



The Armature NOVEMBER 2024

Newsletter of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta



INTO THE WIND

Featured member Morton Burke unveiled his newest piece: Into the Wind at the 24th edition of Bridges and Connections International Sculpture Symposium in Brookline, New Hampshire.



President's Message

With Halloween behind us and year-end approaching, it is a busy time for all. I honestly don't know where the year has flown!

Two months into SAA's new year, it is my pleasure to welcome Dawn Allen as our new workshop chair. Dawn lives in Drumheller and it is wonderful to have an active board member from Southern Alberta! She will be looking to you for workshop ideas, so please let her know through Maria if there is something you would like to learn about.

We are still in need of an exhibition chair, and a vice president to work with me this year and step into the role of president in September. (Yes, I will still be an active member, but not at the helm.) If you are interested in either position, please contact me or Maria.

I am looking forward to our speaker this month. I saw Ivan Seymour's wonderful ladies in the NOA Gallery Gift Shop and was blown away! Can't wait to learn about how he creates them.

December 3, of course, will be our annual pot luck dinner and ornament exchange. It is always a fun evening with wonderful artwork shared by all. Time to think about what to make for the exchange....

On the news front: It is outstanding to see a sculptor recognized for his life's work. Congratulations to Don Begg of Studio West in Cochrane for receiving our province's highest honour – the Alberta Award of Excellence! You can [read about him on the Alberta website](#).

And for our next show: We have booked our space for the NOA Art Walk at Bonnie Doon March 14-16. If you are interested, now is the time to let us know.

President's Message (continued)

Cost will depend on the number of sculptors involved, but likely in the neighbourhood of \$100 for the three-day event. Please contact Maria to sign on. Thanks to Carroll Charest for again coordinating this event. Details elsewhere in the newsletter.

With the close of the year and the cooler weather comes Ice and Snow commissions. I'm sure Barb Marcinkoski would welcome new sculptors wanting to try their hands at a cool medium. Please let us know if that new sculptor is you!

Enjoy the crisp new season and all it has to offer – and for your holiday shopping, please do check out the [Bohemian Market on Saturdays at Bonnie Doon](#) as well as our excellent display at the NOA Gallery!

— Ellie Shuster

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 MEETING

Executive Meeting
6:45 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

All Members Meeting
7:30 PM

Meeting ID
848 2457 4125

Program
Sculptor Ivan
Seymour on his 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:

Tuesday,
December 3, 2024

Christmas Ornament
Exchange



2024 ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Join the fun this December, in our annual **ornament exchange**. Taking part is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Make an ornament in your preferred medium
2. Come to the meeting on **Tuesday, December 3rd**
3. Exchange your creation with another member

This casual, low-stakes tradition is another great opportunity to showcase your craft or try something new, and meet other members and learn about what they do.

If you are unable to make it in person, ornaments can be mailed.

If there is enough interest, we can do a hybrid meeting for the ornament portion. Contact Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com if you have any questions!

FEATURED MEMBER: Morton Burke



Member **Morton Burke** created a sculpture from steel titled "*Into the Wind*" at the 24th edition of Bridges and Connections International Sculpture Symposium in Brookline New Hampshire. The event took place from Sept 14 to Oct 6 at Andres Institute of Art. Andres is primarily a sculpture park but also offers many other programs in the area of art. It's located on the side of a "mountain", the site is 140 acres with 12 miles of walking trails. Over 100 sculptures populate the park. Due to the number of sculptures and trails and the terrain (it was a ski hill in the 50's, 60's and 70's) it isn't possible to see all of the sculptures in one day. The old ski lodge at the

bottom of the hill has been transformed into a Welcome Center, gallery and upstairs, a music venue. During the symposium an 18 piece band performed with New York's premier Jazz singer on the first Saturday in the music venue, that was fantastic! Additionally jams were held at least three times a week.

There is an abandoned granite quarry at the bottom of the hill that was closed in the 30's. Stone from the grout piles is used for the sculptures created from stone. 1000's of stones up to 5 tons and of all shapes are there for the artists to choose from.

Bridges and Connections has a unique format. Artist do not apply or submit a design. The selection committee submits suggestions of participants, the committee then work November, 2024



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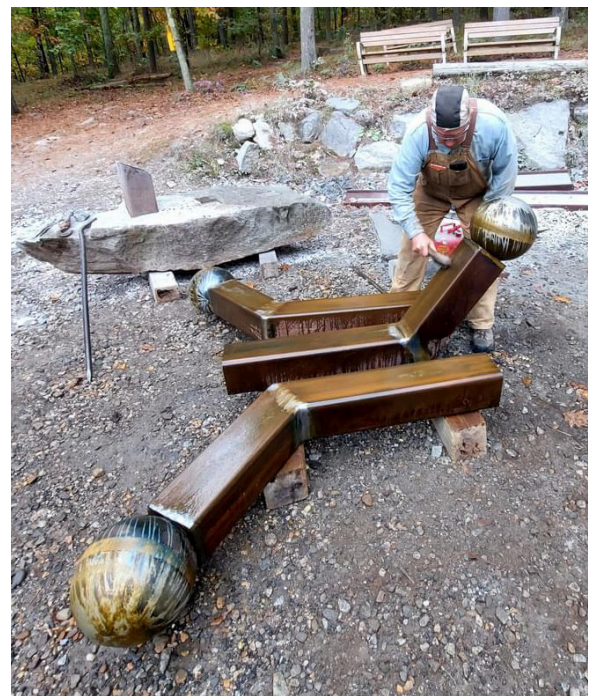


through who will participate and then the artists are contacted. I was told when they called me out of the blue that in addition to my art the festivals and symposia that I've produced as well as my social media were things they considered in selecting me. The things I've been doing in the interest of promoting art are similar to the Andres program but on a much smaller scale. I have an interesting FB page where I only post photos of sculptures except when I am doing an event. I'm just tired of politics, jokes, memes etc and decided years ago to go with just sculpture.

Artists are instructed to arrive with a blank pallet, no preconceived idea of what they will create. The first two days are for design and consideration of tools equipment and materials on site. The artists are encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and create in a style, scale or medium that they haven't worked in previously.

This formula was magic for Morton, his piece was created from metal which is a medium he's never worked in before. John Weidman, a cofounder and artistic director of Andres gave him a short lesson in welding and cut him loose on his piece. Morton does have a lot of experience cutting, grinding and polishing metal having worked in a machine/fabrication shop for several years.

Artists are billeted with local families for the month they are there. The night he arrived he visited a few hours with his host family and it came up that Mt. Washington holds the world record for wind speed, 245 mph. When he went to bed he thought about this, it's locally significant and well known. He wondered if he could create a sculpture that would talk about wind. A design in stone



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didn't seem practical so he decided, in following with the format of the event to work in steel.

The rest is history. He struggled with the technical aspect of the work, grinding out weld after weld until he caught on well enough to run a decent bead and sourced materials as he went from the scrap metal pile.

Although they didn't take any days off there were 2 or three field trips each week. Visits to two other quarries (there are 60 within 30 miles) with sculpture parks were highlights. A Burning Man event was held on the mountain one Saturday night. (Paul Andres, the owner of the property, engineer, philanthropist and the other cofounder of the Andres Institute is also a cofounder of Burning

Man). Burning Man has members across North America and in addition to the well known event in Arizona the group holds regional events throughout the summers. These are not advertised, they are produced and attended by members of the organization. Very cool to be a guest at that, an effigy was burned at the climax of the night.

The resulting sculpture is made from 7" X 7" HSS for the bodies, 12" steel balls for the heads and 90 year old cable that was left behind at the quarry site when it closed. It consists of two figures leaning into the wind and one leaning back as if almost being blown over. The hair of all three is being blown back violently, all in the same direction.

Attendees at the unveiling said they immediately recognized the reference to wind. The winds on Mt. Washington are only the inspiration for the sculpture, it references wind all over the world and will be relatable for anyone who sees it. Everyone has experienced wind regardless of where they are from. This, Morton says, is why he feels "Into the Wind" can be successful sculpture.

— Morton Burke

MEMBER NEWS: Bronze Casting Course at Red Deer Polytech



I was very fortunate to be able to take part in the Bronze casting course at Red Deer Polytech.

It was a very busy 2 weeks where students could go through each step from making a sculpture, a simple mold, doing a wax cast, creating the dipping tree with wax sprues so the metal flowed, (dipping that 10 times in slurry and sand), and then being part of the crew that helped in the foundry.

You could have been the fire watch- being ready with fibre to block a leak; the diver- who takes the piece out of the hot kiln (this is Carroll in the



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silver space suit); the lead, who takes the piece from the diver and places upright in the sand then working with the pivot person to take the crucible out of the furnace and move to the pieces to pour. A very well-organized process even for beginners.

Then the next step of breaking it out of the shell and cleaning it up.

— Carroll Charest



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MEMBER NEWS: WINS



Member Deb Laninga won Best Portrait at the 2024 Animal Portrait Competition, put on by the Portrait Society of Canada.

*Deb Laninga.
"Dash". 10 x 10 x 11 inches. Bronze.*

The 18th annual **Art from the Unknown**, hosted by the Honorable Rachel Notley, was held November 1-3 at the **Strathcona Performing Art Center**.

80+ artists from across Alberta gathered to celebrate the arts, including Member and Wire Sculptor Laura Ouimet.



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MEMBER NEWS: Works in Progress



Some works in progress by member **Samson Abasila**. LEFT: A functional piece of a tortoise that will have a glass tabletop. MID: Elephant Head (SOLD) RIGHT: Emperor Penguin



Member **Jake Vanderwerf** is just wrapping up his latest copper wire sculpture - a memorial piece of a birch tree with seaglass, framed in a birch round cutout.

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UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:



The Sculpted Figure: From Reality to Abstraction

SAT & SUN, NOV 16-17 2024, 10am - 4pm

Harcourt House Artist Run Centre

MEMBERS: \$223 NON-MEMBERS: \$245

Join instructor **Sharon Moore-Foster** for an exhilarating workshop exploring human form and energy.

Working with clay and using professional live models for inspiration and subject matter, students will explore and sculpt the strength, fragility, and grace of the human form.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of year again... your annual membership is due!

SAA memberships are **\$45 per year** which runs from August through July. This entitles you to participate in groups shows and the NOA Gallery, ice and snow carving contracts, workshops, the newsletter, and great networking at our informative and entertaining monthly meetings!

Please send your dues by e-transfer (sculptorsab@gmail.com), cheque payable to Sculptors' Association of Alberta to PO Box 11212 Station Main, Edmonton T5J 3K5, or bring your payment to our next meeting.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

bonnie doon PRESENTS



IN SUPPORT OF



Night of Artists - March 14-16, 2025

SAA is once again taking part in the annual Night of Artists (NOA) indoor Artwalk coming in March 2025. We are looking for lots of our wonderful artists to join us to showcase SAA's diverse artists. We have booked the usual 4 spots at the end of the mall again. Cost and how many pieces allowed will depend on how many people join as we just split the cost of the booth between participating artists. All participating artist will be required to work 2 or 3 shifts during the weekend. So far, here is what we know:

- WHO:** SAA participating artists plus a multitude of other artists to draw many people to see our works.
- WHAT:** Night of Artists Indoor Art Walk
- WHERE:** Bonnie Doon Mall 8330-82 Ave, Edmonton
- WHEN:** March 14, 15, 16 of 2025 (set up Thursday March 13 after 6 pm).
- WHY:** To showcase the works- and possibly sell of course- of our great artists; meet and network with other artists; be part of a wonderful cause – proceeds go to Amy's House, a place for people to stay when they come in for cancer treatments from out of town.

What I need from you: Email SAAexhibitions@gmail.com with your intent to participate by **Jan 15, 2025**. Once we have a final count, details of cost, how many pieces, and shifts will be sent out.

SAA always gets a great response from both attending artists and the guests and visitors who come to the show. Many people have sold during this show- why not you?

Thank you
— Carroll Charest

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TREAT

Exhibition Dates

March 8 – June 1, 2025
Alberta Craft Edmonton Feature
Gallery

Application Deadline

January 9, 2025, 11:59pm MST

Calling all pet lovers! Do you make artwork about your beloved animal? Or do you create objects that are useful to pets and pet owners? Treat is an exhibition that celebrates the joy of portraying the personalities and quirks of pets through Craft.

The relationship between people and their pets is a longstanding story of companionship and symbiosis. Our faithful furry, scaly, fluffy, feathery friends and family improve our lives. In return, people derive satisfaction from treating their pets with special toys, treats, or new accessories that reflect their pet's unique personality. Alberta Craft calls artists in all Craft mediums to submit to Treat, an exhibition dedicated to the animals we love and care for.

How to prepare your application

- Fill out the [application form on the website](#).
- Up to 3 images each, of 1-5 artworks for consideration. Images should be well lit, on a white/neutral background) and at least 1MB in file size. At least one image must depict the entire piece, the other 2 can be details or in situ images.
- A short statement about how your submission relates to the theme of the call

Alberta residents do not need to be a member to apply. This call for entry is also open to non-Alberta residents who do hold an Alberta Craft general membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Le Marché Bohème - The Bohemian Market **NOV 2, 23, 30 & DEC 7, 14** Saturdays from 10am-5pm

A Saturday Market in Bonnie Doon Centre showcasing the Unique creators of Edmonton and providing a festive atmosphere where you can find that one item you can't find anywhere else! One of a kind items, creators, designers, chocolatiers, vintage wares etc are welcome.

Stop into Bonnie Doon Centre one of Edmonton's finest arts hubs!

The event features LIVE MUSIC - LE MARCHÉ BOHÈME ONE OF A KIND MARKET and VINTAGE IN THE BOHO

The Market is a Collaboration between Night of Artists, Bonnie Doon Centre and The Blue Poppie Vintage

Join the market as a guest, or sign up as a vendor!
[More information on their website.](#)

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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

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SPECIAL THANKS

