



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

March 2023



**EAC**

EST. 1921  
EDMONTON ART CLUB  
[edmontonartclub.com](http://edmontonartclub.com)

**in this issue...**

critiques	2-6
art and science connection	7
artists we admire	8
from our library	9
men who paint	12
paint loose in 30 minutes	16
composition - part 1	18
our sponsors	21

**MEMBERS ONLY**

meeting minutes	22-23
committee phone list	25-26
cover: "early birds", photo by Rob Guetre	



Meet Izabella Orzelski, our critic for the February meeting.

**M**Y LIFE IS DICTATED BY the politeness and comfort associated with being a Canadian, and the emotional excesses of having a Slavic soul. Life is rich and beautiful and I am on a quest to explore it to the fullest. Art has always been an integral part of my life, though painting suits my personality the most. I feel transplanted into my own magical world, while standing in front of an empty canvas; there is always a new beginning with an infinite number of possible endings. I like this very much.

Lately, I have discovered my own garden as a source of inspiration. Here, the potential of colouristic nuances is limitless while the labyrinth of organic shapes evokes pleasant memories of the past. Canada's summers are short lived; this is reflected in my painterly technique with its vigorous strokes and, in most cases, thick paint application to capture the fleeting moment in time.

For my future artistic endeavours I do not have a clear path; rather, I want to let my passion and new life experiences lead/take me on a new visual journey. I am open to new, "yet to come" possibilities

Adapted from Izabella's artist statement which can be found at [www.izabellaorzelski.com/about](http://www.izabellaorzelski.com/about)



**MARGE SOMKUTI**

A square composition, with lots of shapes. The diagonal lines against the same loose type of painting which is good because it brings energy and I have to say very well rendered water here. You created good depth. Not too distinctive but enough to let the viewer know there is a field. I would add a bit of glaze in the strongly rendered grass strands on the bottom right forefront. This is very successful.



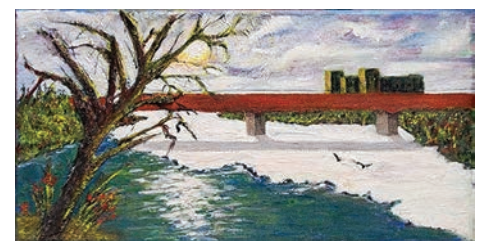
**NOLA BUKVI**

You have excellent atmospheric perspective here! Good use of the yellow above the mountains which is subtle. The waterway towards the front needs a bit more shading. The trees could have a touch light blue in the leaves of the front trees. The tree on the left could have a lingering branch reaching to the centre of the canvas.



**MYRNA WILKINSON**

The composition works very well with the house, sky and flowers. It has "breathing space" like that of the old masters. The upper window on the left works well with the shadowing. Usually when you put a white vertical alongside the edge it could create a problem of framing in white. You made this work very well. You know how to work with the cast shadows. It's very joyful. There's movement in this, it's a successful painting.



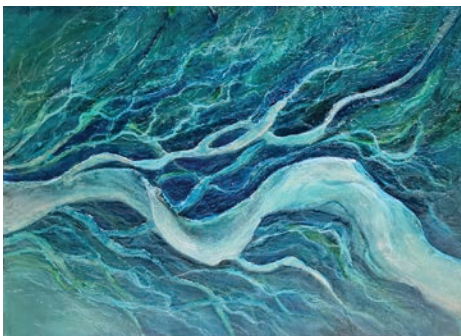
**DIANA PANIZZON**

I love the red colour in this composition. The water could have some greyish glaze to it to prevent the water from coming forward. A little more bluish grey on pillar shadows. A bit more blue tone in the left foliage behind the tree to cool off the green.



**JOHANNE SEPTOU**

There's a great direction of lights in this painting. Nice movement in the maple leaves. Consider losing the horizontal line across the throat. The nostril on the right could be a touch wider. The right ear needs to be a touch higher. A nice contrast between red and yellow against the subject.



**JAN FRASER**

It's very well painted with obvious movement. This should be a part of a series. These kind of paintings need to be done much bigger.



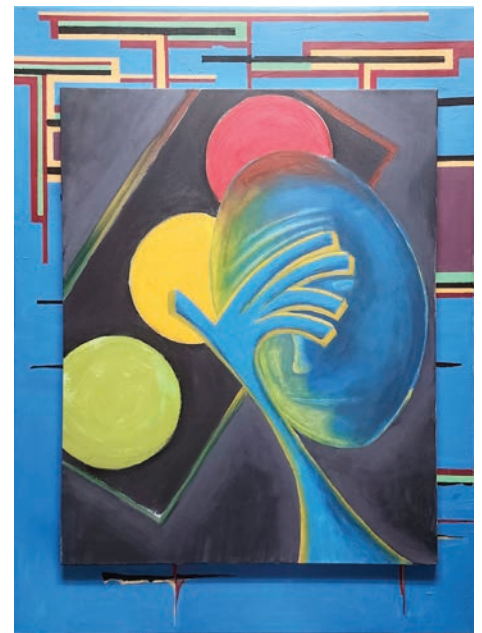
**LORIE MEYER**

A very interesting piece with the look of stained glass. I love the effect of what you have here, you really show the layers beautifully. The purple in the back and yellow overlap with some pockets is beautiful. It's a very sophisticated painting.



**JUDY KOCH**

Busy and the colour palette works for you. The greys work especially well. Suggest adding paynes gray to object on upper left in front of the wall just to darken a touch. The snow on top of object could be a bit brighter and blueish towards the bottom. Try varying the strokes of the snow on top of the grey piece above the branches. The background scene beyond the objects is nicely done. You've created a great balance of colour.



**ANDREW BEDINGFIELD**

This is a very nice combination of colours. For the unpainted sides of the front piece, you might want to carry some colour from the back piece. Suggest you add a touch of transparent Ultra Marine blue around the lights to give depth to the black. Take away the white lines around the lights. The light green is quite nice and maybe add it to the left edge of the lights.



**PENNY LAMNEK**

Very successful use of complementary colours. You see this movement in your painting and it's not boring. The volume and shadows are very good. It's very difficult to create a painting the way you've done this.



**ADA WONG**

The yellow coming through the back creates luminosity in this painting. Beautiful movement in the background. I would darken the shadows in the dog. The eyes are a nice focal point, very tricky to do. You let our eyes zone in there where you wanted us to go. A successful painting.



**JUDY WHITE**

You have the character of the cat because each cat is different and you did certainly capture the mood. You captured the personality of the cat. Beautifully painted. You were successful with breaking the monotony of the cat by positioning the fore legs diagonally. You have a very limited colour palette and it works so well. The right paw's shadow could be a bit wider and the same colour as the left foreleg.



**FRANCESCA SONGCO**

I like the colours, and the flesh colour is well done. This is very good. Make the left shoulder a bit more defined. The eye glass shadow may be a bit too strong. The inner ear could be a bit lighter by using a lighter shade. The nose and lips could be a bit more refined. The lips need a little bit more of the pinkish reddish colour. The hat could be emphasized by the use of a few strokes.



**DONNA CHAMBERLAND**

The colours and mood are great. May add green to purple for more interest. By extending the elbow on the left to soften with a bit of white will create more movement. You painted this very well with the shadowing and the facial expression.



**MICHAELA YANNISH**

Such a vibrant sky and trees and you use it as a part of your colours. The composition very smart. Develop the foreground a bit more with detail. The grass strokes could be varied and broken up a bit. Consider a bit of blue in the distant trees.



**RICHARD ST AMANT**

Very successful and especially with this paper. Water usually is bluer and darker when you have the reflection of the sky. A few darker blue strokes on the horizon would work well. The diagonal line of the foreground works very well with your grasses. Nice fresh brush strokes.



**RHEA JANSEN**

This is very successful and the reflections are great. If desired you can have the walkway fall off the bottom left of the page but this can work either way. The dark diagonal line at the top of the walkway could be faded a bit, and perhaps a more distinctive shape of the bottom walkway.



**MARY FITZGERALD**

The colour and composition is really beautiful. You can make a number of these and go big! The limited colour palette works beautifully.



**FRANCES HESSELS**

Expert use of cool colours, the cast shadows are well presented. There's a nice gentle flow of background colours that creates a good vibe. The wrinkles on his face aren't overpowering. You have the ball of the nose right. The shadows make the painting. You know where you put them and it's not overdone. Colour temperature manipulation in the subject is successful.



**KARALEE NELSON ▲**

A nice contrast between the curves of the deer and the geometric shapes. You might consider extending the cool blues to the outside of the cheeks. The background of this painting is quiet, I'd suggest a bit of a colour wash here. It's interesting that you thought about combining the geometric and organic shapes.

**JENNY RODRIGUE ▶**

Beautiful use of colour. There is a nice transition and a well painted sky. The distant waterfall needs to be greyed out a touch towards the distance. A good combination of overlapping in the mountains. The greenish mountain should be distanced by graying down the tones. The flowers are repetitive, try adding whitish highlight tips and a bit more in front of the mountain.





**JASMIN ALSTAD**

An interesting composition, not static or flat. A great job with this big square canvas. Your choice of colours works well. The addition of the patterns also very good. You're a good colourist. The one thing which I may suggest is to add a touch of blue to the blotted out colours. This would bring some coolness into your painting.



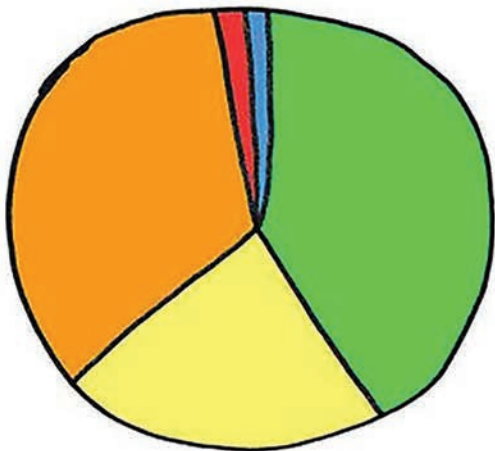
**YVONNE BILAN-WALLACE**

A successful painting. The papers are beautifully done in this piece. The "ball" portion of the hat could be wider on the right to better fit over the head. The red hair could be wavy to break up the vertical composition. The right side of her lip could be lifted up just a bit.



**ROB GUETRE**

The patterns of shadow work well. The background works well, not too strong, this lets the person be seen as the main subject. Beautiful treatment of the nose. The white of the eyes needs a touch of blue wash since they are in shadow. The rim on the top of the hat could use a touch of lightness above her hair. The neck could use a touch more shadow. When it comes to colour composition, beautifully adjusted, nice and smooth.



## THE CREATIVE PROCESS

- INSPIRATION
- WORK
- BINGE EATING
- DISCOURAGED NAPPING
- RANDOM INTERNET SURFING

# When Art and Science Connect

M F Fitzgerald

**H**AVE YOU HEARD OF the NASA James Web Space Telescope? It is the next-generation response to NASA's Hubble Space Telescope of 1990. Canada is playing a major role in the creation of this outer space magic with all its revelations. What the James Webb Telescope is capturing are images of space from billions of years ago. You might respond to this idea with amazement and and minimal comprehension.

Artists are often inspired by the galaxies such as the Milky Way in which we live. The image below, nature's art, was taken by the Spitzer Space Telescope late in 2019. Did you know that within the Milky Way galaxy, there are over 100 billion stars and it is thought that each star has at least one planet orbiting it?

Now, let's talk about the spirals in a sea shell and the spirals that are found with stellar life in the estimated 75 billion spiral galaxies in the observable universe! Galaxies? Yes, galaxies. Being brought up in the Star Trek generation, I am now understanding galaxies are real and numerous. It is interesting to see the spirals in space that are made up of stars, dust and gas. Young stars are white and massive and light up their surroundings, setting the spiral bands ablaze. The newer stars are red and magenta, hot stars are blue. The yellow colors highlight the clouds of molecular gases and dust. Apparently, about two-thirds of the known galaxies are spiral-shaped like our Milky Way.

It is common to see spiral motifs in paintings and in ancient carvings throughout the world. The spiral is also known to illustrate a special mathematical sequence discovered and named after Leonardo Fibonacci and called the Fibonacci sequence. If you want to know more

about that, check out pictures of sunflowers, or find some pinecones on your next walk in the woods.

So who knows, perhaps there is an existential reason why I use paint the way I do!



The center of the Milky Way galaxy, imaged by the Spitzer Space Telescope's infrared cameras on October 9. NASA, JPL-Caltech, Susan Stolovy (SSC/Caltech) et al.



Credits: NASA, ESA, ESO-Chile, ALMA, NAOJ, NRAO; image processing: Alyssa Pagan (STScI)

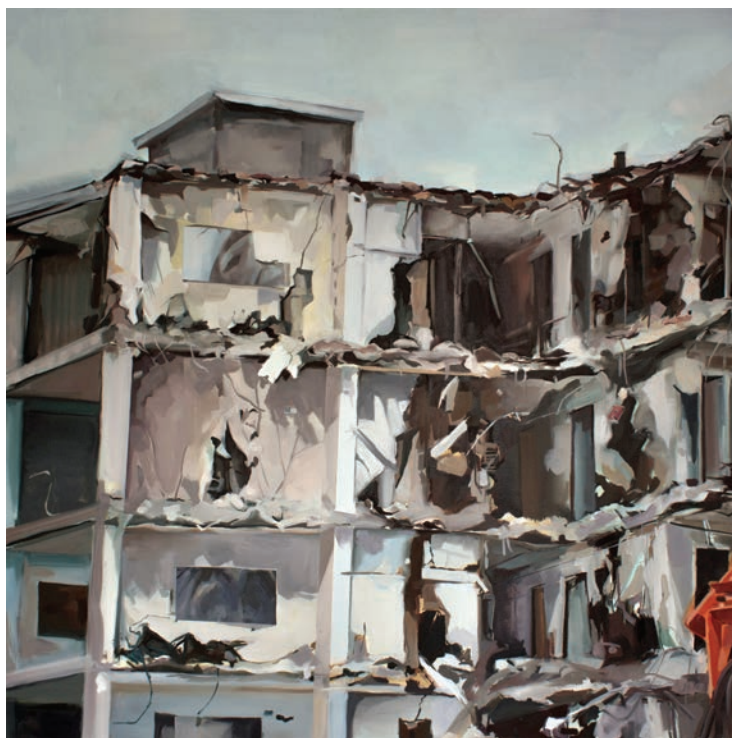
## “HOW CLEARLY WE SEE AS IT ALL FALLS APART” ANDREA KASTNER

Edmonton Art Club member Judy Koch shares about Andrea Kastner, an artist she admires...

**A**NDREA KASTNER IS A CANADIAN PAINTER whose work focuses on the overlooked corners of urban spaces and the sacred nature of neglected things. She holds an MFA from the University of Alberta and currently resides and works in the U.S. She paints abandoned buildings, derelict spaces, detritus and neglected goods, etc.

I met her and saw her paintings at an exhibition at the Scott Gallery in Edmonton and the impact of her work has remained with me. Her paintings tend to be large and in person one can see the beautiful, fluid, confident brush strokes of oil on canvas. She told an amusing story: in the summer of 2018 she was painting en plein air at a landfill site in Hamilton, and people would stop and ask why in the world she was painting the dump, when if she turned around, she would see beautiful scenery. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, I think.

I admire Andrea Kastner’s style, skill, and her persistence in her choice of subject matter. Her paintings can be seen at <https://www.andreakastner.net>.



HOW CLEARLY WE SEE AS IT ALL FALLS APART,  
oil on canvas, 42” x 42”, 2018

In this article series, “ARTISTS WHOSE WORK WE ADMIRE”, members of the Edmonton Art Club are invited to submit a short piece identifying an artist, famous or otherwise, whose work they admire, are inspired by, or which influences their practice.



## March 2023 Critic

### Frances Alty-Arscott

Frances is a well-known Alberta-based artist who resides in Edmonton.

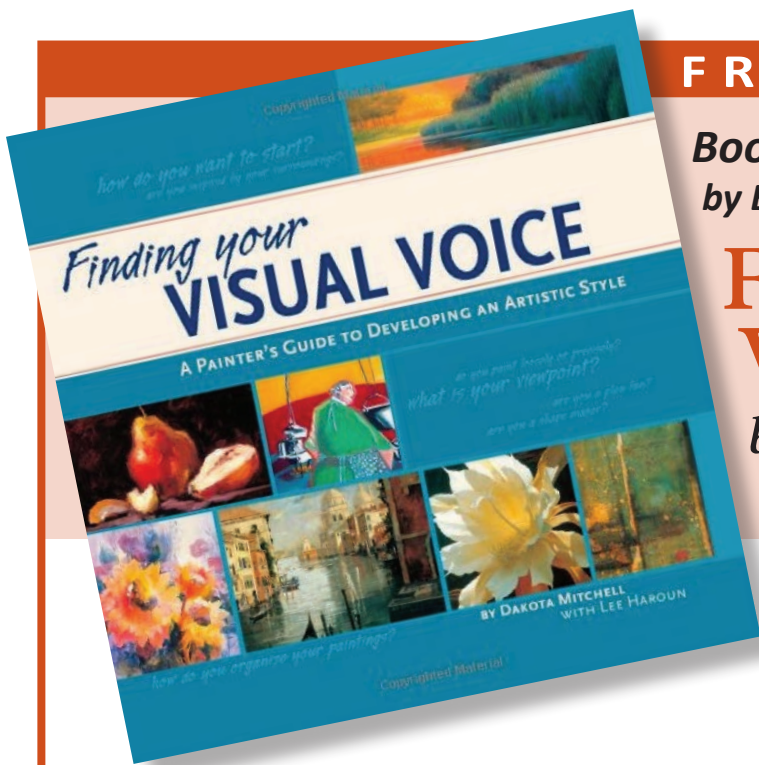
Frances received her BFA from the University of Alberta in 1980. Her vibrant work is in public and private collections throughout Canada and the United States.

In addition to her painting, Frances lectures and teaches both adults and children in creative approaches to watercolours and acrylics.

Frances is represented by several galleries across Alberta.

<http://altyarscott.net/index.html>





**Book Reviews**

by EAC Librarian, Barb Stachow

**FINDING YOUR VISUAL VOICE**

by Dakota Mitchell, with Lee Haroun

**A**S ARTISTS, WE OFTEN PONDER HOW TO EXPRESS OUR creative vision by discovering a distinctive visual voice. This guide prompts you to explore how and why you paint, and is not just a “step-by-step process to paint as I paint” found in many other art books. How does a viewer respond to visually interesting works emotionally? This book helps you answer this question and more as a way to give your artistic self a voice. It takes you along a journey to find your visual purpose.

*Finding Your Visual Voice* is a unique book which offers

step-by-step painting demonstrations, visual examples and engaging exercises to help you develop a way of painting that is truly yours and yours alone. You’ll paint with expression and confidence, while acting on your own creative whims and impulses, as you create artwork you’ve always dreamed of painting.

Within these pages, you’ll find encouragement, advice and insights from more than thirty successful artists. In their own words, these artists describe their work, revealing their personal struggles, discoveries, processes and achievements. Their compositions span a diverse range of subjects and mediums, but all offer an illuminating perspective on the personal nature of painting that impacts a viewer’s emotions.

Do you hope to find the answers to what and why you paint? With this guide and your own imagination, you have everything you need express feelings of passion in a very intimate art life.

*This book is available for loan from the Edmonton Art Club library.*

*Contact Barb Stachow for more information or to borrow any of our library books.*

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

**WHAT** Kelvin Swatzky Workshop (Oil/Acrylic)

**WHEN** March 31 (6:30am-9:00pm), April 1st (10am-4:00pm)

**WHERE** Signworks Plus, 15607-100A Ave NW (Evelyn Garneau’s shop)

**FEES** \$155.00 for members of either EAC or SWCA \$175.00 for nonmembers

Payment can be made by cheque or cash to Donna Chamberland or by cheque to the Society of Western Canadian Artists (address above).



**PROGRAM** Kelvin will do one or two demonstrations on Friday evening and work with students individually on Saturday, helping with the same landscape demonstrated or on a painting of the student’s choice.

A list of suggested supplies will be given to registrants in the course, and you may bring your own paints and supplies you already have. We will be working on tables, a small table easel should work too.

Light snacks will be provided, bringing your own lunch on Saturday is suggested.

There are only 13 slots, each club has forwarded a list of 5 interested so far. If there is not full registration by March 17, the course will be cancelled. However, this is unlikely with the present numbers.

Kelvin’s work may be viewed at his website:

[www.kelvinsawatzky.com](http://www.kelvinsawatzky.com)

or at his Gallery at Zorzos.



# Meet Our Executive



**Seraya Smit**  
President



**Jani Galarneau**  
Vice President



**Penny Lamnek**  
Treasurer



**Rhea Jansen**  
Past President



**Michaela Yanish**  
Recording Secretary

Edmonton Art Club

# Illuminating Edmonton

12 X 12 One Price Show

\$325

May 2023

presented at Night of Artists  
8330 82 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6C 0Y6



[www.edmontonartclub.com](http://www.edmontonartclub.com)

[www.nightofartists.com](http://www.nightofartists.com)

Edmonton Art Club  
Annual Juried Show

# SEASONS

12 April - 11 May 2023

presented at The Night of Artists  
8330 82 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6C 0Y6

[www.edmontonartclub.com](http://www.edmontonartclub.com)  
Night of Artists



# Jake's Framing

10441 123 St, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N8 P: 780.426.4649 E: jake@jakesframing.com

Jake's Framing offers superior custom picture framing including museum-grade picture framing, specialized mat-cutting, canvas painting stretching, dry-mounting, and engraving.

*"I strive to provide the best customer service in the industry at a fair price. Please give me a chance to frame your artwork and I promise you won't be disappointed."*

**Jake Lewis** Owner of Jake's Framing since 1993

Looking for pre-made frames?  
Jake recommends VESTATE



16602 - 114 Ave NW  
Ph. 780 433 1695

  
THE  
**GILDED  
RABBIT**  
Art Supplies & Framing

---

20% Discount for EAC  
Members  
10% Discount for All  
Students and Seniors

---

10104 149 Street  
780.481.6950  
thegildedrabbit.ca

---

 @gilded\_rabbit  
 thegildedrabbit

# SOMETHING TO CHECK OUT

## THE MEN WHO PAINT

M F Fitzgerald

**W**HEN I HAPPENED UPON this five and a half minute [video](#) I was intrigued. From the title, “Men Who Paint”, I was expecting and assuming bold, large strokes and statement pieces – and what did I find? My assumption was false and I had to think about why I made it in the first place!

As a lifelong educator in drama/theatre and then counsellor I noticed many things. Most of the famous playwrights, psychiatrists, theatre directors, choreographers, artists, educational leaders, scholars or researchers, doctors, school principals, and people in politics were men. In fact, my second teaching stint was in a school with the first female high school principal in Edmonton and I remember thinking this was a startling fact. Men wrote the plays I directed. The famous psychiatrists I studied were men. The movie directors were men. And the list could go on.

When I moved into my two-year counselling program after my Masters Degree, the program was called Counselling Women. This was a time of awakening. I began to study equality and equity, family structures, and understanding power imbalances and started reading the literature and research created by women. This was me catching up on the Canadian feminist ideas about power imbalance.

Today, as I teach a diverse population of post-secondary students, I reflect on the world the students live in. In

many ways, women’s equality has been defined and we let go of the older and traditional ways of who does what. Gender is a different issue these days. Yet, sometimes, those old assumptions still linger. Therefore, I was delighted to have my assumptions challenged by watching this delightful and informative video. Since most of the arts people I know are women. I was ready to see arts from the male perspective. What I found was delightful humans doing what we all do best, being in an environment of kinship, working with their paints and brushes, and creating in their unique styles.

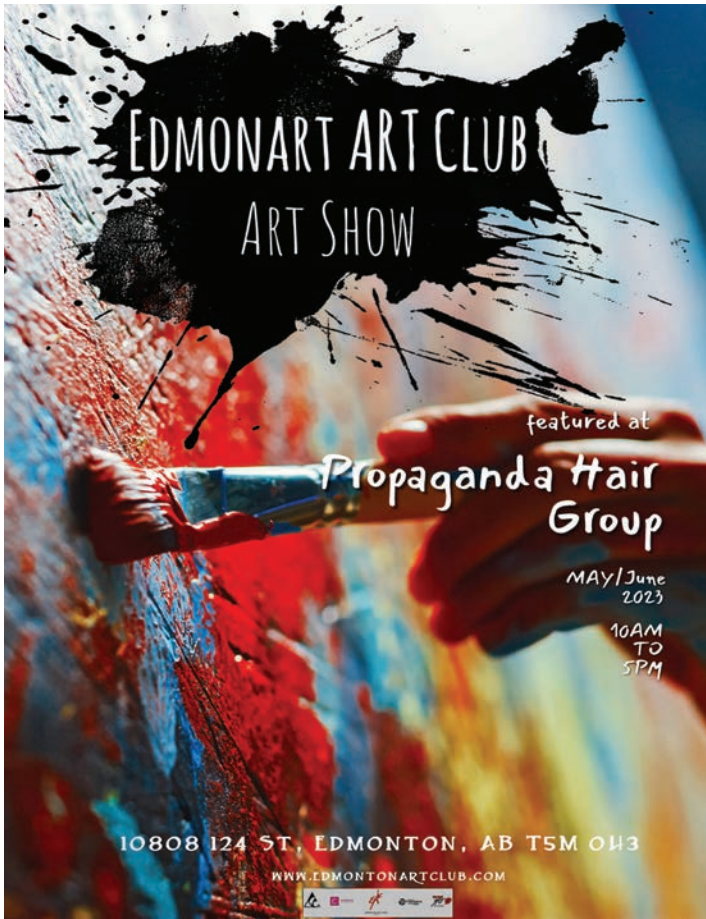
Introduction to “Men Who Paint”, adapted from their website at <https://www.menwhopaint.com/>

*Inspired by the work and adventurous spirit of the early Canadian painters the Men Who Paint (Facebook) began painting together in 2007. Their preference for painting outside brings a feeling of urgency and excitement to their landscapes. The combined artistic experience of the group offers a unique diversity and their collective dynamic thrives on each individual’s passion for finding expression through interpretation of not only their Saskatchewan home but landscapes across Canada.*

This is a [beautiful 5-minute video](#) – I appreciated the unique perspectives of their environments. Enjoy.



Adventure Plein Air Painting - Mud Lake in The Canadian Rockies



## Annual Juried Show

- Members who have attended 5 general meetings and who have submitted five paintings for critique in the twelve months prior to the show are eligible to participate in the Edmonton Art Club exhibits and shows.
- New members are exempt. All new members can participate.

## Exhibits

Night of Artists Venue

entitled "Illuminating Edmonton" will be featured at the Night Of Artists ("NOA") venue.

- Each of these events have an exhibit duration time of approximately one month each. Excellent opportunities for networking, sales, and fellowship with other artists.
- 30% NOA commission
- CORRECTION: The \$25 hanging fee applies for all Edmonton Art Club Exhibits

## U P C O M I N G   E X H I B I T

*Make sure to check out Yvonne Bilan-Wallace's work at*

### CHROMATOPIA

an upcoming textile show

taking place at the Multicultural Heritage Centre in St. Stony Plain.

*"The challenge was to produce two 12"x12" pieces using only colour in paint chips we were given. I had to dye different textiles to an exacting recipe, which in my case were specific green and yellow hues. It was an interesting challenge and when all the works are hung together, it's quite spectacular."*

**DATES:** March 1- May 26, 2023

**OPENING RECEPTION:** March 4

**GALLERY HOURS:** Monday- Friday 11am- 4pm

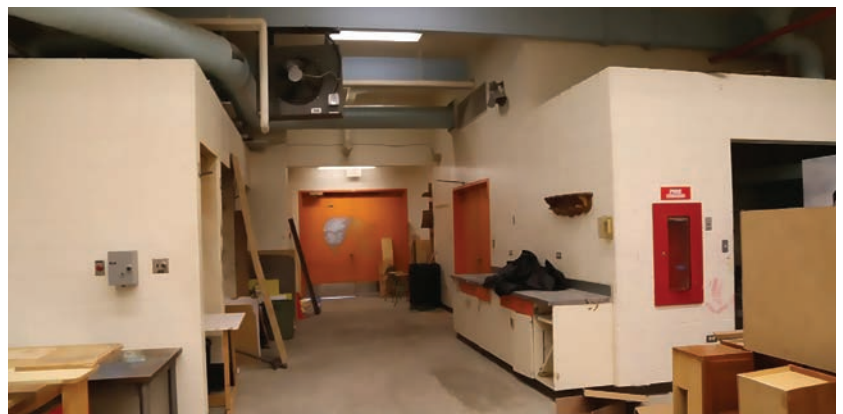
**CONTACT:** 780-963-2777



## FOR RENT — MAKER SPACES!

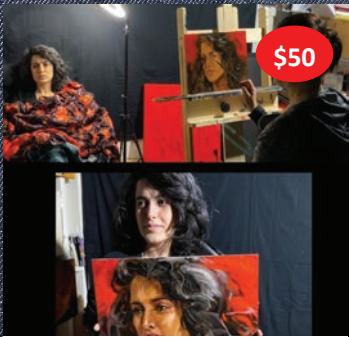
***We are excited to offer our  
Maker Spaces available for rent!***

We are offering this space for year round rental to a creative business or community group that can breathe life into this space just waiting for creativity. Former shop class has venting and electrical, as well as welding booths and more. Your own exterior entrance with double wide doors. This space is fantastic!



**CONTACT US:** Seba Beach Business Centre, 162-2nd Ave, Seba Beach, AB T0E 2B0

[info@sebabeachbusinesscentre.com](mailto:info@sebabeachbusinesscentre.com)



**LIVE Portrait Demo** March 9  
Oksana Zhelisko 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM



**Sculpting The Face** March 19  
Ryan Kurylo 12:30 PM – 5:30



**MARCH SALE**  
SAVE 10% - 50%

10032 81 AVE  
EDMONTON AB  
PAINTSPOT.CA



**GALLERY                      ART SUPPLIES                      ART CLASSES**



*"Hendrickje, I feel another self-portrait coming on. Bring in the funny hats."*

**Family Tree of Vincent Van Gogh**

His dizzy aunt..... Verti Gogh  
 The brother who ate prunes..... Gotta Gogh  
 The brother who worked at a convenience store..... Stop N Gogh  
 The grandfather from Yugoslavia ..... U Gogh  
 His magician uncle..... Where Diddy Gogh  
 His Mexican cousin ..... A Mee Gogh  
 The Mexican cousin's American half-brother..... Gring Gogh  
 The nephew who drove a stage coach..... Wells-Far Gogh  
 The constipated uncle..... Cant Gogh  
 The ballroom dancing aunt..... Tang Gogh  
 The bird lover uncle..... Flamin Gogh  
 An aunt who taught positive thinking ..... Way To Gogh  
 The little bouncy nephew ..... Poe Gogh  
 A sister who loved disco..... Go Gogh  
 The brother with low back pain..... Lum Bay Gogh  
 and his niece who travels the country in an RV ..... Winnie Bay Gogh  
 I saw you smiling.....there ya Gogh

# PAINT LOOSE IN 30 MINUTES

An exercise that can be done in Oils or Acrylics.

*Franchesca Songco*



**1** Quick sketch using burnt umber. Strive for imperfection.



**2** I primed the canvas with thin wash of burnt umber. This is optional.



**3** I established darks (shadows) using blue and burnt umber.



**4** For applying paints at this stage, I did them thickly and quickly. Aim for 3 thick brushstrokes for each section. If it overlaps, do not panic as it adds character. I always remind myself that I am doing a loose painting, not tight and realistic.



Reference photo taken from my workplace (feel free to use this image if you wish as practice for quick and loose painting).



**5** I added little touch ups and highlights to the chairs without overworking them. I made the shadows underneath darker to highlight the table legs.

For questions, you can reach out to me by email [sasafineartist@gmail.com](mailto:sasafineartist@gmail.com) or my instagram [sasa.fineart](https://www.instagram.com/sasa.fineart)

Colours used: White, Red, Yellow, Blue, Burnt Umber and Yellow Ochre



# Scholarship Program

## Card/Alling

- Card/Alling Scholarship is for studies in watercolour. Generally, two scholarships of \$2000.00 each are given annually.



## Mildred Nelson

- Mildred Nelson Scholarship is for studies in mediums other than watercolour. Generally, one scholarship of \$1000.00 is given annually.



## Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

**Application Deadline: April 30**

- The eligibility criteria, is heavily reliant upon your volunteer standing within the Edmonton Art Club. It is not reliant upon your quality of artwork or your level as an artist.
- Should your qualifications meet the Scholarship criteria, we encourage you to submit your application to the Scholarship Committee!!!
- Please visit our Scholarship Page in the Members Only area of the website to learn more, including the membership application and a direct email link to the committee chair, Rhea Jansen.

## PRODUCT RECALL

Heavy Body, Extra Heavy Gel Gloss, and Fluid Teal Recall

January 17, 2023

As company owners, we put our heart and soul into everything we make, then stand by it completely. If our products ever fail to live up to your, or our, expectations, we will make it right.

Read more about these individual recalls, and how to receive a replacement if needed, at <https://marketing.goldenpaints.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/35184/p/p-00d9/t/page/fm/0>

Recently, we decided to recall specific batches of Extra Heavy Gel Gloss, Fluid Acrylic Teal, and 14 Heavy Body Colors due to product thickening after long-term storage.

Thank you for your continued support of Golden Artist Colors, Inc. We appreciate your understanding.

Sincerely,

Employee Owners of GOLDEN



**I**N HIS BOOK “*MASTERING COMPOSITION*”, Ian Roberts emphasizes the importance of planning a painting around the deliberate arrangement of elements in a subject. Several examples (too many to list here) are used to illustrate some of the more popular approaches he’s found helpful in his own work. Composition, as it relates to painting or photography, is one way to help ensure that the artwork captures and holds the viewer’s attention. Ian Roberts doesn’t neglect other considerations in successful art such as value, temperature, and colour contrasts; but he insists that composition is the first planning step. You are encouraged to check out his excellent YouTube channel, “*Mastering Composition*”.

In this article (part 1 of a 2 part series on composition) I want to highlight three simple strategies which I think are both powerful and simple to use. They are applicable to both photography and painting. These three are, in order of complexity, the *Rule of Thirds*, the *Golden Triangle*, and the *Golden Ratio*. Pictured below are examples of how these methods are used to help plan and create more engaging images.

To be clear, only the first two of the three strategies I illustrate here are found in Ian Roberts’ book. The Golden Ratio is discussed in a video on Andrew Tischler’s YouTube channel, “*Golden Ratio Composition Secret*”. I mention it here because I believe it is the most versatile composition guide. For instance, you can use the Golden Ratio to align not only the elements of an image, but tonal masses and warm and cool areas as well.

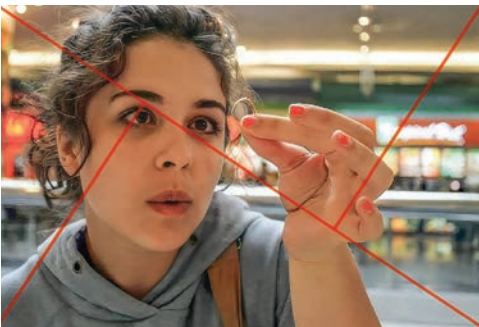


### RULE OF THIRDS

One of the most common composition “rules”, especially for photographers, is the Rule of Thirds.

Generally, a photographer will locate the desired focal point in the image along one of the four imaginary lines located one and two thirds the format’s length and width, horizontally, vertically or at the intersection points of these lines. This “rule” is based on the idea that objects in a given scene

tend to feel more “at home” when situated off centre. This means that if you take a photo or compose a painting, try to locate the focal point (be it a person or object) off to one side and not dead centre.



You can see the Rule of Thirds in action in the image above. My grandson is standing left of centre and the camera lens is situated at

the intersection of the two grid lines placed a third of the way up and to the left. My granddaughter (who wasn’t having a good day) is situated at the opposite corner where the other two lines intersect.

The intersection of the lines identify regions within the composition for placing focal points (in this case, the camera lens). Note that there will be times when a natural “line” in a composition presents itself (a standing figure in this case) and will serve to lead the viewer’s eye.

### GOLDEN TRIANGLE

The Golden Triangle is a composition strategy that divides a composition using four right triangles. You would first divide a rectangular image format with a single diagonal line extending to opposing corners. Perpendicular lines are drawn from this diagonal to meet at the remaining two corners. This type of compositional strategy won’t work with a square format. The Golden Triangle is applied to a subject by aligning the desired focal points in your image with the diagonal line and their points of intersection with the perpendiculars.

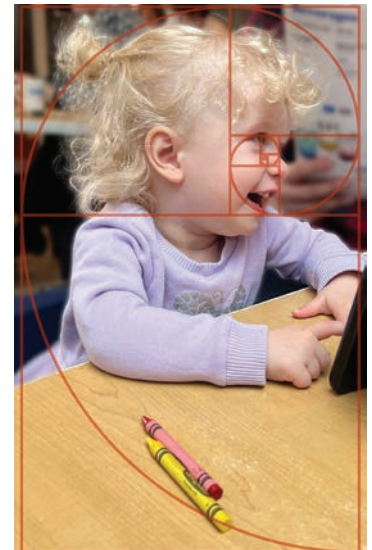
In the example below left, my daughter’s eyes lie approximately on the diagonal with her right eye at the intersection with one of the perpendiculars, this extends down to follow the line of her shoulder. The diagonal cuts through her wrist but also follows her other shoulder.

### GOLDEN RATIO

The Golden Ratio is a less common compositional aid and is based on a mathematical sequence of numbers known as the Fibonacci sequence. For more on the mathematics describing this sequence of numbers (beyond the scope of this article), a simple search on the internet will provide more than enough information. The Golden Ratio is applied to a subject when square shapes generated by the sequence are arranged to create an underlying curvilinear structure (a spiral) which is used in the arrangement of the compositional elements. This spiral forms the basis for creating a more fluid composition.

In the example above, my granddaughter is having a better day and I framed the picture to make her happy expression the centre of interest. Note that the spiral goes on to frame her head and encloses her elbow and even the crayons on the table.

The strategies described here are only three of many compositional guides available to the artist. As previously alluded to, Ian Roberts’ book “*Mastering Composition*” provides a more thorough treatment of the many possibilities to help plan your next painting. Explore these “rules” and see how they could inspire new ideas for composing your own paintings.



your one resource for

# art supplies

PAINT • BRUSHES • MATT BOARD • PENCILS  
PENS • SKETCH PADS • CANVAS • EASELS  
AND MUCH MORE!



*Check Out our App!!*  
Download our app and access our vast selection of products anywhere



11116 - 120 street, edmonton, alberta  
Ph: 780.455.7983 fx: 780.454.5204  
e: info@deltaart.ca 1.888.455.1606

[www.deltaart.ca](http://www.deltaart.ca)

Visit our  
website



**WEBSITE INSIGHT**

Edmonton Art Club  
 Annual Juried Show  
 April 12- May 11, 2023



**Theme suggestions!! Let's get creative**

- |                        |                       |                       |                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Seasons of the Wind    | Seasons of the Larch  | Season of Enchantment | Diving Season          |
| Seasons of the Trees   | Seasons of Artistry   | Season of Decay       | Coconut Season         |
| Women and Seasons      | Season of the Seeds   | Charming Season       | Dancing Season         |
| Season of the Moon     | Spring Season         | Seasons of Grief      | Wine Season            |
| Seasons of my Mind     | Winter Season         | Flood Season          | Season of Renewal      |
| Seasons of My Journey  | The Season of Autumn  | Monsoon Season        | Seasons of Regret      |
| Seasons of the Ice Age | Summer Season         | Season of Adolescence | Lobster Season         |
| Planting Season        | Harvest Season        | The Four Seasons      | Festival Season        |
| Dry Season             | Cool Season           | Fertility Season      | Ice Cream Season       |
| Best Season            | Warn Season           | Season of Conception  | Frightful Season       |
| Wet Seasons            | Season of the Blossom | Season of Discovery   | Seasons of Adulthood   |
| Season of Re-Birth     | Swimming Season       | Seasons of Birth      | Sledding Season        |
| Worst Season           | Boating Season        | Seasons of Reckoning  | Tobogganing Season     |
| Over Season            | Skating Season        | Hunting Season        | Season for Snowshoeing |
| Story of Seasons       | Skiing Season         | Fishing Season        | Snorkelling Season     |
| Best Season            | Hot Season            | Seasons of the Wind   | Story of Seasons       |

**We know there is more to painting than paint.**



Our role in the arts community has been to provide artists with the best tools to meet their needs. This includes an obligation to provide the most complete information available on artists' materials from our laboratory, research, and collaboration with other innovators and material scientists. Since 1980 we have been champions of the acrylic medium with the GOLDEN Acrylic brand; in 2010 we were entrusted with the legacy of an amazing oil paint, Williamsburg Handmade Oils, and in 2014 we introduced a totally modern watercolor with QoR. We also know that there is more to a paint company than making paint. We've been delighted to share the story of Golden Artist Colors, its growth, its legacy and its commitment to social responsibility. As artists redefine our concepts of traditional media, we embrace the opportunity to challenge perceived limitations and capabilities of painting and seek to empower artists everywhere. *The mission for Just Paint remains: inform and empower artists in the realization and preservation of their creative vision.*

**JUST PAINT**  
 Published by Golden Artist Colors, Inc.

Subscribe to the free Just Paint Newsletter here at <https://justpaint.org/>

# THANK YOU!

Thanks to Colours, Delta Art and Drafting Supplies, The Paint Spot, and the Strathcona Art Society for their ongoing support in helping to distribute the EAC newsletters!

And thanks to the following businesses who give generous discounts to EAC members!



11116 - 120 Street NW, Edmonton



West Edmonton Mall  
8882, 170th St NW, Edmonton



10032 - 81 Ave NW, Edmonton



10660 - 105 St. NW, Edmonton  
7359 - 104 St. NW, Edmonton



10441 123 Street NW, Edmonton



Art Supplies & Framing - Discounts for students, seniors, and art memberships

10104 149 Street 780.481.6950 thegildedrabbit.ca



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

**We're grateful to the Alberta Foundation of the Arts for their continuing support.**

As the primary arts resource and grant-funding body in Alberta, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts helps to unleash the potential of every artist through funding, arts promotion, and capacity-building. We provide behind-the-scenes support to artists and arts organizations, giving them the power to inspire minds, encourage expression, foster creativity, and contribute to Alberta's economy. From story time at local libraries to annual festivals on neighbourhood streets, the arts are active in your community. Albertans celebrate and support the arts as artists, volunteers, donors, and attendees at local arts events and activities. Experience, celebrate, and take pride in the arts—they're all around you!

Read more at [affta.ab.ca/home](http://affta.ab.ca/home).



CARFAC  
ALBERTA

Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is a Provincial Arts Service Organization funded provincially and municipally that provide a communications hub between members of the visual arts community and the general public. Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is the affiliate for the national arts organization Canadian Artists Representation/le Front des artistes canadiens (CARFAC) in the province of Alberta.

**CARFAC Alberta Office & Project Space:**

3rd Fl., 10215-112 St., Edmonton, AB

Hours: Wednesday to Friday, 10–4pm and Saturday 12–4pm

t 780.421.1731 tf 1.866.421.1731

[carfacalberta.com](http://carfacalberta.com)

[general@carfacalberta.com](mailto:general@carfacalberta.com)