



It's a Tactile World



If you didn't get a chance to attend the opening reception of our latest show, "It's A Tactile World" at Allied Arts Council and Gallery (Part of the Spruce Grove Public Library), we suggest that you make time for it. It will be there until May 5. About 35 people showed up at the opening and participating artists were given a chance to speak about their pieces. You may have seen some of these pictures on social media - which tells me social media is working, so enjoy the repeat view.

More photos and "Exhibitions" continued on p.3

Top: Keith Kobyłka
Below: Shelly Leroux

SAA annual potluck BBQ

Tuesday, June 6, 6:30 pm
[Barr Estate Winery](#)
51526 Range Rd 231, Sherwood Park, AB T8B 1K9



Join us for our annual potluck barbecue before we break for summer. Barr Estate Winery has graciously donated their facility to host our annual end of year event! Burgers, buns and condiments will be provided and we ask each member to bring a dish to share such as a salad or dessert. Wine will be available for purchase. Members are welcome to bring a guest.

Please RSVP with your burger preference (beef, chicken or vegetarian), what dish you are bringing, and let us know if you are bringing someone by **May 30, 2023** to sculptorsab@gmail.com.

President's message



As summer approaches, the sun continues to shine on SAA and our members!

We have a lovely exhibition, along with members of the Allied Arts Council in their gallery in Spruce Grove. If you haven't seen it, you have until May 5 to get there! Or you can view it here...

<https://www.alliedartscouncil.com/its-a-tactile-world>.

Now we are gearing up for our exhibition at VASA in St. Albert in June. Huge thanks to Exhibition Chair Carroll Charest for organizing these two shows, back-to-back with Night of Artists! Along with scheduling for the market shifts and curating our display there so it looks fresh and appealing... she has had a busy spring!

And speaking of the market, we have welcomed Shelly Leroux and Jake Vanderwerf and are looking for two more sculptors to join us there! With the warmer weather, Edmontonians are rediscovering the Downtown Farmers Market and we are getting busier. It is the perfect time to join us as Mothers and Fathers Days approach and veggies come into season... finally! Please let me know if you are interested.

From the Good News Department... we were just notified that our Edmonton Arts Council grant has been approved. It is for the same amount as last year and we are grateful for the support. We also have a new Board chair... one of our newbie members, Shelly Leroux has volunteered to organize workshops and at our April meeting was voted onto the Board as Workshop Chair. Congrats and thanks, Shelly!

Thanks also to Ritchie Velthuis who has taken on the role of Newsletter Editor for the next while. Our newsletter is a wonderful benefit to our members, and I am so grateful to him and Barb Marcinkoski each and every month.

Our April meeting will be an important and fascinating one - with a discussion about the future of Harcourt House led by its President Edmund Haakonson, and presentations from new members, against the backdrop of Ritchie's exhibition "Day at the Beach". I encourage you all to join us in person if you can... Beachwear is optional!

See you May 2 in the Harcourt Gallery!

- Ellie Shuster

Next SAA meeting

Tuesday, May 2
7:30 pm

Harcourt House Gallery
3rd floor, 10215 112 street
(not the Annex Building)

Or by Zoom - [LINK HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 840 2844 1497
Passcode: 160357

6:30 pm - Board Meeting
7:30 pm - All members' meeting

Enjoy the exhibits "Vessels" by international artist Wei Li and "Day at the Beach" by member Ritchie Velthuis at the meeting.

President of the WECAN Society and Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, Edmund Haakonson, will present a members update on our lease, the acquisition of the buildings and how we might help in this important goal.

Then new members Shelly Leroux, Ravi Gill, Scott Van De Sande, and Jake Vanderwerf will give brief presentations on their art practice and share their work with the group.

The minutes and agenda for this meeting were attached to an email sent from sculptorsab@gmail.com on April 25, 2023.



Exhibitions



Fast on the heels of It's a Tactile World at Allied Arts Council and Gallery in Spruce Grove, we are preparing for another show in St. Albert, at VASA (Visual Artists Studio Association). We were there last May, this time it is June (from about 1 - 24, dates TBC). Load in/drop off will most likely be either Saturday, May 27 or Sunday, May 28 with the opening Sunday, June 4. For those of you who responded to the call, I have forwarded your images for an invitation to hopefully give out at the next VASA opening, Sunday, May 7. If you would like to see the venue, come to the opening between 1 and 4 p.m. that day or during regular business hours of Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (I am there on Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 p.m.).

I heard back from the Western GM Gallery in Drumheller and we are working on a date for 2024. Hopefully, we can have another fantastic show there again. They seem quite pleased we want to return as they do not usually get much in the way of sculpture. I hope we have a great participation level again!

- Carroll Charest, Exhibitions Director

Above: Laura Ouimet
Horse: Deb Cameron-Laninga
Bear: Kay McCormack
Right: Wes Leonard



When opportunity knocks

In early February I was working on pieces for the Night of Artists Artwalk. I wanted to create several small sculptures that would appeal to and celebrate diversity. I chose beach people and I was inspired by many summers at Martin Beach on Lesser Slave Lake. I created four beach people and put them on social media to elicit a response. It was positive and Darren Kooyman from Harcourt House reached out to see whether I might be interested in an exhibit in the front Incubator Gallery of Harcourt House. They felt the sculpture would complement the work "Vessels" by Wei Yi in the main gallery space. They had a cancellation and needed to fill the space for an April 28 time slot. My initial thought was no but I knew that with some discipline and time management it was possible and I agreed.

My original four pieces were 6 to 8 inches in height. Time restraints did not allow a change in scale so began by sculpting as many figures as possible in that format. Each new figure started a new story and these stories inspired a new beach person action figure or doll. In the end I was able to create 21 figures in total but only 18 of them made the cut. I also created props that would tell my beach story and then began to think about how to present them. Creating a sandy beach for them seemed to be the only logical solution.

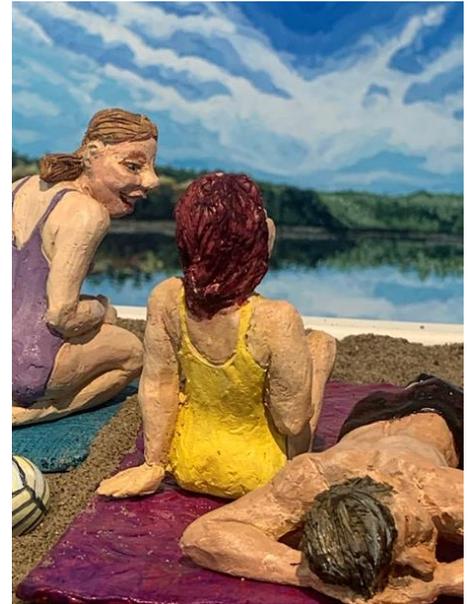
I set about planning a sandbox to rest on gallery plinths to host my 18 guests lounging amongst driftwood. After arranging the figures together and researching the existing plinths at Harcourt House Artist Run Gallery my final sandbox was 18 inches wide by 60 inches long. Although the Incubator Gallery is small, I asked myself whether an 18" X 60" installation would be large enough to tell my Day at the Beach story. I thought not.

I looked around my studio and saw some possible solutions. At the start of COVID I began to paint again and spent a good bit of time at Slave Lake. I had many paintings of the area and selected paintings that suited my theme. I also knew that I wanted a large painting of the lake directly behind the beach installation to act as a diorama background of sorts and set out to paint it. I knew that each painting I selected needed to interact and speak to the figures on the beach.

Putting together and creating all of these elements in just over two months is a testament of my faith in the creative process. It is also a testament that things don't need to be perfect to create an impact. My most satisfying work has been to present simple ideas that tell a more complex allegory of the human condition.

I hope you enjoy the exhibit as much as I did creating it.

- Ritchie Velthuis



Day at the Beach

Painting and sculpture by
Ritchie Velthuis
The Incubator Gallery
Harcourt House Artist Run Centre
3rd floor, 11215 112 street, Edmonton
April 28 to June 10, 2023





Keith Kobyłka, Dawn Allen, and YiYi Datar with their metal sculptures.

Introduction to metal workshop

This April I had the pleasure of teaching an Introduction to metal sculpture workshop to three enthusiastic and talented SAA sculptors. Not only did they arrive fully geared up with their own Personal Protective Equipment, but they dove heartily into the exercises, each going home with a small sculpture by the end of the day.

The participants told me in a prior to workshop questionnaire that all had little to no experience using power tools or arc machines and were nervous and or unconfident. During this workshop we studied metal shaping with leverage tools, step by step confidence building in using a grinder and a welder, and we even tried the plasma cutter and made some shapes with it. We talked about safety, shop setup and other elements of metal sculpture. I believe all felt more equipped to move further into using tools and shaping metal into sculpture.

- Tania Garner-Tomas



Karen Klassen

2023 Canadian Mosaic Exhibition:
Transitions
July 1 - August 27, 2023

Open to all Canadian mosaic artists, living in Canada or abroad.

The juried exhibition will showcase contemporary Canadian mosaic art from across the country at the McMillan Art Centre in Parksville, Vancouver Island, BC

My mosaic "Monos Khroma" has been accepted by the jury to be part of the MAC exhibition.



Discovery Gallery - Call for proposals

Application deadline: Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 11:59pm MDT

The Alberta Craft Council is calling for exhibition proposals for the 2024 line-up in our Discovery Gallery, Edmonton. They are seeking out fully developed exhibitions with themes that highlight mastery in craftsmanship; feature new work; push the boundaries of craft; and/or celebrate the achievements of their members. Their public galleries are dedicated to showcasing work by emerging, mid-career, and established craft artists. The proposals can be for individual or small group exhibitions.

The Discovery Gallery presents innovative and dynamic exhibitions that challenge audience perceptions and inspire the public to discover the best in contemporary fine craft. The 436 square foot Discovery Gallery is located on the main level of the Alberta Craft Council in Edmonton and features six to seven exhibitions per year, some of which may be selected to travel to our Calgary Gallery. Each exhibition is accompanied by an article in Alberta Craft magazine, invitations, promotion, an in-person exhibition reception, and virtual artist talk. CARFAC fees will be paid for the exhibition and the artist's talk.

You can apply with:

- up to 8 images of your work
- your CV, artist's bio and artist's statement and a statement about the work you are applying with.

All applicants must be a resident of Alberta.

Important Dates:

- Call for entry opens: Friday, March 24, 2023
- Applications accepted until: Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 11:59pm MDT
- Notifications sent by: August
Every application will receive a response, whether successful or not, so if you don't hear from us by then, please check your spam folder and then give us a call.

Apply here

<http://www.albertacraft.ab.ca/acc-calls-for-entry>



Open call for Gallery Shop artists



The Gallery Shop retail spaces in both Edmonton and Calgary generate sales for artists, provide valuable career mentorship, product feedback, learning opportunities for the public, and revenue for the Alberta Craft Council to deliver additional programming.

They promote a wide range of craft media practices from emerging to established artists and are always seeking new approaches to materials and work that pushes the boundaries of craft. They encourage all levels from emerging to established artists working in craft specific media to apply if they are looking for a retail venue to develop their career. Applicants must be Alberta-based artists.

Phase One Deadline: Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 11:59 PM, MST

To prepare before your online submission, read over the application information files linked below.

- [Gallery Shop Application Guidelines & Requirements](#) (120kb)
- [Application Preparation Checklist](#) (128kb)
- [Phase-one Questionnaire - reference](#) (107kb)
- [Helpful Hints for Applying](#) (115kb)

<http://www.albertacraft.ab.ca/acc-calls-for-entry>

Gallery@501 call for submissions



Apply now for the January 2024 – June 2025 season.

Deadline: June 11, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

Located in the Strathcona County Community Centre, [Gallery@501](#) manages a variety of exhibition and display spaces and opportunities for participation in the arts. Artists from all cultural and artistic backgrounds, at any stage in their career, are encouraged to apply.

Gallery@501 staff are striving to build connection with a wider range of artists to better reflect the diversity in cultures, stories and artistic expression in their community and region. Artists will be selected based on the criteria for the call, which may include exhibit content, theme, and potential for community connection, education and engagement. Applications may be submitted by email and details on the submission process can be found at: [Call for Submissions](#). All artists will be contacted about the status of their submission following the selection process. We welcome you to share this opportunity with your community.

Questions? Gallery@501 will be hosting a virtual Q&A session on May 15 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Curator Kris Miller will share information about the process and tips for improving your submission, followed by a question-and-answer period. Register for this online event on Eventbrite by [clicking here](#). If you are unable to attend the info session questions may be emailed to artgallery@strathcona.ca.

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 Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.

Strathearn Art Walk Sept. 9–10, noon–7pm



Artist registration goes commences May 1. For more information go to their website <https://www.strathearnartwalk.com/artists>

City Arts Centre used kiln for sale

USED SKUTT Pottery kiln for sale, as is
Model: KM-1227-3PK Kiln 240V, 1P
\$500.00 or best offer

The auction site the kiln is listed on is here:

<https://www.govplanet.com/edmonton>

You can search by the item # 9833161 or by "kiln" to locate it. Auction opens May 3.



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 Ritchie Velthuis and formatted by Barb Marcinkoski. If you have anything for the newsletter, please contact Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com.

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