



NEW YEAR, NEW PURPOSE

Featured artist member Scott Van de Sande gives new purpose to metal scraps in this hummingbird sculpture.



President's Message

2024! As I write that date for the first time, I can't believe it happened so fast! Last year brought much activity and seems to have flown by. Now I look to the shiny new year with great expectations.

We open 2024 at the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market in a bright new location. Moving from the dark, northside "Art at the Market" gallery, we relocated into the mainstream of activity, along the sunny south wall close to the parking lot entrance. The market folks have been generous in their allocation of space and this will be our home until the market moves at the end of April. We currently have seven participating sculptors and room for more if you wish to join us. Please let me know if you are interested.

Upcoming in March will be the Night of Artists Indoor Artwalk and Gala – March 15 – 17 at Bonnie Doon. Many of our members have signed on for our usual four-booth space; however, there is still room if you want to participate. More about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

Also upcoming will be news about the new market location. We are still awaiting details and will let you know as soon as we learn more. What we do know is this will be a Saturday-only downtown market, open indoor all year round and outdoor in the summer. Once we have details we can make a decision about SAA's continued participation.

Big thanks to the Alberta Society of Artists (ASA) for hosting our co-production "AB3D" which wrapped up at Christmas. I wasn't able to attend the exhibition but from all accounts it was a lovely show which we do hope to reproduce in an Edmonton venue in future. The ASA is scouting it out... stay tuned.

President's Message (continued)

And for your New Year's Resolution..... Lend a hand!
With Ice and Snow in full swing, a mold-making workshop on the horizon, Night of Artists, the market, and other opportunities being explored, now is a good time for YOU to get involved in your SAA. Many hands make light work and we are in need of more! If you have some time to volunteer, we have lots of opportunities – from suggesting speakers for our meetings, to assisting with organizing show opportunities, supporting Ice and Snow, helping with communications/ social media or joining our wonderful board... please lend a hand for this shiny new year!

Wishing each of you a healthy, happy, artistically satisfying 2024!
— Ellie Shuster

JANUARY 9, 2024 MEETING

Executive Meeting
6:30 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

All Members Meeting
7:30 PM

Meeting ID
848 2457 4125

Program
Members
Mark Morris and
Elaine Mulder on
their work

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.

Next meeting:

February 6, 2024

Featured Artist: Scott Van de Sande

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO

My name is Scott Van de Sande. I am welder by trade but currently work as a welding inspector. With over 20 years experience working jobs that range from shop fabrication to pressure welding in ditches and facilities around Alberta.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SCULPTOR?

I always liked art. Like most folks I took to drawing when I was young as a way to record and imagine the world around me. This never passed as a phase, instead I leaned into it throughout my life. I would take an art



class here and there and try out different tools and mediums that looked interesting and always kept a sketchbook.

Sculpture didn't factor in until much later in life. Think it was my late 20's when I did a little soapstone bear and really enjoyed the process of bringing a piece together in 3D. I didn't consider myself a sculptor back then but I do now.

WHAT MEDIUMS DO YOU WORK WITH?

Metal is my primary medium, mostly scrap, broken or discarded. I can't really describe the feeling of working with it but there is a joy in reimagining a given things purpose or function.

The Armature



A section of cracked engine casing as an ice flow supporting a polar bear prowling for food or old hydraulic hose fittings as the wide eyes of a rabbit (jackalope) doing it's best to avoid such an end.

One of the things I love most about this medium is that it seeks me out. My workspace (garage) is packed with milk crates and boxes filled with metal donated by folks who were going to throw it out. Instead they put it aside for me to work with and that fills my heart with gratitude. Over the last few years of metal sculpture I have received everything from whole transmissions to old coin collections, never knowing what will show up next. I would love to eventually get to a point where I can do work for people that bring me the metal that represents them. Like a leopard built

out of parts from a tank with the same name to commemorate someone's military service with that equipment. Or breaking down an old piece of farm equipment and transforming it into a cow or horse in memory of a grandparent who spent a lifetime farming. It would be an honor and a pleasure to help folks tell a story with their metal.

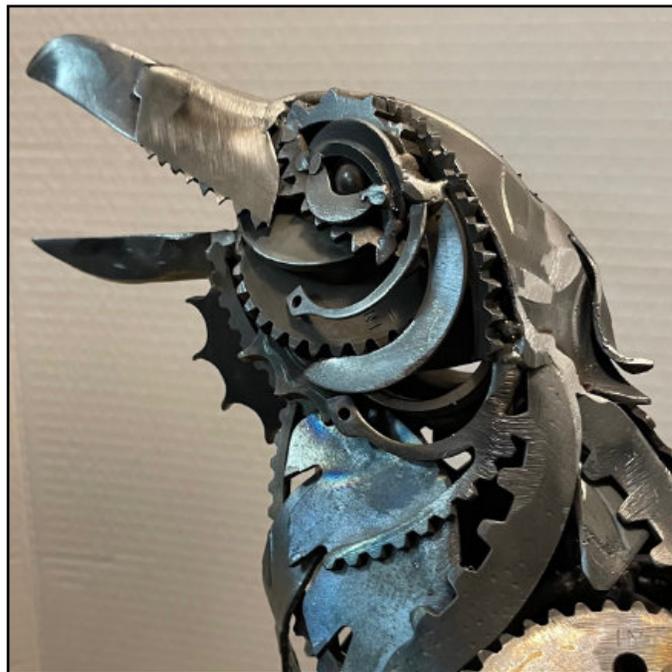
DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR CURRENT WORK

2023 was a big year for me and my work. I have started on a series of small birds to push the boundaries of size and weight and to produce work at a more comfortable price point for folks who would like to own a piece or those who just love birds.



The Armature

There were several commissioned projects I was fortunate enough to be asked to build, these are hands down my favorite type of work. Telling a person's story with your skill is a significant honor and I do my absolute best when charged with this task.



First was a raven for a lady that works at an animal rehab facility. She had seen a crow I had produced for Alberta craft council's Albirda show and reached out to request one of these birds she had grown to love through her work. I added a flush of metallic mushrooms to the base as she is also a hobby mycologist. Next was a barn owl holding a ring in its talons to commemorate a Good friends engagement. The proposal took place at a castle in Scotland with said owl and ring. I was thrilled to build another owl (my second) to capture this memory for them.

The last but not least was very near to my own heart, a jackalope for my father-in-law. His health has been declining as he approaches

80 and my wife has asked for the one critter that reminds her of Him and the time they spent on the road hauling freight across North America. Yup my wife spent summers and holidays like this growing up, they even got stranded in Wyoming (where the myth originated) one year in a blizzard. Hunkered down in a truck stop for a spell, they just made it home on Christmas eve. A piece that will stay in our family for generations. I was going to do the typical wall mounted head and antlers but couldn't get the image of one in full stride out of my mind, portraying it as living and vital seemed more appropriate.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Metal sculpture has opened doors for me (I need to nut up and go through them at times) and I'm excited to see where things will go with it. I truly feel that I'm only getting started and that there is still so much to learn and experience in regard to the path forward. The main reason for joining the association is to meet with other artists and open my mind to the possibilities. No mean feat for an introvert but I have to start somewhere and I'm glad it's here. Thank You.

An Evening with Blake Ward



On December 19, renowned sculptor Blake Ward shared an insightful presentation with members of SAA and Harcourt House in the upstairs gallery.

The 18 or so artists in attendance were treated to an engaging, educational presentation with detailed slides covering Blake's journey through classical figurative sculpting with clay to his avant-garde digital processes. Blake is a former Edmontonian, currently living and working in France with his wife and partner, Boky Hackel-Ward.

It was wonderful to see both new and long-term SAA and Harcourt members enjoying the presentation. Special thanks to Blake and Boky – friends of SAA – for offering to speak to us whenever they are in Edmonton.

<https://blakeward.com>

— Ellie Shuster



Snow & Ice Commissions November and December 2023

Compiled by Barb Marcinkoski

CHRISTMAS IN THE HEARTLAND November 25



Owl
Deb Laninga
Brookville Community League



Cookie Monster
Christian Denis
Good Hope Hall



Nativity Scene
Ritchie Velthuis & Scott Van de Sande
Bethany Lutheran Church



Landscape
Randall Fraser
Moyer Rec Centre



Christmas Trees & Reindeer
Stephen Chung
Partridge Hill Community Hall
January, 2024

The Armature

SKATE WITH SANTA IN EDSON December 17



Santa and Snow Man
Stephen Chung



Angel
Ritchie Velthuis

NEW YEARS EVE IN SHERWOOD PARK



Sun and Moon
Jeremy McConville



Year of the Dragon
Christian Denis

MEMBER NEWS: STUDIO TOUR WITH HERMAN POULIN



While visiting St. Paul, I had the privilege of a private tour of Herman's studio, gallery space, and public artworks. If you haven't had the privilege of meeting Herman in person, please do so. He is an energetic and inspiring artist that is always willing to share his knowledge. He has a strong connection to his family and friends in St. Paul, and loves to be involved with his community.

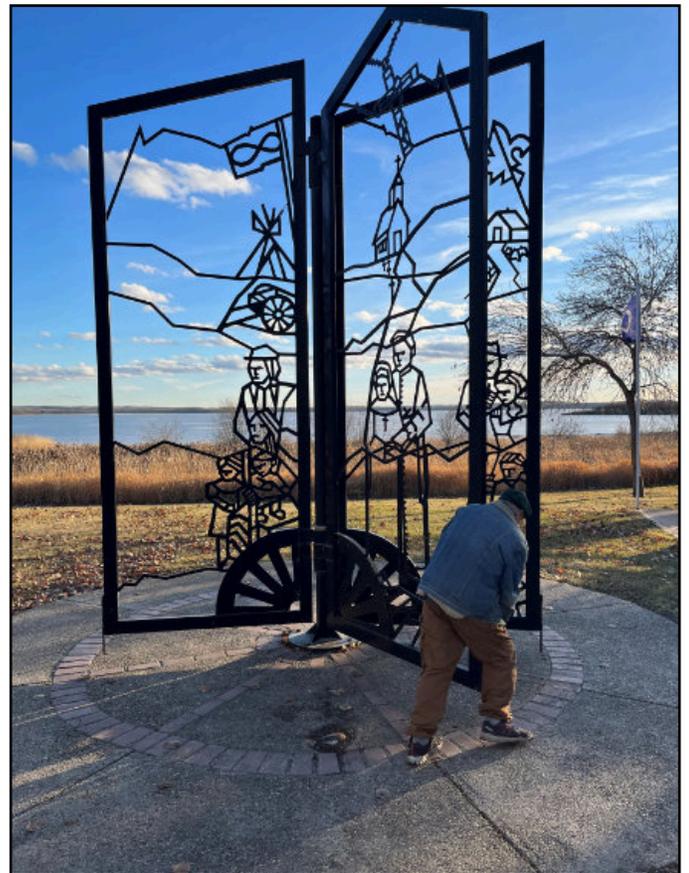
Herman was very welcoming and excited to share his beautiful studio space located on his acreage adjacent to a lovely lake. His studio space was filled with inspiring ideas and showcased processes for many of his public artworks. His private gallery space features paintings, sculptures, and relief works of various materials.



The Armature



Herman also took me on a public artworks tour, showing all the public art he has throughout Saint Paul. Many of these artworks are in the downtown area and along the beautiful lake and Lagasse Park. St. Paul is a town that supports many artists and showcases public artworks made by Herman Poulin, Stewart Steinhauer, Stephen Yettaw, Eric Spoeth, Hans Rohner, and Lloyd Cartier.



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Herman has recently been focussing his artworks in the world of electroplating. In fact, he is interested in showcasing a demonstration of his process for anyone that will be joining this upcoming sculpture workshop. The workshop will be focussed on creating the human figure and various animals such as birds, horses, and buffalo. This workshop will be available in the spring.

Did you know that Herman is also a musician? He joyfully played a tune for me on his guitar and recorder, which was handcrafted by his nephew.

— Shelly Leroux



The Armature

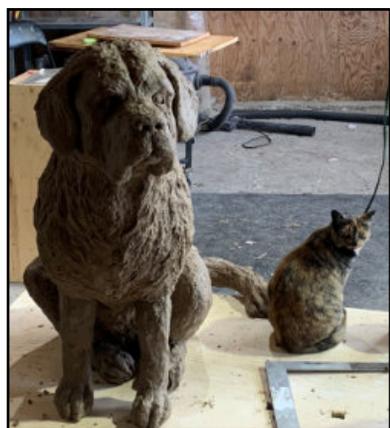
UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Figurative Sculpture in Clay

January 11 - February 29, Thursdays 6:30-9:30pm
Pottery I at the City Arts Center
\$288

Experience a classical art form by sculpting the human figure by working with live models. Use the medium of clay to explore the anatomy of the human body and successfully create multiple figurative sculptures as you develop a sense of proportion, 3D design, and capture unique and individual qualities while finding your own sculpture style.

Taught by sculptor Ritchie Velthuis.



Sculpting Animals

January 24 - February 5, Mondays 6-9pm
ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Ceramic Arts Studio
\$108

Love animals so much that you want to recreate your favourite pal or furry friend in clay? Perhaps you want to sculpt your favourite wild animal to cherish in your home for years to come. This four week class with Sculptor Ritchie Velthuis is the perfect opportunity for you to learn the basics of clay as a sculpting and modeling medium.

Portrait in Clay: Figurative Sculpture

February 12 - March 11, Mondays 6-9pm
ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Ceramic Arts Studio
\$144

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.

January, 2024



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Gardens Sculpted Statues and Ornaments

February 9 - March 1, Mondays

ACT Center in Rundle Park

\$108

Put your green thumbs to another use and create using the medium of clay. Learn hand-building and sculpture techniques while creating unique pieces for your garden or favourite outdoor space.

Workshops by Keith Turnbull

Join Keith Turnbull at the City Arts Centre for two workshops this March.

Sculpted Clay Animals

Thursday, March 7 & Thursday, March 21 6:30-9:30pm

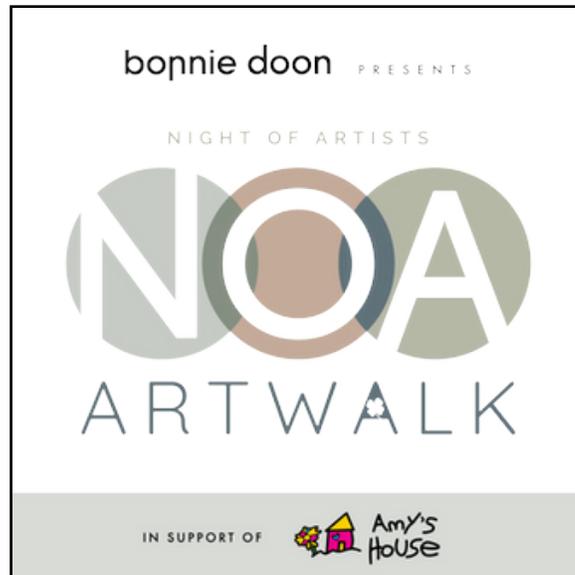
\$108

Sculpted Figurines

Saturday, March 9 & Saturday, March 16 1:00-4:00pm

\$76

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



Night of Artists - March 15-17, 2024

Happy New Year Everyone,

SAA is participating again at the **Night of Artists** this March!

As previous, all participating artists will split the cost of the booth and will need to work at least 2 shifts during the weekend (plus help set up and take down).

We are confirmed 10 people (so far we have Keith T, Ritchie V, Kay M, Jake V, Dave W, Laura O, Elaine M, Wes L, Scott VdS, Carroll), if you are not listed and would like to participate, please send your intent to show to SAAexhibitions@gmail.com.

We do have room for about 2-4 more so please respond as soon as possible. As it stands, with 8, it will be about \$105 each, with 12 it will be about \$75. Once we get a final tally, we can figure out how many pieces we each can bring at initial set up and the final bill.

This show has proven to be a good venue for many of our members and whether we all sell or not, we always get great comments and good exposure to our art and to SAA as well as new members.

Thank you

— Carroll

January, 2024

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**SCULPTORS
ASSOCIATION OF
ALBERTA**



PRESENTS

MOLDMAKING MASTERCLASS FOR FINE ARTISTS

**A Rare Opportunity To Gain Hands-on Experience Creating
A Production Quality Mold of Your Sculpture**



SUPERCHARGE YOUR ART BUSINESS!

Multi-part brush-up molds capture fingerprint detail allowing you transform your one-of-a-kind artwork into valuable limited series. Going far beyond YouTube videos, this intensive workshop will demystify the challenges of fine art moldmaking, empowering artists with the skills and knowledge needed to replicate their sculptures for casting in various materials like resin, cold-cast bronze, plaster, or even monument quality foundry bronze.

Participants are guided through the various stages of moldmaking, selecting the appropriate materials, preparing the sculpture, planning parting lines, flanges, keys, vents, sprues, techniques and casting options. Using your own original sculpture and high quality materials you will create a thin polyurethane rubber mold supported by a hard shell suitable for creating multiple fine art castings.

Sculptors and Instructors **Deb Laninga** and **Ryan Kurylo** mold and cast their exquisite fine art sculptures to create valuable artistic expressions. Benefit from their years of professional experience.

Dates: March 21, 22, 23, 24, 2024
Thursday 5 to 9, all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 2024

Location: Private Studio, Sherwood Park

SAA Member Cost: \$380 + Materials
Coordinate with the instructors to determine your material cost based on the size of your project.



Advanced registration for SAA Members until Jan. 15, 2024
Please email your interest to: sculptorsAB@gmail.com

LIMITED OPPORTUNITY - SMALL CLASS SIZE
DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO TAKE YOUR ART TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

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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.](#)



1. precise details; small or trifling matters:

- *The minutiae of their craft.*
- *Comedy is so often based on the minutiae of everyday life.*

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

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.

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- 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.

Edmonton Arts Council Individual Grants DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15



All You Need Is Love (and presents!)

February 3 9am - 4pm

Hello All, we are doing a Valentine Market and invite you to join. Tables are only \$30, and an auction item.

The Armature

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.

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.

Sculptors' Association of Alberta

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

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SPECIAL THANKS

