



## Meet Shelly Leroux

My name is Shelly Leroux. I am a visual artist, curator, and educator.

### Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

No. I was a band kid in high school and was too afraid to make a change to art, so it wasn't until I attended university that I decided to take art for fun. I felt more confident at that time because nobody knew me at university which allowed me to try something new. I ended up loving the experience and switched over to the visual arts program and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Visual Art.

### What mediums do you work in?

In university, I couldn't decide on a major. I took every art class I could and have foundational knowledge in many mediums. It's tough for me to decide because I love learning new things. Fate decided for me. I was hired to teach Ceramics at Victoria School of the Arts and I have been there since 2015. I love the many challenges that I endure in this role and the variety of products that I can make with clay.

### What other work aside from sculpting do you do?

I love to paint and draw. I can draw semi-realistically with pencil crayons and graphite, but in watercolors and acrylics my work is more stylized. I am a huge fan of pop art and love flatness and colour schemes and try this in my work. Recently I have been investigating illustrations on a slab of clay to create relief sculptures. It's a fun process to work in a reductive way - similar to Lino printing.

### What is your dream project?

That is a tricky question. One idea I have is to collect clay from a place and create something from that moment. I travel around from place to place creating work in these spaces that can be documented in some way and then exhibiting my process.

### What inspires you?

I love the outdoors; nature, animals, forests, and the ocean. The outdoors makes me feel well and at peace. I love community, family, and creativity.

### How has your work evolved over time?

My current work is more about the process. I'm creating work that I enjoy making, challenges me, and keeps me motivated. I like to work with unusual tools that are found or made and I like to make my own coloured clays, slips, and glazes.

- Con't p.3



## President's message



It's summer already? I can't believe our year-end barbecue is here... and there is still so much happening!

Our show at the VASA Gallery in St. Albert is opening as I write this, and will be there for the month of June. Our gallery in the Downtown Farmers Market is getting busier as summer approaches and more people come looking for fresh fruit and veggies... and of course, art! We have eight artists at present and are looking for more to join us...! (Please let me know if you are interested.)

The big news is that our market gallery will be a venue for The Works Art and Design Festival, July 7 - 16. It is an exciting way to

get the Downtown Farmers Market and our SAA Gallery on the radar of Edmontonians. I'm thrilled to have the support of both the market and the festival organizers!

We expect to keep the gallery open two hours longer on the two Saturdays (9-5) and to host a reception with nibbles and drinks provided by market vendors on Friday, July 14. Plans are in the works (no pun intended) and we will be looking to animate the space, perhaps with demonstrations. We also hope to be able to showcase the work of other SAA members who are not currently showing in our space. As the plans develop, I will be in touch by email with the membership. Stay tuned!

This year's barbecue will be something special – thanks to our hosts Barr Estates Winery! I met them at the market and they have offered to host us whenever we need a venue... starting on June 6. I am so grateful to them for their support of the arts - and of SAA in particular! I look forward to seeing everyone there.

This will be the last newsletter until September. I know the summer will be a busy time for all of us with holidays, art walks, shows and family time. I wish you all an enjoyable summer. May the weather gods be kind to us and may you all be healthy and happy!

See you at the barbecue.

- Ellie Shuster

## 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.

If you have not already RSVPed, please contact Maria, if you want to attend.

**The next SAA meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 5. 2023.**

**The next Armature will be published in September.**

## Shelly Leroux - continued



Chance occurrences are important parts of my process. I like to push the boundaries of the clay materials to see how thin, large, or long I can make it before it says no. Sometimes the final artwork is not what I expected and this is why I need to create many works until I get a result that is intriguing and piques my interest.

### What roles does an artist have in modern society?

This is a tough question. I feel many artists can be advocates, storytellers, or documenters. It's always been a struggle for me personally because I felt a lot of pressure in university to have to share a strong message in my art, but always came up short. My artwork is selfish in that I do it because being creative makes me whole. Working creatively is beneficial to my health and wellness and is part of my current wellness plan. When I am starting a new project, the challenge feels like I opened a 1000-piece puzzle and I get very proud of myself when I finish it! I also love the meditative process in repetition when creating texture, or patterns in my work. Today an artist is more difficult to define. Lucy the elephant makes mono prints that can be purchased at the zoo. AI can create in many different ways. There are also 3D printers for clay! I think this is why as an artist, you need to enjoy the process because the outcome can be achieved with new technology these days.



### Where can the public find your work?

You can see my new art at the VASA Gallery, St. Albert, June 1 -July 1. I also sell pottery and sculptures at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market every Saturday and Sunday at the Sculptors' Association of Alberta booth. Stop by every week as I am always adding new things!



Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market Arts Collective will be participating in The Works Art and Design Festival 2023 at the Downtown Farmers Market:

- Friday Soirée, July 14, 2023 from 4 pm to 8 pm
- Saturday, July 8 & 15, 2023 from 9 am to 5 pm
- Sunday, July 9 & 16, 2023 from 11 am to 3 pm

Participants include

- A.M. Collective, Indigenous Arts Collective
- Ouchy Fabrics, Textile Artist
- ART at the Market Collective
- Sculptors Association of Alberta
- Three Kind Candle, Candle Maker
- Antiquorium, Silversmith

## Exhibitions



Elaine Mulder



Shelly Leroux



Carroll Charest



Ruby Serben

# It's A Tactile World

Sculptors' Association of Alberta



Opening reception is Thursday, June 1 from 6 - 8:30 p.m.



at VASA Gallery; 25 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue, St. Albert

[www.vasa-art.com](http://www.vasa-art.com)

May 30  
until  
July 1  
2023



← Keith Turnbull  
Keith Kobyka  
Shelly Leroux  
Elaine Mulder

participating artists:

Herman Poulin  
Ruby Serben  
Ritchie Velthuis  
Ellie Shuster

Sharon Moore-Foster  
Scot Van de Sande  
Carroll Charest



Scot Van de Sande



Herman Poulin



Ritchie Velthuis



Keith Kobyka

I hope that with this nice weather, you are all well and able to enjoy it. SAA's next show will be at VASA Studios and Gallery in St. Albert, 25 Sir Winston Churchill Avenue. I hope that you can all make it down to see the show and support our members while it is up and running. The show will run until Saturday, July 1. Come check out the space. I am usually there on Wednesday afternoons from 1-4 but the space is opened to public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am until 4 pm.

I did hear back from Western GM Gallery in Drumheller and we have August, 2024 for our next show there. I hope we have a wonderful turn out again. Looking forward to it.

Keep an eye on your emails over the summer as some of our industrious members are participating in other markets/shows throughout the summer. Hopefully, you can take time to pop by 1 or 2 of them and show your support.

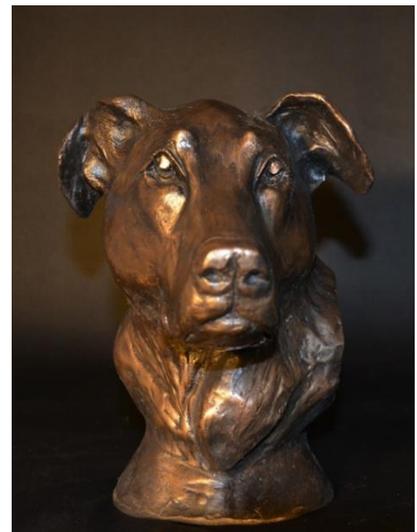
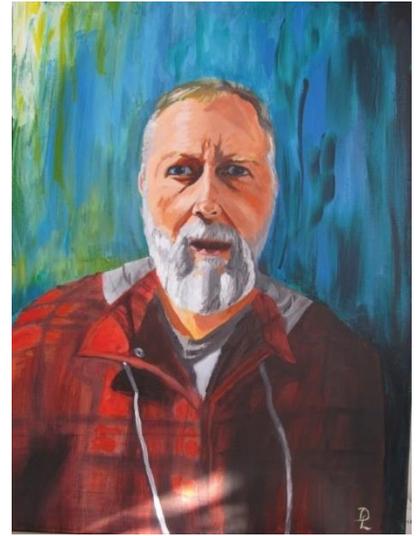
Have a great summer and I will see you in September (I think that is a song title...)

- Carroll Charest, Exhibitions Chair

## SAA member Kay McCormack recognized

Kay McCormack received a Strathcona County Award of Excellence on June 1, 2023 at a ceremony at Festival Place in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Kay received the award for her work in Arts, Culture and Heritage. A number of awards were also presented to recipients in other areas. Kay has taught sculpture and exhibited in the County. Congratulations Kay!

## Deb Laninga



I will be at the Wild Skies Gallery, July 30 to Oct 27. The Gallery is in the Renaissance Hotel at the Edmonton International Airport.

I will be showing 2D and sculpture work at the show. The basic theme is people and animals I love and have loved, which inspires me and are the basis for much of my art. I have attached a couple other images. I plan to have some new sculptures as well as some I have shown previously (some at SAA shows).



The Opening Party is planned for Thursday, September 7 from 7 to 9 pm. Everyone welcome.



- Deb Laninga

## The Farm Woman by Tania Garner-Tomas



Taking the best part of a year including logistics, planning and work time, this stainless-steel farm woman and her prize rooster are ready to install. Tentative plans are in place for the installation and unveiling.

It is cold-formed new stainless steel bar stock. The design is based on women's work clothing from 1920 and stories from that time about farm life and what may have been a woman's enterprise of raising chickens to help feed and clothe her family.

The piece was built in six parts. Legs, skirt, torso, head, collar, and chicken. It was done this way to preserve the polished finish and reduce the splatter clean up from welding. The component structure was interesting and made it easy to move around myself. The piece was only assembled in completion in the last hours of work.

The farm woman, who may be named Mae, Grace, or Emily, will share the park with the plow man which I made in 2012. The plow man is mild steel as was requested at the time and is different as he is rusty and mounted with a historic single blade plow. The park also features a full-sized historic barn which has no cladding. The barn is 8x8 beams only on a cement pad. In the summer the park is beautifully decorated and carefully tended with a flower garden and hanging baskets. Many weddings take place there and I expect to see plenty of selfies like this one in the farm woman's future.

I will send out an invite when we have the unveiling should other sculptors and friends wish to enjoy the celebration.

- Tania Garner-Tomas



## Shawn Olander



This is a Lino block that I carved after taking a workshop (left). I had lunch with Kay McCormack and was telling her about it and wondering why I was doing Lino prints (second from left) as I don't have any way to sell the prints. She suggested using them as molds for clay (two on right). They work like giant stamps. And just like that a new obsession was born. Thanks Kay!

- Shawn Olander

## 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.

Questions may be emailed to [artgallery@strathcona.ca](mailto:artgallery@strathcona.ca).



## Tana Bana Ecovillage project



Tana Bana, a wellness living retreat, is a sustainable and ecological development on 133 acres inside Redwater. It has large tracts of trees, a stream, water bodies, bogs with willows, medicinal plants, and a wildlife corridor connected to the Redwater river. It lies in the middle of four quarter sections which cannot be developed, affording it beauty, peace and quiet.

“Tana Bana” stands for “weft and warp” for the traditional weavers of India which symbolizes our interconnectedness with nature and each other.

The first phase started earlier this year with the renovation of the homestead into a studio and now construction of eco-cabin/eco-tent accommodation is happening. The second stage will focus on creating an innovative Sculpture Park. An eco-village of small naturally built homes and a tiny home park will be next, followed by a greenhouse with attached art studios, makerspace and art gallery. An off-grid eco-cottage subdivision will be last.

The endeavour is intended to focus on “Earth care, people care and fair share.” It will include:

- Regenerative agriculture and permaculture: Food forests, pollinator gardens, native medicinal herbs, healing gardens, medicinal forest garden, food sovereignty, passive solar green houses, solar dehumidifiers, solar cookers, etc.
- Natural buildings, architecture, material, and projects: Super insulated and burn-resistant building projects using Hempcrete, Mag hemp, light straw clay, straw bales, cordwood, log homes, earthbag, and cob in designs incorporating passive solar heating, geothermal heating, earth ship, etc.
- Sculpture Garden for healing and therapeutic art: Clay sculpture, pottery, iron smithery, glass blowing, wood working, metal work, mixed media, dance, music, etc.

If you are or may be interested in this project, please contact me. My email address is Ravi@Terragoldprojects.com and cell 780.863.2000.

- Ravi Gill

**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](mailto:sculptorsab@gmail.com).

This newsletter was compiled by Ritchie Velthuis and edited/laid out by Barb Marcinkoski. If you have anything for the newsletter, please contact Maria at [sculptorsab@gmail.com](mailto:sculptorsab@gmail.com).

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