



## SAA AT LUMINARIA

Members Christian Denis and Scott Van De Sande worked together to create this masterpiece. More ICE & SNOW inside!



### President's Message

The new year has begun and the news is pretty good.

First... It is my pleasure to welcome Ryan Kurylo as our new Vice President! He will be working with me to learn the ropes for the remainder of the year and is excited to step into the role of President in the fall. I know he wants to get to know you all better in the coming months. He is a relatively new member and no doubt will bring forward fresh ideas. I am delighted!

And from the *Large Print Giveth and the Small Print Taketh Away* department, the federal government has agreed to fund \$1 million for the purchase of Harcourt House... contingent on W.E.C.A.N Society raising its \$700,000 commitment by the end of *January*! We just received word that the Society has **hit the goal just under the wire**! Now we sit on tenterhooks to receive final word from the Feds so we can breathe that collective sigh of relief.

There will be a special meeting of the members of W.E.C.A.N. Society at Harcourt House on Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00 to talk about the future. If you wish to attend, please make sure you have a current membership. [Here's the link.](#)

Harcourt House still needs funds from each of us.... Please make a [donation](#) today!

On a happier note... once again, we are gearing up for the NOA Art Walk and Gala. Eighteen artists have signed up to present at the large SAA booth which anchors the walk at the south end of the mall. SAA has purchased a page in the NOA Magazine to promote the association and profile the gallery sculptors who work our Thursday shifts.

# President's Message (continued)

I'm also delighted to welcome Renée Williams, the new Executive Director for the Edmonton Arts Council, as this month's speaker. We are privileged to receive an annual grant from EAC to support our association, and I look forward to hearing her vision for the future. If you are in the Edmonton area, please make an effort to bring your questions and *welcome her in person!*

So.... lots on the go for the new year! Please make sure to promote the NOA Art Walk and Gala to your networks, and support Harcourt House and their much-needed funding.

Happy, healthy 2025 to all!

— Ellie Shuster

FEBRUARY 4, 2025 MEETING

Executive Meeting  
6:30 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

All Members Meeting  
7:30 PM

Meeting ID  
848 2457 4125

Program  
Renee Williams,  
Executive Director  
for the Edmonton  
Arts Council

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:  
MARCH 4, 2024

## February 4 Meeting Speaker: Renée Williams

Renée Williams will be our guest speaker for the February 4 meeting. She is the new Executive Director for the Edmonton Arts Council, who helps fund the SAA - this will be a great opportunity for us to share ideas and share what we do!

### **From the EAC website:**

Renée Williams is a business leader and strategic communicator who joined the EAC in November 2024. She brings a passion for Edmonton and vast local experience to the role, including experience at Edmonton Economic Development Corporation and Fort Edmonton Park Management Company. She describes herself as “a lover of Edmonton’s vibrant festivals, theatre, exhibits and live music, attending and supporting our eclectic and exhilarating arts community.” She volunteered as co-chair of the 2023 Junos Host Committee, and “has built her career on reminding locals of the magic of her home city and telling the world about this unique and authentic destination.”



## MEMBER NEWS: REMEMBERING PAT GALBRAITH



November 17, 1942 - November 17, 2024

Pat Galbraith passed away on November 17, 2024, her 82nd birthday.

We lovingly remember Pat as one of the founding members of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta. She held many positions on the board, and was an amazing artist.

A Celebration of Life will be held on **Sunday, February 9, from 3:00 - 5:00 PM** at the Alfred H. Savage Centre, 13204 Fox Drive in Edmonton, Alberta.

Note that parking is limited at this venue and carpooling or shuttling is recommended.

Please RSVP by contacting the family through us at [macnada@gmail.com](mailto:macnada@gmail.com).

You can share memories of your time with Pat on [the memorial website](#).

From her obituary:

Pat Galbraith, an Edmonton artist, passed away on November 17, 2024, on her 82nd birthday. She was determined to make it to that milestone. It had been agreed that she should not die on her birthday exactly, as that is a downer for birthdays in general, but that was how it happened.

She will be lovingly remembered by her sons, David and Algo; and grandchildren, Lukas, Leo, Iris, and Stella.

She was predeceased in 2009 by Bernie, her husband of 46 years.

Pat was born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, the first child and only daughter of Elmer and Josephine Carter. As well as her three brothers Jim, Lari and Gerald, she

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had a large extended family.

In 1956 the family lived in Soest, Germany, for a year when Elmer was stationed there. This was a memorable time for young Pat, and provided the material for some of the stories she most liked to tell.

During her high school years, the family moved to Edmonton, Griesbach barracks, where there were also some Galbraiths milling about. She caught the eye of one in particular, Bernie Galbraith. When Pat started training to be a nurse, Bernie naturally decided he should impress her by becoming a doctor, a short-lived plan. It turns out that this qualification was not needed, and they were married at the tender ages of 20 (Pat) and 19 (Bernie). Two years later they had two little boys to take care of.

Here is where her artistic career had its beginnings. In her own words...

*"In 1966, I was a young mother of two delightful sons and was working full time as an RN. My husband and I had just bought a house. In order to meet the mortgage payments, we boarded two university students.*

*I felt as if all my energy was flowing freely but was not being replenished. I felt the need of a little time away from all the responsibilities.*

*My husband suggested that I take a course at the university, which was not far from home. Not wanting the pressure of exams, I thought that an Extension course could be interesting. I picked up a newspaper guide, opened it and without reading I pointed to a spot on a page saying, "Okay, I'll take this course."*

*It turned out to be pottery... and it was my entry to a second career as an artist."*

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Pottery was a step on the path to sculpture in clay, and from there through multiple other sculptural media including wood, steel, fibreglass, concrete, stone, bronze, snow, and ice. She also explored drawing and painting. In her later years she explored the possibilities of “frore” watercolour painting, combining her own creativity with the awesome force of Edmonton winter, paint crystallizing into ice as she put it to paper on crisp minus 20-degree days.

Through it all Pat always sought to train and nurture other developing artists and craftspeople. She was a teacher and mentor to many people over a career that spanned six decades.

She was especially a leader in the world of snow and ice sculpture. As well as creating her own pieces at multiple events in Canada and around the world, she developed much of the judging criteria and safety standards that are in use for snow and ice sculpture competitions across Canada.

Pat greatly enjoyed being a member of the Belgravia neighbourhood, where she lived since 1967. In her later years she was an unofficial grandma to an entire street, deriving immense pleasure from witnessing and being a part of the lives and creative pursuits of many children and adults.

## Member News: Christmas Potluck



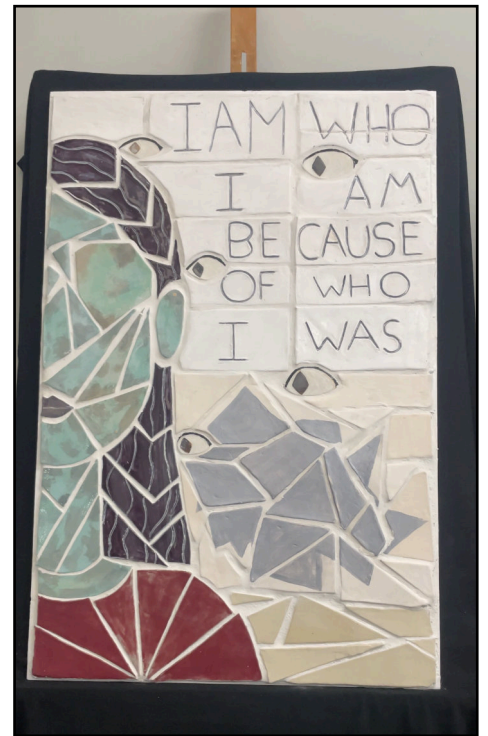
Here are some photos from our Christmas Potluck & Ornament Exchange. Thanks to all who came and participated!



## MEMBER NEWS: PROJECTS

Member artists Lorelle Whittingham and Shelly Leroux collaborated with Shelly's Grade 12 students at Victoria School of the Arts this fall and winter, teaching them how to create ceramic mosaics.

Their work was inspired by my own self-portrait mosaic, which was displayed at the Art Gallery of Alberta last year.



The masterclass was from October- January. Students first learned a little about the history of mosaics and self-portraits and they spent several classes designing their own self portraits. The students were involved in every step of the process from cutting to grouting.

The students' mosaics will be showcased in an exhibition at Victoria School's Black Tile Gallery, coinciding with the school's open house. Each student created a self-portrait, rolling out clay, designing, and cutting hundreds of individual tiles. Their pieces incorporate elements that reflect their cultural backgrounds, personal interests, and emotions.

— Lorelle



SAMSON ABAI finished a new coffee table (sold, left) and a work-in-progress Emperor Penguin (below) made of papier-mâché.



IVAN SEYMOUR's latest work in progress (left).



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### ICE & SNOW — New Year's Eve Strathcona



Jeremy McConville's ice sculpture at New Year's Eve Strathcona



### ICE & SNOW — Luminaria (*University of Alberta Botanical Garden*)



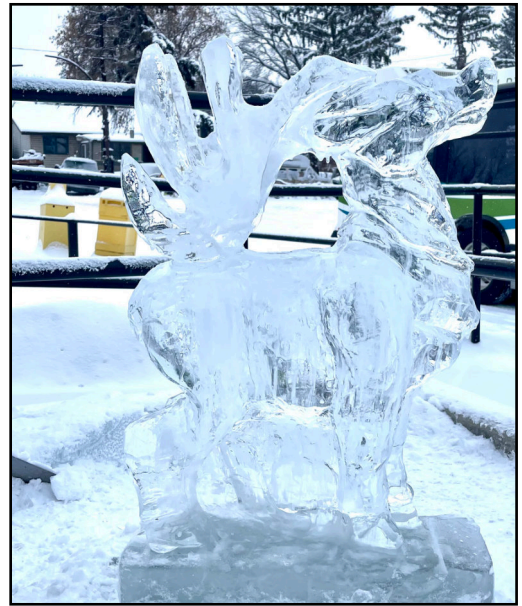
Jeremy McConville (left) and Christian Denis & Scott Van De Sande (right)

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### ICE & SNOW — Christmas in the Heartland



Christian Denis (left), Barb Marcinkoski (center), and Scott Van De Sande (right)

### ICE & SNOW — Candy Cane Lane



Barb Marcinkoski and  
Deb Laninga

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### ICE & SNOW — in *action*



Christian Denis & Scott Van De Sande (top),  
Barb Marcinkoski (bottom left) and Jeremy McConville (bottom right)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT

EXHIBITION

February 1–March 15

# The Garden

Elsa Robinson

Welcome to *The Garden*.  
This tranquil space was created for you.

**Artist talk/reception**  
Feb 6 from 6–8 pm (talk at 6:30 pm)

**In person tours**  
Feb 13 at 6:30 pm + Mar 14 at noon

**Virtual tour**  
Mar 5 at noon on Facebook Live

**Artist-led programs**  
See website for details

Click here to find out more!

arts and heritage ST ALBERT

ARTGALLERYOFSTALBERT.CA

St. Albert Foundation for the Arts

Canada Council / Conseil des arts du Canada

admonition arts council

### Welcome to The Garden.

Join member artist Elsa Robinson at the Main Exhibition of the St Albert Art Gallery

There is a magic in this place. You can feel the limitless possibilities that live where people gather, spaces where everyone is welcome. In The Garden, we will speak into the future so that we may all rise together.

Take a moment to imagine the hands that worked for years to build this space—not only the hands of Elsa Robinson, the artist, but also the hands of her Mother, Pansy, her son Galen and her grandson Elijah.

With lifetimes of knowledge, skill and effort, The Garden is planted in Elsa's heritage and culture. Jamaican characters, imagery and stories are found throughout the space. Elsa gathers up the past: memories of her childhood, the experiences of her community and tales from her ancestors that are often ignored or purposely forgotten.

## EVENTS

Artist Talk/Reception: Thursday February 6 from 6–8 pm (artist talk at 6:30 pm)

Meet Elsa in The Garden: February 8, 13, 15, 20, 22. March 1, 6, 8, 13. (Thursdays: noon to 4 pm + Saturdays: 11 am to 5 pm)

In-Person Tour: Thursday February 13 at 6:30 pm and Friday March 14 at noon

Virtual Tour: Wednesday March 5 at noon

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## **pARTners: In Life. In Art.**

February 8 - 25, 2025

Member artists Artem Paramonov and Raynelle Paramonova are very excited for our very FIRST joint art/sculpture exhibition at Allied Arts Council of Spruce Grove in February 2025! Artem and Raynelle will be showing the best of their clay sculptures and Amy Skrocki will show her beautiful floral paintings!

"pARTners" Artem and Raynelle will celebrate 30 years of 'life partnership' this year, and they have been partners in art for the past 6.5 years.

Each clay sculpture created for this exhibit will celebrate the challenges and triumphs of partnerships.

Exhibition Dates: February 8-22, 2025

Opening reception: February 8, 2025 1pm to 3pm

Location: Allied Arts Council and Gallery, 420 King St, Spruce Grove, AB T7X 2C5

Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm  
(Program hours vary)

780-962-0664



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## The Night of Artists Indoor Art Walk - March 14-16, 2025



Once again, SAA will have a large space anchoring one end of the Art Walk. (You'll find us across from the food court.) This year we will have a record 18 artists presenting their work! Please join us at the event and help spread the word about the Art Walk on your social media.

Participating artists:

Ritchie Velthuis, Karen Klassen, Ivan Seymour, Lorelle Whittingham, Viki Myers, Shelly Leroux, Elaine Mulder, Laura Ouimet, Rosemary Ayvazzadeh-Smith, Deb Laninga, Dave Wladyka, Ellie Shuster, Carroll Charest, Wes Leonard, Keith Turnbull, Kay McCormack, Raynelle Paramonov , Artem Paramonov.

The NOA Indoor Artwalk at Bonnie Doon Centre is a vibrant celebration of creativity and community, featuring a stunning showcase of artwork by local and regional artists.

Held annually in the heart of the mall, the event transforms the space into an inspiring gallery where visitors can explore diverse art styles, connect with artists, and even purchase one-of-a-kind pieces.

The Artwalk not only highlights the immense talent in the area but also supports Amy's House with a gala, with proceeds from the event contributing to its mission of providing comfort and care to cancer patients and their families

See you there!

Learn more [on the NOA website](#).

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## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

### Portraiture in Clay: Live Model Sessions

Thursdays, 6:30-9:30PM Feb 6 - Mar 13  
ACT Aquatics & Rec Centre  
\$228



Experience a classical art form by sculpting a life-sized portrait in clay, concentrating on capturing a likeness from a live model.

In this six week course use the medium of clay to develop foundational skills in proportion, detail, and expression as you find your own sculpture style.

Each session with Sculptor Ryan Kurylo includes step-by-step demos, hands-on guidance, and focused practice and will take away the intimidation of working with figurative subject matter.

[Learn More](#), and search for “Ryan Kurylo”.

### Pet Portraiture in Clay

Fridays, 6-9PM Feb 21 - Mar 25  
ACT Aquatics & Rec Centre  
\$144

Create a portrait (head) sculpture of your pet or favorite animal.

Learn the principles of sculpting in clay, creating an accurate likeness, and highlighting your favorite animal's personality and character.

Explore the joy of texture and three dimensions in a fun atmosphere with artist and sculptor Deb Laninga.

[Learn more](#), and search for “Deb Laninga”.



### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Hello sculptors,

Would you like to learn how to sculpt snow at Snow Valley in Edmonton? I would like to gauge interest for a one-day workshop that we plan to hold in the next month or two. If you're interested, please send an email to [barbmarcink@gmail.com](mailto:barbmarcink@gmail.com) by **Feb. 5**.

Some of our experienced snow sculptors will be leading the workshop and the SAA will provide tools.

— Barb Marcinkoski  
Snow and Ice Director

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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 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

