



IF TREES COULD TALK

Featured Member Elaine Mulder is a mixed media artist who paints 3D reliefs, such as this one, a part of her 'IF TREES COULD TALK' series.



President's Message

The new year is certainly off to a bitter-sweet start!

The Bitter..... As you are aware, the Edmonton Downtown Farmers Market closed its doors at the end of January and the Market Association will be dissolving into bankruptcy. As market members, SAA had a vote to support this unfortunate inevitability.

We had moved our location to one which gave us more traffic at the beginning of January; however, there was a lot of sadness the least couple of weeks that we were open. People came after hearing about the closure on the media and the numbers of visitors that last weekend were more than double a typical busy weekend.

The Market helped fulfil SAA's mandate in many ways – it exposed the community to sculpture and the artists who create it. We had lots of opportunity to engage with the public about sculpture. We were showcased through The Works, our sculptors sold their art, and we managed to support SAA financially. It was a win-win all around.

Over the 16 months we were there, we engaged with about 10,700 visitors and added about \$3800 to our bottom line. It has been a lot of work for Maria – and we are grateful to her for that!

We also purchased 12 collapsible display units from the market for \$300 -- \$25 each. These are stored, along with the grid wall which has now been cut down to 6", in our space at Harcourt House. So, we are set for any venues we choose to pursue. These are also available to members for rent from SAA.

President's Message (continued)

The Sweet... As we were losing the market, Phil Alain invited us to set up in the NOA Gallery at Bonnie Doon. The invitation was quick and we jumped on it. A number of artists from the market and others came on board. Phil will be joining us at our March meeting to talk about NOA – its history as well as the artists and the charity it supports through events and the gallery.

By the time you read this, you should have received information about applying for a spot in the NOA Gallery. Ritchie Velthuis is organizing this venue on behalf of SAA and I am incredibly grateful to him for taking it on. The next rotation of artists begins mid-March. If you are interested in participating, please send Ritchie an email with the appropriate forms by March 4.

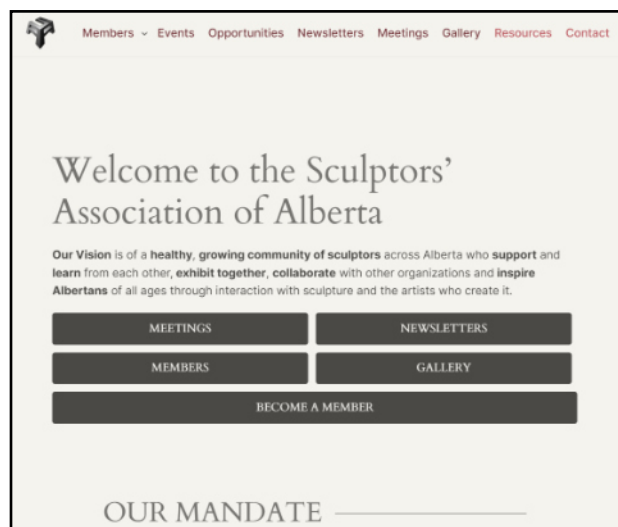
Upcoming is the NOA Art Walk at Bonnie Doon March 15-17. I would encourage you to support the participating SAA artists by sharing information about the event on your social media – and please come party with us at the Gala on Saturday March 16!

And more sweet... is the updating of our website, with kudos to the tremendous work of Jake Vanderwerf. This revamp is being undertaken through our AFA grant. If you have not already responded, please make sure to upload your updated bio, photos and other information to the site. There are directions elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to Maria and Jake for their work on this important marketing tool.

So here is to a sweet, raucous March and beyond!

— Ellie Shuster

WEBSITE UPGRADE: [sneak peek here](#)



As Ellie said in her President's Message, I was asked by the board to 'upgrade' the SAA website. The bulk of that upgrade is finished, besides from importing the members' profiles and gallery items to the new format, and final testing on various devices to ensure it looks good regardless of screen size.

Here is a summary of what was changed:

- An earth-toned colour palette, inspired by stone and the colours found in them
- An event calendar, to showcase members' workshops, shows, and events the SAA might be a part of or put on
- An 'Opportunities' calendar, highlighting upcoming 'call for artists', shows, and other opportunities that might benefit our members
- An archive of Newsletters that are readable online, or for download
- A Meetings archive of every meeting, with the next meeting at the top of the list
- A member database where members are shown in a random order, and filterable by where they live, what mediums they work in, what styles or techniques they use, or what themes they create
- A member profile (part of the database), where visitors can reach out to you directly, if you so choose, by email, phone call, and/or text, as well as see all the works you have submitted
- A member gallery where all of our submitted work is randomly ordered and filterable by Medium used, Theme, Style and Technique, or Artist. Each individual submitted work has room for an explanation of the piece, extra images or videos, and links back to your member profile, shows a few more pieces by you, and links to two random pieces in the gallery.

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If you have more recent work or would like to update your bio, now is the time! Below is a list of everything you can set or change. Changes can be emailed to me at jake@rootedromantic.ca. Thanks!

— Jake Vanderwerf

BIO

- some text about you
- a photo of you, or one that represents you
- If you'd like to be contacted by visitors to the site by phone call, text, and/or email.
- your website and/or social media links
- the city you live in/work out of
- Medium(s) you work in (optional)
- Style(s) or Technique(s)(optional)
- Theme(s) (optional)

FOR EACH SUBMITTED PIECE

- Title
- at least one photo of the piece
- A description of the piece or the thinking behind it
- whether it is for sale/sold/not for sale
- medium(s) used (optional)
- style(s) used (optional)
- theme(s) (optional)

March 5, 2024 MEETING

Executive Meeting
6:30 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

All Members Meeting
7:30 PM

Meeting ID
848 2457 4125

Program
Phil Alain from Night of Artists (NOA) Gallery and Art Walk

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:

April 2, 2024

Questions?

Email sculptorsAB@gmail.com

Featured Artist: Elaine Mulder

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO

I'm Elaine Mulder and have worked in the architecture and the interior design field for over 35 years. This has provided me a huge range of opportunities to create unique designs on a large scale. Over time I have come to realize these great designs are always temporary as there will always be building/spaces torn down and replaced with newer



designs, ideas, and works that seem to defeat nature; a floating staircase, angled glass walls with no supports, round dome rooms, etc.

As I look back, although I enjoyed the work, I also saw the amount of materials that was wasted and thrown away, destined for the landfill. Often there nothing wrong with the materials, it's just we want a new look, or bigger and better buildings. Edmonton is great for demolishing buildings and as for interiors, a space is usually

renovated every 10 years. This means a lot of materials that are placed in the landfill.

At the same time, I always saw myself as an artist, sculpting in clay and

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working with different mediums and materials giving texture and depth to my landscapes. I soon realized there were a multitude of materials around me I could incorporate in my art that created the armatures, shapes, and textures in my designs. I started also experimenting with different emulsions and materials, from homemade to commercial materials I was familiar through construction.



HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A SCULPTOR?

I have never seen myself as a sculptor but just as an artist. Although I would love to do more sculpting, right now I am focussing on the 3D painted reliefs which are Sculpted paintings that may have a depth of 2-4 inches giving a sense of depth of field and texture which provides the viewer to feel they are actually in the scene. I hope in the future I will have the time and energy to learn new skills in metal sculpture and to get back into 3D clay sculptures.



March, 2024

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM PROJECT?

Presently I am starting a large series called "if Trees could Talk" which I so excited about. I have already of 10 different ideas and designs for this series which would really expand on the idea of how trees live in community together – communicating and supporting each other.



WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Hiking and living in the forests and natural areas inspires me to create and want to share the energy I draw from it. As I look back, I see these great forests disappearing and also see how fragile they are as they slowly fall apart due to lack of moisture, fire, bugs, and human footprint. This inspires me to create my “textured vistas” to hopefully inspire others. My fear is that overtime, this will all disappear if we don’t do anything now about it.

Not a very positive outlook I realize, so I try focusing on my art and use it as a vehicle to engage the people around me to consider and discuss our habits of buying and throwing away as well as, understanding delicate balance of nature and our impact on it.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE WORK OF ART OR ARTIST?

I have always had a deep reverence for Michelangelo and Da Vinci, whose creativity was not only in one area of art. They were creators from painting, to sculpting, to architecture, to even design airplanes. Theirs brains were always creating. I also learned from them that “Rome was not built in a day”. The design and creative process is intense and requires a lot of thinking,



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calculating, and experimenting to create great works of art. At the same time I love Monet, in his ability to have looseness in his impressionistic paintings.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN ARTIST?

My best times, is when I am sitting in the forest just listening, seeing and feeling everything around me – feeling connected and energized. Yet, I also love seeing people react and be engaged in my artwork and I love meeting and talking with them.

WHERE CAN WE SEE YOUR ART?

I will be at the Night Of Artists Art Walk March 15-18 to show new pieces.

Exhibition Report

I hope the spring weather finds you well. We are gearing up for SAA's first show of 2024, the annual Night of Artists (NOA) Big Indoor ArtWalk at Bonnie Doon Mall (8330-82 street NW Edmonton).



We have 9 of our members participating this year and It runs from Friday, March 15 until Sunday, March 17 and is free entrance during regular business hours of the mall. On Saturday night, from 7 pm to 10 pm, there is a big Gala with conclusion of the silent auction, live art creations, music entertainers, fashion shows, cash bar and other refreshments. Tickets are required for the Gala and can be purchased on [EventBrite The Amy's House Night of Artists Gala Tickets](#), Sat, Mar 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite . This is to raise money to support Amy's House, a home away from home for cancer patients. Come by to see our new works and all that NOA entails!

Exhibition Report (continued)

Also this year, SAA has a show in Drumheller again, this time August. It will be at the GM Western Art Gallery. We had a great response to our works there a few years ago and they are looking forward to our show again.

The theme is “**Our Tactile World**” there is plenty of space for self-standing works, work on plinths, and relief works for the walls.

We are looking for someone to coordinate this show, someone to organize/find volunteers to pick up and delivery of plinths (they are limited at the Gallery), decide whether to have an opening reception and if so plan that, delivery of pieces for those who cannot deliver at time slot (details of timeline to come), set up show, posters for advertising, tear down of show and return of works/plinths, etc.

If you think you may be interested or you and a few friends, please contact Maria sculptorsab@gmail.com and Ellie ellie.shuster@gmail.com to let them know.

Snow & Ice | The Silver Skate Festival (February 9-11)



1st Place Peoples'
Choice Winner

TEAM COOK:
Members Lucy Cook,
Darren Cook, and
Aidan Mark

*Left Photo: Barb
Marcinkoski
Right Photo: Silver
Skate Festival Website*



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3rd Place Peoples' Choice
Winner

TEAM VELTHUIS:
Members
Ritchie Velthuis,
Shelly Leroux, and Tonya
Gariepy *Left Photo: Barb
Marcinkoski
Right Photo: Christa
Chapman*



TEAM BANKRUPT
SNOWFLAKE: Members
Christian Denis and
Randall Fraser

*Left Photo: Shelly Leroux
Right Photo: Barb
Marcinkoski*



TEAM FROZEN FANTASY:
Members Barb
Marcinkoski and
Deb Laninga

Photos: Barb Marcinkoski



Snow & Ice | Sno Mo Days in Alberta Beach (February 17)



Members Jeremy McConville (left) and Ritchie Velthuis and Scott Van de Sande (right)

Photos by: Jeremy McConville and Ritchie Velthuis



Snow & Ice | Airdrie Cabin Fever Ice Skating Party (February 17)



Members Stephen Chung (right) and Randall Fraser (left)

Photos by Stephen Chung and Randall Fraser.



Snow & Ice | Carnavale de St Isidore (February 16-17)

Member Laval Bergeron completed these 12-foot high electric guitars - despite the lack of snow.

Photo by Laval Bergeron



Snow & Ice | Family Day at Edmonton Garrison (February 19)

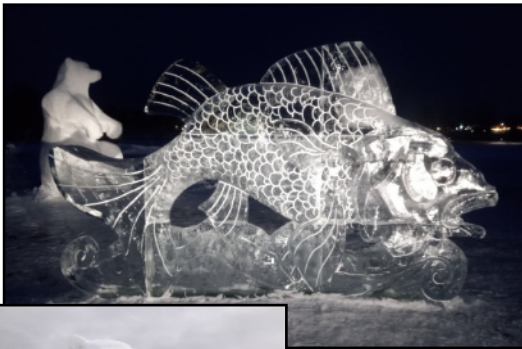


Members
Debbie Cameron-Laniga
(left) and
Barb Marcinkoski (right) and
Janet Smith (both)

Photos by Barb Marcinkoski



Snow & Ice | Lac la Biche Festival of Speed (February 24-25)



Members
Ritchie Velthuis
(left),
Christian Denis
(right),
Jeremy
McConville (top left),
Randall Fraser (top
right), and Barb
Marcinkoski (left
bear)



*Night photos by
Jeremy McConville,
day photos by Barb
Marcinkoski.*



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Moldmaking Masterclass for Fine Artists

There is still one spot available!



**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!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS (continued)



Sculptors' Association of Alberta presents

.....
Metal sculpture workshop

With Tania Garner-Tomas



This is an excellent course for sculptors interested in learning the basics of metal working. Join Tania Garner-Tomas on her acreage and private studio located in Sherwood Park. A small class of three or four persons per day allows for demonstrations and teaching in a more personalized learning experience.

This course requires full personal protective equipment and a signed waiver. Beginner students will produce a small abstract sculpture. Intermediate students will be helped to produce a modest work. Designs subject to preview and approval.

March, 2024

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS (continued)



Sculpted in Clay: Animals

Thursday, March 7 - Thursday March 21
from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm \$108

Thursday, April 25 - Thursday May 9, 2024
from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm \$114

Keith Turnbull leads this workshop at the City Arts Center in Pottery I.

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.



Figurative Sculpture in Clay

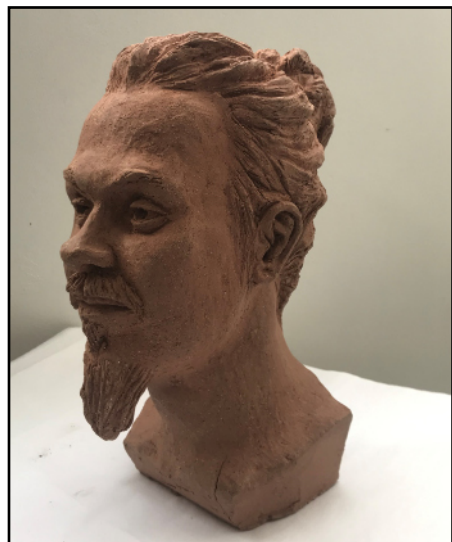
Price \$304

April 24, 2024 - June 13, 2024 Thursdays
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Ritchie Velthuis leads this workshop at the City Arts Center in Pottery I.

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.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS (continued)



Portrait in Clay: Figurative Sculpture

Mondays, 6-9 pm, April 8, 2024 - April 29, 2024

ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Ceramic Arts Studio

Cost \$152

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.



Sculpting Animals

Mondays, 6-9 pm, May 6 - May 27, 2024

ACT Centre in Rundle Park, Ceramic Arts Studio

Cost \$114

This four week class with Sculptor Ritchie Velthuis is the perfect opportunity for you to learn the basics of clay as a sculpting and modelling medium.

Photo reference and research the anatomy of your favourite animal is recommended.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS (continued)



Garden Sculpted Statues and Ornaments

Friday, May 3 - May 24, 2024
at the ACT Center in Rundle Park
Price \$114

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.

Taught by sculptor Ritchie Velthuis.

**Interested in adding to the next
Armature newsletter?**

Submit your upcoming workshops, opportunities,
or new sculptures
to Ritchie at ritchiev@telus.net or
Jake at jake@rootedromantic.ca.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

NOA Gallery Exhibition

As many of you know, the Sculptors' Association of Alberta (SAA) and The Night of Artist (NOA) Art Walk have been collaborating for a number of years.

Phil Alain, owner of the NOA Gallery, has invited the SAA to curate a section of the gallery space for a **commission of 30%**.

There is an expectation that the SAA change the work regularly to give the public new works to view and potentially purchase. This invitation to program a space at the gallery coincided with the closure of the Downtown Farmers Market. The displaced SAA sculptors assisted in the teardown of the SAA booth at the Market and many of them assisted in the installation of shelves and plinths at the NOA Gallery. Seven of those artists are the first to exhibit at the NOA Gallery.

The SAA space at the NOA Gallery has three potential spaces for SAA members to display their work

1. Wall space approximately 184 inches long by 48 inches high for two-dimensional relief sculpture.
2. A shelf directly under the wall with a footprint of approximately 184 inches long by approximately 30 inches wide.
3. Two 6-foot shelving units approximately 24 inches square with three adjustable shelves flanking the outer corners of the display area, with three grouped plinths between the shelves.

The space is appropriate for small to medium pieces and sculptures should not exceed 24 inches tall. A limited number of larger pieces may be considered. It is suggested that each artist submit 5 to 10 pieces with a reserve of sculptures available to replace sold items.

NOA Gallery Exhibition (continued)

Click these links to download the contract, inventory list, and our SAA labels.

[CONTRACT](#)

[INVENTORY](#)

[LABELS](#)

Artists are responsible to deliver and install their own art work and replace sold work in a timely manner. All sales will be processed at the end of each month with payment sent directly to individual artists by e-transfer. Artists must provide the appropriate email to receive payment.

For each rotation at the gallery, 7 to 10 sculptors will be selected, depending of on the number of pieces submitted. Rotation will last 6 to 8 weeks.

Deadline to apply for the next rotation is **March 4, 2024** and all artists will be notified by March 8, 2024. Successful artists must deliver their sculptures, completed paperwork, and appropriately formatted labels on card stalk on March 11 or 12, 2024.

In the event there are more artists than spaces, SAA artists who are actively involved and volunteer for the association will be given preference. In the event there are too few artists to fill the spaces, select participating artists will be invited to stay. Existing artists who can provide new work will take preference and a representative from the NOA Gallery will be asked to help with that decision.

This may not be a perfect system but recognize that all the planning and coordinating is done by a volunteer and their time is valuable.

Applications must be sent to Ritchie Velthuis at ritchiev@telus.net by the March 4, 2024 deadline.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

Strathcona County: Call for Artists

Strathcona County is seeking public artwork to display in our new multi-purpose agricultural facility: the Pointe-aux-Pins Acres.

Available opportunities include:

- 3D Sculpture: Companion Species
- 2D Low Relief: Flow Wall: Pointe-aux-Pins Creek
- Landscape/Ecological Art: Art Plots
- ARTicultures: Micro Artist-in-Residence
- Graphic Design/Illustration: Re-tracing site: Point-aux-Pins Acres

Submission deadline: March 22, 2024

For more information, go to <https://ow.ly/SNik50Qt8B0>



The graphic features a blue background with a white grid pattern. At the top, a white rounded rectangle contains the text "Art Acquisition by Application". Below this, the text "DEADLINES 2024" is displayed. Two overlapping circles are shown: a purple one on the left with the text "GATE registration by March 25" and a yellow one on the right with "Application by April 2". A central photograph shows a white animal skull with antlers lying on a grassy field. Below the photo, the text reads: "Nahanni McKay", "Hole 8,", "Photograph lightbox, 2021", and "Art Acquisition by Application purchase 2023". At the bottom left is the logo for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Calling all Artists!

Interested in having your artwork acquired by the AFA and added to one of the strongest, most active provincial art collections in Canada?

You have until April 2 to submit your artwork for purchase through the Art Acquisition by Application program!

<https://buff.ly/3OHGrvK>

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (continued)



**Amy's
House**

**Fundraiser
&
Market**

Saturday, June 1, 2024 ~ 9AM-4PM
Londonderry Community League
142224 74 Street NW

VENDORS NEEDED

Contact Angie
780-819-1214 or aewanchuk@hotmail.com

Amy's House: Vendors Needed

Amy's House is hosting a Fundraiser & Market on Saturday, June 2, 2024 at Londonderry Community League.

Interested in becoming a vendor? Contact Angie at 780-819-1214 or aewanchuk@hotmail.com.

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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.

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

PO Box 11212 Stn. Main
Edmonton, AB
T5J 3K5

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

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

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SPECIAL THANKS

