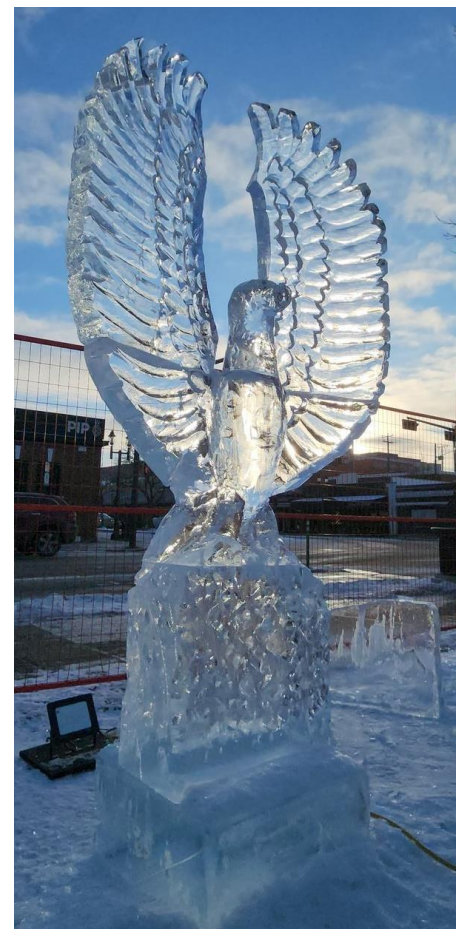


We are also holding a snow carving workshop with the Alberta Craft Council. For more information see page 9.

To date I have been **unable to find one or two ice carvers for three two-block ice sculptures for the Castor Winterfest on Feb. 10-11 (Fri.-Sat.)** due to our carvers being occupied with other winter festivals such as Silver Skate, and Fort McMurray. I also need a carver for **a one block sculpture on Sat., Feb. 25 in Red Deer** (many of us will be in Lac La Biche).

If you can do either of these carvings, please let me know ASAP before I cancel them. I have tried almost every carver I know!

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



Carroll Charest – con't from p.1

Also, the simple pleasures of life/nature. I know, corny right? But life drawing and sculpting to watching the animals in our urban neighborhood or other things when out and about. Even plants have inspired me in some way, a slow opening blossom and how it changes at each stage, how it strives to climb or spread its "wings." The way the sun changes the light and shadows on its subject. I like light and shadows...

What other work have you done besides sculpting?

I have done drawing and painting.

What makes you smile?

Hearing a child comment on my work, whether a drawing or sculpture, and hearing them talk to their parents about it, bringing them over and explaining to them how it is a landscape of a dream, or how a figure does not need its head to be complete - and then the parents looking at them like they are crazy or weird because the parent does not get it, but the child does.

I think nature can bring a smile to anyone. Watching our squirrel chase the birds out of our tree - he is so nimble jumping from thin branch to thin branch. I think sometimes he thinks he can fly too. Also watching the birds dance and hearing them chirp along to songs we play when in our backyard. The changing array of colors of a sunset... oops back to being corny again...

What is your outlook on life?

Do the best I can and always strive to be better. Also, according to my husband, to keep him on his toes, lol...

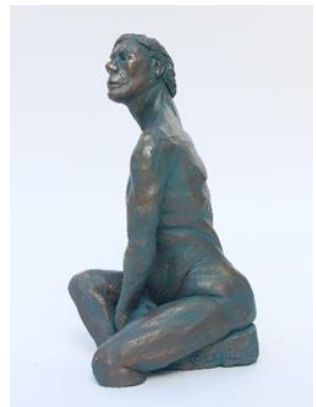
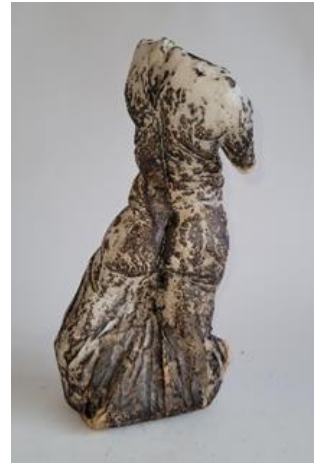
How has your work evolved over time?

As with all, my skill level has improved over time, with practice comes improvement. Also, I have been moving from trying to capture my subject realistically as my skill allowed to now moving towards more impressionistic or abstract. Trying to capture its essences or movement, not its likeness.

Do you have a favourite work of art or artist?

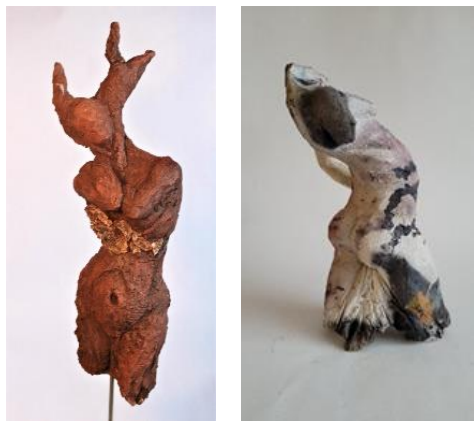
I do not think I could limit it to one or even a few for that matter. But as a young artist in school, Dali was, and to a point still is, one of my favorites. I admired his technical skills on the reality portions of his works, but mostly loved the combination of realism and surreal landscapes, the melting images, his sculpture. It was nothing like I had ever seen before (being raised on a farm and then a small town).

I am, however, in awe of our artisans of the past. What they created with the tools they had. In Spain, in the Altamira Caves, the people would also carve out a shape from the cave wall before painting it. The hump of the



Adonis, Anticipation, Coy and Gourd

Carroll Charest – con't from p.4



buffalo back, the belly of a deer or horse. We were allowed to try to do the same on a sample of the stone that made up the cave walls and a stone they would have used to chip away. They would have been very dedicated to work as long as they would have had to create the shape they wanted. The same goes for those who created the Rapa Nui (Easter Island) sculptures. When in Czech, I visited a small local museum close to where I was staying. There was a sculpting exhibition in town. We were allowed to try carving the same rock used by the artist with the same tools, this time with chisels and a mallet. We are too spoiled with the power tools we get to use now...

What is the best thing about being an artist?

Creating; especially with friends. Having that connection with like-minded people.

What is the worst?

Creating a piece that you are so proud of, but having it overlooked by those who see it. Why did they not see what I see?

What advice would you give your younger self?

Don't take so long to take chances. Go for it!

Where can we see your art?

At my studio space at VASA in St. Albert, at the Downtown Farmers Market, and the various members shows that SAA and ASSC participate in.



Hyldemoer, Adonis II and The Price of Hubris

SAA meeting programs

The good news is that Tammy Salzl will be our speaker for the SAA February meeting. She prefers to do this via Zoom, where she may also be able to share the screen for images. A preview of her work can be seen on the Harcourt House website. Also, check out her installation at Harcourt House. It is fantastic!

My second news is that Amanda MacKenzie at the City Arts Centre is happy to give us space for our meeting and a tour of the facility for our Apr. 4 meeting. This will have to be an in-person, on site program, although we could probably use Zoom for the meeting part as there is good City wifi at the centre.

Lastly, our member Karen Klassen has tentatively agreed to be the presenter for our Mar. meeting. I will be discussing further details with her.

Keith Turnbull, Programs Director keithtur@telus.net



Exhibitions

I hope this newsletter finds you well. As listed in the last newsletter, we have a few shows coming up with deadlines soon. The first show is the **Night of Artists Gallery and Artwalk** held at the Bonnie Doon Mall from Mar. 17-19. We will have space in the centre of the mall, and the mall has hired extra security staff so there's no need to take it down each night. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP. In the initial email, the deadline was Feb. 10, however, Phil Alain is starting to compile promotional information now, and he is asking for an image and details. If you are interested and have not already done so, please send your information in this format:

- Prepare email to noaartgallery@gmail.com
- Fill in subject line of the email: IMAGE FOR ARTWALK
- Fill in exactly in the order below for your piece:
 - Artist Name:
 - Title:
 - Medium:
 - Dimensions:
 - Price:
 - Instagram:
 - Facebook:
 - Website:
- Send it in.

Note: Regarding the images of your artwork that you submit.
They should be:

- Rectangular or square in shape so they fit best for Instagram and Facebook
- cropped and ready to be used for promotion. Do not send a badly lit photo, photo of art with a frame, anything where the background is still present around the art, etc. Your photo should be putting your best foot forward.

Please copy me, Carroll at SAAexhibitions@gmail.com, and Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com with your images so we can create our own social media promotional posters. Please mention SAA alongside your name so that when people are looking at your image, they know we are from the same organization!

There will be a general meeting/social for information and location of booth on Sat., Mar. 4, at 6:30 pm at the NOA Gallery in Bonnie Doon Mall for those who also wish to attend. If you are thinking about participating in the NOA show, you still have until Feb. 10 to let me know, however, you will miss out on a few weeks for promotional advertising as it is already up and running.

Our next show is **"It's a Tactile World" at the Allied Arts Council Gallery** in Spruce Grove, which is in the public library. We can have both works for the wall and plinths. Wall pieces must have a sculptural, textural or dimensional component. Please see their call for submissions and details required at <https://www.alliedartscouncil.com/tactile> (password is sculpt). In the initial email, we had asked for a deadline of Mar. 10 as their deadline for images and details was in around that time.

Continued on next page



Exhibitions - con't from p.6

They have graciously postponed that deadline until the Wed., Mar. 22 after the NOA Gallery Artwalk. So if your work does not sell at the NOA, you will have time to submit it to this show. There will be a \$10 submission fee paid directly to the Allied Arts Council plus they take a 25% commission on any sales.

Again, please send your information directly to the Allied Arts Council as per the link above and copy myself, Carroll at SAAexhibitions@gmail.com and Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com so we can create our own promotional media. This show will run from Apr. 11 until May 5, in conjunction with International Sculptors Day, April 29.



Since our last newsletter, we have heard from **VASA** in St. Albert and we will have another show with them for the month of June. As it stands, there is no theme for this show, so it may simply be titled "The Sculptors' Association of Alberta." I will send out more information on this show, but will take a list of interested parties now and up until Apr. 15.

So we have three good shows back to back coming fast! After that, nothing is booked until the November/December show with ASA starting in Calgary. More details on this show to come.

Let's get sculpting!
Carroll Charest, Interim Exhibition Director

The market is calling!

We have two spots available at the Downtown Farmers Market for sculptors wanting to sell your work. The commitment is \$20 per week and one Saturday or Sunday shift a month for a minimum commitment of three months.

Beyond selling your work, the market presents an opportunity to meet an admiring public and talk about art... yours and the others in the group. It is a feel-good day - even better when something sells.

The market fulfills an important role in the mandate of the SAA:

- To offer an opportunity for sculptors to exhibit and sell their work
- To introduce sculpture and the artists who produce it, to the public
- Financial support for SAA that helps keep us in the black

We acknowledge the winter months are slower at the market but know it will pick up as spring approaches. We are also working with the market staff and other artists in the *Art in the Market* space on events and promotions that will help build our profile and call attention of Edmontonians to the market as a destination.

Contact me at ellie@shuster.com for more information. The market is calling you to join us... Let's talk!



Tania Garner-Tomas: Stainless steel sculpture

I am currently working on an exciting stainless-steel commission and would like to share:

Studio Visit

Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2-4 pm

Maximum 10 participants. My studio is two miles east of Sherwood Park. Reserve by contacting shawnolander@gmail.com

Workshop - Call for Interest

Saturday, April 8, 2023

The workshop will either be an "Introduction to metal sculpture." Or, if those interested are already experienced with metal, (such as NAIT welding course or RDC metal sculpture) then the workshop will be "Metal shaping and fitting for sculpture." 2-4 students. PPE for metal required.

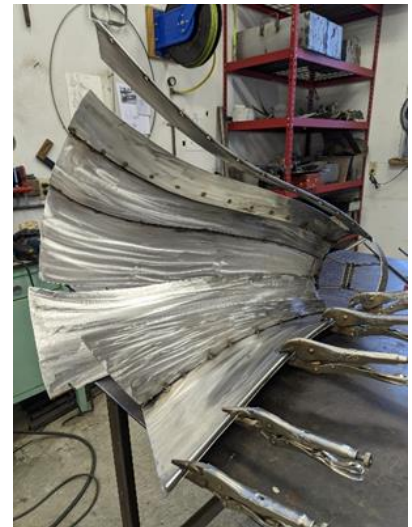
Contact shawnolander@gmail.com if interested in either opportunity.

More information about Tania's work may be found here: www.taniagarnerstudios.ca

Sherwood Park Highland Games Opportunity

The Strathcona Highland Society (SHS) is moving forward with the planning of the 2023 Highland Gathering and there will be a designated area for artists. If you are interested in this opportunity, request the application form from Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com and return it with payment. You can pay by e-transfer using the sherwoodparkhighlandgames@gmail.com e-mail address. A password is not required.

If you are a returning artist, you will have had your artwork adjudicated in 2022. If you are a new artist you will have to have your work adjudicated. Your contact to set this up is member Kay McCormack and she can be reached at artworkbykm@gmail.com



Wilderness Witnessed – A sculptor’s perspective on nature

This is a joint show featuring the work of three of our artists, Jennifer Martineau-Lang, Kay McCormack and Shawn Olander. It is open for the month of Feb. at Leduc Arts Foundry. Check it out!



Snow Carving Workshop

On Sat. Feb, 18, the Alberta Craft Council (ACC) supported by us, Silver Skate Festival and Snow Valley will be holding a snow carving workshop from 10 am - 4 pm at Snow Valley Ski Club lead by our very own Ritchie Velthuis, Christian Denis and Randall Fraser. The workshop is being promoted to ACC members but it is open to the public. At press time, the cost to attend the workshop was unknown, but if you want to know the price or think you might be interested in participating, contact Barb Marcinkoski at barbmarcink@gmail.com.

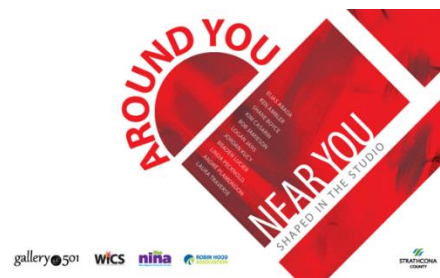
Around You/Near You - Gallery@501

This exhibition features the artwork of 11 artists from Sherwood Park and Edmonton. The Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, Robin Hood Association and Winder Inclusive Communities Service (WICS) have collaborated on this exhibition with Gallery@501. Layered in meaning, “Around You / Near You: Shaped in the Studio” refers to how the artists physically shape/create their work, how their personal stories and themes come together, and how the artists themselves develop their talents with inspiration in the studio space.

The featured artists are: Elias Abada, Kem Ambler, Shane Boyce, Kim Casarin, Bob Jamieson, Logan Jans, Jordan Kucy, Braden Lucier, Linda Pecknold, Andre Plamondon, Laura Traverse

You are invited to join the opening reception on Thurs. Feb. 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Gallery@501 (#120, 501 Festival Avenue, Sherwood Park).

This event and admission to the gallery is free. For more information, visit strathcona.ca/ArtGallery.



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

Call for submissions

The Art Gallery of St. Albert currently has two calls open to artists who are interested in exhibiting in their spaces in 2024. Their 2024 Call for Submissions and the 2024 Call for Exhibition Proposals from Indigenous Artists welcomes artists working in all styles and mediums to propose an exhibition by sending in a submission. They host 12-14 shows per year in three exhibition spaces, sharing a wide range of artworks, styles and experiences. Interested artists can go to their website for more information: <https://artgalleryofstalbert.ca/call-for-submissions/>

All calls remain open until Feb. 28, 2023

Emily Baker, Curator, Art Gallery of St. Albert
D: 780 651 5745
exhibitions@artsandheritage.ca



The Federation of Canadian Artists is a national membership services organization with over 3,000 members that promotes Canadian art and artists and has existed for over 80 years. Previously open only to 2D artists, the Federation is now welcoming sculptural (3D) artists to participate.

Member benefits:

- Eligibility to exhibit at the Granville Island Gallery. There will be 8 exhibitions available to sculptors in 2023. Awards and cash prizes.
- 3 Additional opportunities for online-only exhibitions.

For more information about the Federation of Canadian Artists, all member benefits and the cost of membership, go to artists.ca.

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

Sculptors' Association of Alberta PO Box 11212 Stn. Main, Edmonton, AB T5J 3K5 P:780-668-6300
www.sculptors-alberta.com