



# The Armature

November 2023

Newsletter of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta



## ARE YOU READY YETI?

Member Jake Vanderwerf's latest commission piece 'Big Foot' sneaks through the last of this year's garden flowers.



### President's Message

It is hard to believe that as I write this, spooky season is almost over and we are planning for Christmas!

We are planning to have an ornament exchange again this year as part of our Christmas/Holiday potluck dinner December 5 at Harcourt House. Maria will send out more info closer to the date.

And with the coming colder weather, sales will soon be picking up at our Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market gallery, along with a Christmas Artisan Market on the third floor taking place November 25/26. I encourage you to check it out... invite friends and family... and support the market which supports us as well. It shouldn't be long before we learn where it will be moving and how the future will look.

Speaking of the market, we are happy welcome Wes Leonard to our gallery! There is still room for anyone who wants to join.

We are preparing for AB3D Exhibition with the Alberta Society of Artists in their gallery on the second floor of the Crossroads Market in Calgary (222-1235 26 Ave S.E.) It runs November 8 to December 23. The "opening" reception date has not yet been set. Please watch your inbox for details.

Night of Artists was a great success. Huge thanks to Carroll Charest and a gang of participating artists (10) and volunteers (Darcy Hoover and YiYi Datar) who made it happen. Photos and details elsewhere in The Armature.

I was delighted to finally be able to participate in a Raku workshop – thanks to Shelly Leroux for organizing and Lisa Wilkinson for hosting us. Lisa has a wonderful studio on her scenic acreage in Edson and it was a privilege to enjoy it. Looking forward to more! Next up is the Metal Workshop facilitated by Tania Garner-Tomas. (Not for me.... I'm a chicken with sharp tools... but know it will be another good one!)

## President's Message (continued)

We have a new brochure, thanks to the artistry of Keith Kobylka. We distributed many at Night of Artists, will have them on hand for AB3D, and at the market. It is so good to have a promotional piece that showcases current members. Thanks also to Keith for the social media posters for Night of Artists. Looked great, as always!

You will notice The Armature is being published every other month right now. Life is full and volunteer time is limited for all of us these days, so the board made the decision to scale it back. Please make note of the dates for upcoming events, and watch your email in-basket for details. Thanks to Ritchie Velthuis and Jake Vanderwerf for producing this issue.

Wishing you a happy fall. See you all at our Christmas/Holiday Party December 5!  
— Ellie Shuster

### NOVEMBER MEETING

**Executive Meeting**  
6:30 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

**All Members Meeting**  
7:30 PM

**Meeting ID**  
848 2457 4124

**Program**  
Artist Ryan Kurylo  
[www.ryankurylo.com](http://www.ryankurylo.com)

**Passcode**  
003403

**Location**  
Harcourt House  
Annex  
10211 112 St  
Edmonton, AB  
*ring bell to be let inside*

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting in person to enjoy our guest speaker and network amongst each other.

### DECEMBER MEETING

**Program**  
Christmas Potluck  
and Decoration  
Exchange

**Potluck**  
6:30 pm

Celebrate the festive season with SAA members and a guest of your choosing. Our administrator, Maria, will be in contact with more information.

## Exhibition: Night of Artists



I hope this newsletter finds you all well. Our only exhibition of late was a second time for Night of Artists at the Bonnie Doon Mall. It was an experiment from the mall owners/management to see how another show would be received. Although it seemed a bit slower, have not got the numbers back, SAA did quite well compared to the Spring show – all in part due to some big ticket sales of Roy, Wes, and Kay. Congratulations to everyone who sold something! Well done!

I want to say a big THANK YOU to all those who helped out- to Darcy for the scheduling, YiYi for the labels and master list, Roy for letting us use his stands and tables, Lana who came to help set up even though she did not participate, and to everyone else who helped with set up and take down. It went well. Also, thank you to Keith Kobyłka for doing our great promotional posters for social media so we could get the word out.

Finally, a big thank you to all who participated and shared their works. We had a fantastic booth, comments by Phil and many other artists I spoke to. Without you and your works, we cannot have these wonderful shows. Also, thank you to all those members who attended the show even though they were not participating. It is nice to see our members supporting each other.

I hope that everyone had a good experience with this show, if not, please relay any comments to [SAAexhibitions@gmail.com](mailto:SAAexhibitions@gmail.com) on what was not done and what could have been done better. We will use your comments, both about the SAA booth and for the NOA overall, to give feedback in order to improve for future shows.



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## Workshop: Raku in Edson

Three of our members drove to Edson for a full day workshop on raku firing with Lisa Wilkinson. Our morning started at 8 am driving from Edmonton to Edson on a gorgeous fall day with lots of deer grazing beside the highway.

The acreage welcomed us with the fresh fall air, tall trees bordering the driveway, and friendly family members. The rest of the morning was spent inside Lisa's beautiful studio space filled with amazing sculptures and a large collection of raku glazes. Each piece was carefully glazed using the test tiles to guide us, however, each colour is still undetermined because there is never a certainty as to how the final piece will turn out. This is the perfect medium for spontaneous metallic finishes on clay

sculptures.



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### Workshop: Raku in Edson (continued)

The next step was to fire these artworks inside the raku kiln. It took approximately forty minutes to heat up each batch until they were glowing red hot, and then Lisa and her husband carefully transferred these into a metal fireproof bin. The metal bins were full with materials that would be able to catch fire, such as sawdust or dried leaves. Once the flames started inside, the lid would be placed on top of the bin to starve the ceramic artwork



of oxygen, which creates cool effects on any areas that have glaze, and black matte for any areas with no glaze.

It was a fun filled day with multiple raku firings and lots of gorgeous pieces. Many of these artworks are currently for sale at the Sculptors Association of Alberta's booth inside the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market.

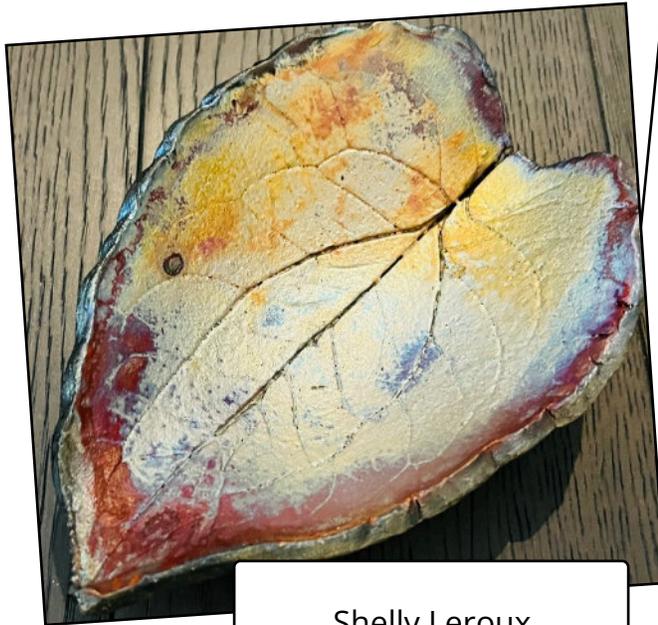
— Shelly Leroux, Workshops Director



Ritchie Velthuis

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Shelly Leroux



Ellie Shuster

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

### Metal Workshops

Instruction by Tania Garner-Tomas

#### Introduction to Metal

Saturday, November 25

\$200 + \$40 for supplies

OR

Saturday - Sunday, November 25 - 26

\$375 + \$40 for supplies

The intention of this whole weekend workshop would be to create a small sculpture in steel using some of the techniques taught in last spring's course, or the first day of this course.

Waivers must be signed.

I could possibly make both courses work if some people wanted to just do the one-day intro course.

Contact: [tlgtstudios@gmail.com](mailto:tlgtstudios@gmail.com)

November, 2023

#### Full PPE required:

- Steel-toed boots
- Welding helmet
- Scalp protection/  
Beanie
- Hearing protection
- Overalls
- Gloves
- Particulates respirator  
recommended

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### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS (continued)

#### **Portrait in Clay: Figurative Sculpture**

Mondays, November 20 through December 11

6:00 - 9:00PM

at the ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Arts Studio

\$144

ID: 727629

Experience a classical art form by sculpting the human figure and focusing on portraiture. In this 4-week course, use the medium of clay to explore the anatomy of the human head and create a portrait bust in clay. Guided by artist and sculptor **Ritchie Velthuis**, learn step-by-step techniques and remove the intimidation of working with figurative subject matter. Referencing a live model, you will capture unique and individual qualities while finding your own sculpture style.

### MEMBER NEWS



Deb Laninga

#### **Connections**

November 1 - December 5

Alberta Lottery Fund Gallery

Anyone who missed my exhibition at the International Airport has a chance to see it in Fort Saskatchewan. I will be the featured artist at the Alberta Lottery Fund Gallery in the Dow Centre by the Shell Theatre. The show is entitled "Connections" runs from Nov 1 to Dec 5. Meet and greet is Nov 24, 2023 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm,

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## MEMBER NEWS (continued)

### Laval Bergeron "Joe"

It is our welcome sign or our gatekeeper, we call him Joe.. for now, I'm hoping to sculpt him a girlfriend in the near future... so the title could change :)

It is 17 feet tall and why not 18 which would have been a more logical height, because of rot at that point so had to cut back. Aspen is notorious to have rot in the center, I was lucky to find this tree which was 100 feet from the house and had started to lean towards the driveway.

Hope to get lucky on finding the next tree.

The hat is actually the trunk of the tree, 22 inches in diameter, it's standing upside down, this way the rain if everything is right does not drip onto the sculpture. It's been so dry in our area that we have not had the chance to see how well it will perform.

I don't know what else I could say about it other than it's been a lot of fun to do.

I've sculpted a lot of snow, this is a first for wood or any other medium or material!



"Joe" by Laval Bergeron

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## MEMBER NEWS (continued)



### **The Farm Woman** Tania Garner-Tomas

Just before the snow flew a few days later, 35 Art Loving souls gathered at the Stone Barn Park to celebrate the unveiling of the Farm woman. I was particularly touched by the beautiful plaque that had been handwritten by a Stone Barn society member I have yet to thank. She really captured what we were all striving to do.



The short ceremony is captured on video on link below. There is the tribute to tribal lands, an introduction to what the Stone Barn Park was about, and something about the sculpture from me. This beautiful park environment has been in the works for several decades. I am very proud to be unveiling the farm woman here. She has a friend across the park called the plow man which I did in 2012.

[Unveiling Video](#)

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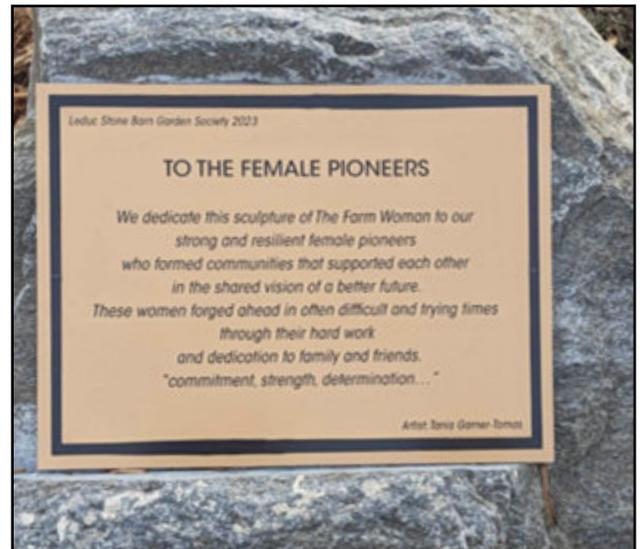
The plaque reads:

## TO THE FEMALE PIONEERS

We dedicate this sculpture of The Farm Woman to our strong and resilient female pioneers who formed communities that supported each other in the shared vision of a better future.

These women forged ahead in often difficult and trying times through their hard work and dedication to family and friends.

"commitment, strength, determination..."



Tania Garner-Tomas

Painting & sculpture spoken here: [www.taniagarnerstudios.ca](http://www.taniagarnerstudios.ca)



## Lesa the Lovely Grizzly Bear Dave "Doodle" Wladyka

Hello folks, I hope the day finds you well!

I'm Dave "Doodle" Wladyka, the creator of some wonderful soapstone sculptures, such as the pictured "Lesa the Lovely Grizzly Bear," and, "Sarah-lynn the Seal."

I lived in Edmonton most of my life, but was born in Myrnam AB. I am happily divorced, which gives me more time to work on my sculptures! 😊

I enjoy working with soapstone as it is a hobby that keeps my mind off the stresses of life!

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## MEMBER NEWS (continued)

I believe that my sculptures and etchings are unique, as I've never seen any other artist put eyeballs in their sculptures (that I'm aware of) Such as Sarah-lynn having Alaskan Blackstone eyes, and my "Petstones" that are miniature customizable pet headstones made of soapstone that are colored!

If you'd like more information, contact me:

(780)-982-9901 · [MindScapesUNLIMITED2@gmail.com](mailto:MindScapesUNLIMITED2@gmail.com) · @daves\_not\_here2



"Halloween Mask" by  
Keith Turnbull

### Halloween Mask

Keith Turnbull

I made this mask a few years ago based on the dwarfs in the Hobbit. The hat is new from the dollar store.

### Blake Ward in Edmonton

Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM

Blake Ward will be in Edmonton in December, and is planning on making a presentation to SAA and House Harcourt members on Tuesday December 19 at 7 pm. He is a great sculptor and is always prepared to share his knowledge.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### **Minutiae — a big celebration of the little things**

Applications will be accepted until January 16, 2024 at 11:59 MT

Alberta Craft is calling Craft artists working on a miniature scale to submit work for the upcoming Feature Gallery exhibition, Minutiae, a big celebration of the little things. [Find details here.](#)

Does working small and paying attention to all the teeny, tiny details sound like your creative process? Are the objects you make intended for intimate consideration and contemplation? Do you crave to recreate the world around you at 1:12 its actual size?

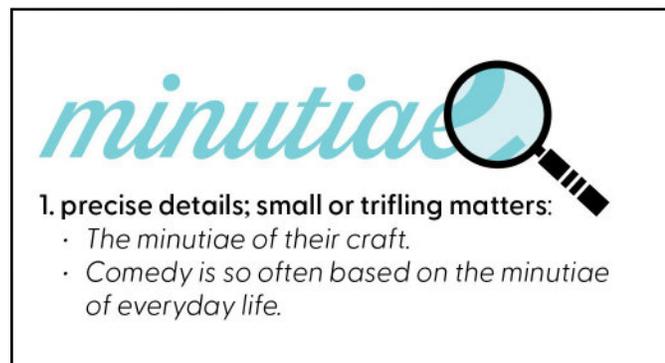
What does minutiae mean to you? Toy? Secret? Efficient? Intimate? Cute? Details? Whether you are a dedicated miniaturist, or if this call has inspired you to shrink the scale of what you make for the first time, we want to hear from you!

### EXHIBITION DATES

- Feature Gallery, Edmonton: March 9 - June 15, 2024
- Calgary Gallery: July 6 - August 31, 2024

### INCLUDE IN YOUR SUBMISSION

- information about how your submission relates to the call for Minutiae
- information about you and how you became a craft artist
- a description of your inspirations, motivations and ideas as an artist
- a description of the techniques and materials you use and why you are drawn to use them
- high quality digital images of up to 5 works - you may include up to 3 images for each work, 1 of the images should be an overall view of the work the other 2 can be details
- an image list with the title, year of creation, retail value, dimensions and weight, materials and techniques for the work depicted in each image
- label image files as follows: 01\_lastname\_firstname
- if you are uploading your CV lastname\_firstname\_CV



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## IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- This call is open to Alberta residents and current Alberta Craft Members (General, Professional, Emeritus) who live outside of the province of Alberta.
- All work submitted must be available for the duration of both exhibitions; from the time of delivery in; February 2024, until the end of the Calgary exhibition; August 31, 2024.
- Artwork must be available for sale at the Alberta Craft Council's 60% consignment rate to Alberta Craft member artists or 50% to non-member artists.
- Please provide jpeg or png images at 300dpi – the file size should be over 1MB in size.

Position your work in a neutral background and leave space around your object in the image.

- Artists are responsible for paying shipping to the Alberta Craft Council, we will pay for return shipment within Canada on unsold items under 10kg/36". If your work is selected for the exhibition, please make shipping arrangements with us before you send your work here.



### Coming Up Next

Applications will be accepted until January 16, 2024 at 11:59 MT

[Find details here.](#)

Coming Up Next celebrates the creativity, innovation, and skill of emerging artists entering the field of contemporary Craft in Canada. This group exhibition serves as an important launchpad; introducing emerging artists to the Alberta Craft

community (including our sophisticated audience of artists, craft collectors and supporters), and to the professional development services that Alberta Craft provides to its members. The exhibition will be curated to feature a diverse representation of traditional and contemporary Craft disciplines.

We welcome submissions from artists whose path to Craft may have begun through apprenticeships, mentorships with elders, those who are self-taught, and those who have received a formal post-secondary Craft education. If you are within the first five years of your career in Craft, or the final year of studies in a Craft discipline, you are eligible to enter.

This national call is free to enter, with a submission of up to five images of work that will be available for the exhibition dates. Works may be produced in any of the Craft media: clay, fibre, glass, metal, wood, stone, or any combination of the above, and must have been completed within the past two years to be considered.

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## EXHIBITION DATES

- Discovery Gallery, Edmonton: March 23 - May 18, 2024
- Calgary Gallery: September 14 - November 2, 2024

## INCLUDE IN YOUR SUBMISSION

- information about where, when and how you learned about your craft
- a description of your motivations and ideas as an artist
- information about the techniques and materials you typically use and what compels you to use these materials and techniques
- high quality digital images of up to 5 works
- you may include up to 3 images for each work, 1 of the images should be an overall view of the work, the other 2 can be details
- an image list with the title, year of creation, retail value, dimensions and weight, materials and techniques for the work depicted in each image
- label image files as follows: 01\_lastname\_firstname
- If you are uploading your CV lastname\_firstname\_CV

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- This call is opening to emerging craft artists across Canada. Membership is not a requirement for entry.
- All work submitted must be available for the duration of both exhibitions; from the time of delivery in; February 2024, until the end of the Calgary exhibition; November 2024

## The Silver Skate Festival

The Silver Skate Festival [invites Fire Sculpture Artists to apply](#) to the 15th Annual Fire Sculpture Installation!

Here's what you need to know:

- Application Deadline: Thursday, November 19, 2023
- Selected teams will be notified by December 10, 2023
- Build dates are: February 9, February 10, February 11, February 16, February 17, February 18, 2024: 9am – 7pm.

More information can be found in the attached application form. Please feel free to forward this link to any fire artists who may be interested or post on your site.

If you require more information, please feel free to contact Ronda Chestnutt (Office Administrator) at [office@silverskate.ca](mailto:office@silverskate.ca); Erin DiLoreto (Executive Producer) at [producer@silverskate.ca](mailto:producer@silverskate.ca); or call 780-488-1960.

We look forward to your submissions! Thank you.

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A few of us artists are in this market.

This event is the perfect opportunity to find unique and one-of-a-kind gifts for your loved ones this holiday season.

Discover a wide range of handmade crafts, including beautiful jewelry, stunning artwork, intricate ceramics, and much more. Support local artists and find that special something that will bring joy to someone's heart.

For artist profiles, check us out on Instagram @yegartmarket

Also shop the Capital City Vintage Market at the same time. We can't wait to see you there!

— Shelly Leroux

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Is published by the Sculptors' Association of Alberta. Images have been supplied by artist members and may not be used without the permission of the artist(s).

For more information, contact Maria Koulouris, SAA Administrator at [sculptorsab@gmail.com](mailto:sculptorsab@gmail.com).

This newsletter is compiled by Ritchie Velthuis and edited and laid out by [Jake Vanderwerf](#).

If you have a new piece, are hosting a workshop, or have anything else you would like to share with the membership and beyond, please contact Maria at [sculptorsab@gmail.com](mailto:sculptorsab@gmail.com).

## **Sculptors' Association of Alberta**

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[780-668-6300](tel:780-668-6300) · [www.sculptors-alberta.com](http://www.sculptors-alberta.com)

Facebook Group:  
[Sculptors' Association of Alberta](#)

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## SPECIAL THANKS

