

CRITIQUES



Meet Randy Hayashi, our critic for the June meeting.

WAS BORN IN 1968 in Edmonton, Alberta and continue to make Edmonton my home with regular trips to the mountains and west coast for inspiration.

I graduated from the Fine Arts program at Grant MacEwan College and continued at the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1990 and a Bachelor of Education Degree in 2000.

Having worked as a graphic designer for over 20 years, I was eager to put the brush to the canvas again and began a full time career as an artist in 2010. My work is represented in galleries across Canada and I am grateful for the opportunity to work from home as well as artist-inresidence opportunities through these galleries.

Because of my love of the mountains, hiking, canoeing and biking, I tend to create images that are reminders of personal experiences. I enjoy the satisfaction that comes when my art resonates with the viewer's experience as well.

EXCERPTED FROM hayashi.ca/about



TAMARA DUPAS

The mountains and trees are great.
The white horizontal line could be more of a subtle mist to avoid the arching of the white. The horizon line could be dropped a bit to take it off the centre of the page.



PUNITA CHOHAN

The story seems to be about a journey. Good use of blues and the trees are well painted. Consider omitting the tree on the left.



MARJ MILLER

The warm to cool gradient works well and creates depth. Good variation of shape sizes. A mat frame would help.



MARY FITZGERALD

Good mark making and variety of colour. The circles come through nicely. This could be displayed in landscape view. The blue band at the bottom could have some colours moving in.



GAIL FAREWELL

I like the watercolour technique, loose and organic. A good variety of soft and hard edges. The white of the snow commands a lot of attention. Consider adding more water in the snow in the front to lessen the attention it gets. The horizon line in the middle could be lowered.

CRITIQUES

(CONTINUED)



CHERYL JOHNSON

Very nice mark making with the foliage treated well. More texture in the water is required as the water carries more weight in this scene. Nice depth and composition.



BETTY DEAN

This is a well mastered form with a nice glow in background. A few more highlights on the left flower are needed. For luminosity try some light shining through the leaves.



HESHAM ELFAR

Feeling of a mystery story book cover. Inviting the viewer in. The perspective is strong. May want to increase the foliage, on the right side of the red roof, by making it a bit bigger.



ATHENA FENSTERMACHER

This evokes a sweet feeling. The variety of shapes are nice. The high gloss print is a good presentation choice. The cherries do well as they are a bit darker. A few darker spots would give this piece more "pop".



ROB GUETRE

Great job in rendering skin tones, it reads well. Try darkening the value of the headband on the sides to enhance its roundness.



DONNA CHAMBERLAND

This is a great drawing as the painting reads well. Nice depth and composition. Try anchoring the chair and left leg by creating stronger weight value in the shadows.

CRITIQUES (CONTINUED)



CARMELLA HAWKOWSKY

A very nice piece with a peaceful feeling. The sharpness in the hair and book adds interest. The softness and green edging are nice. The abstract background adds interest to the story.



M SALAYI

A nice piece that reads well. Good colour sense and the warm colours are good.



ADA WONG

The mark making and looseness is very nice. This has a nice feel, and the addition of the orange works well. The rocks in the background could be lighter commanding less attention.



MYRNA WILKINSON

This has a story book feeling of folklore. Nice uniformity in the treatment and delicacy of the flowers. A nice composition, particularly in leaving the gate open inviting the viewer down the path. The background trees need a bit darker value for depth.



JANI GALARNEAU

This works very well with the peacock popping out. Great work and display of colours.



KEVIN BIGELOW

This reminds me of Andy Warhol. To make the can more cylindrical, treat the value of the blue differently on the sides. Adding a drop shadow will pop out the can.

CRITIQUES (CONTINUED)



SERAYA SMIT

I really like the use of colour and the abstractness. Exaggerated arches in the bridge will create more interest. Good rendering of the centre pillars.



HELENA BALL

Good command of watercolour with a nice mix of architectural lines and organic flora. May consider increasing the values in the background.



KEITH NUNAS

Really good mark making from front to back. The background lakes might be too saturated and should to be toned down.



PENNY LAMNEK

The line weight is well done, varying in sizes. A beautiful piece!



RICHARD ST. AMANT

This is a nice and loose painting. Good colour choices. Evokes a feeling of freedom.



JOHANNE SEPTOU

The forms have good flow and the greens are lovely. The orange could be carried through to some other flowers.



JAMES TORDIFF

Great shapes going on here with the variety of sizing. Nice job creating the organic makeup. The fat lines in the front receding to thinner lines in the back makes for good perspective.



FRANCES HESSELS

Very nice watercolour! Each person is unique in their expressions and are well rendered. The sign commands too much attention.



DEBRA MCGINNIS

The rocks are well done with the dimensional shapes and values. Good job on the greens receding into the distance. The clouds could be softened and extended horizontally.

CRITIQUES (CONTINUED)



REBECCA VIEZEL

Emotional! The light in background gives the feeling of hope. The tilt of the flower perspective is well done. The signature draws too much attention.



JENNY RODRIGUE

The rock is well rendered. Consider adding another rock. More floral detail in the foreground is required.



ERICA DIRK

The light is amazing with the luminosity. Compositionally the two fish work well. Great use of the colour palette. The signature could be left out or put on the back.



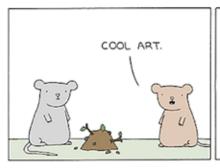
MEHAR KAUR

Nice mark making in the flowers, sky and trees. Make one tree a bit taller for added depth. The tops of the flowers could have some sky holes added to get them to "pop". Bigger flowers could be added into the foreground.



YVONNE BILAN-WALLACE

The puppy is in a good place. Bridge in the two sides together by anchoring the dog with a flower under his paw. The stars could be bolder.













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LOOKING

This article, featuring Vivian Thierfelder, appeared in the April 18, 1993 edition of the Edmonton Journal. She became a very fine and accomplished visual artist in Alberta. She joined EAC in 1967.

Artist flowering out of the avant-garde's reach



Look to an artist—any artist, in any discipline, and you're more than likely to find something in the genes. In the cases of the best and the brightest, you'll also probably discover a cathartic moment, a baptism of fire and rejection that focuses the work, hardens the resolve.

She's too nice and too polite to make much of it, but Vivian Thierfelder — without question one of Alberta's finest and most accomplished visual artists — qualifies on both

counts.

Her father, a tool-anddie man and skilful draftsman, encouraged her talent
from the beginning, and
great-grandfather Howard
Hall Darnell painted estima-

great-grandfather Howard
Hall Durnell painted estimable oil seascapes from his
home on the coast of Maine.
On the other side of the
equation, attending the BFA
program at the U of A in the
late '80s was a rough time for
anyone who deviated from the
abstract seasibilities of the day.
Who could be taken seriously
who chose to realistically paint
the drops of water on a freshlywashed pear or catch the way
morning sunlight caught a lilac?
Buyers of her work from Dallas
to Honolulu, exhibitions from Japan to Toronto, have been answering the question ever since. In
the midst of hard times, her watercolors have never fetched higher
prices, and find inclusion in the
bourdrooms of Fortune 500 companies, government art banks and in
the living rooms of collectors like
Maureen Forrester.
And if the exotic flora that she
saints so brilliantly come from farang regions, she still does it at home
r wild rose country, a bucolic retreat



Alan Kellogg

Arts and Entertainment

about 30 km west of Stony Plain.
Saturday, Thierfelder's first beal exhibition in a couple of years opened at the Douglas Udell Gallery, featuring exciting new work that will not only self, but delight those of us who'll have to wait until Lotto 649 comes in.
Her talent came early, winning a slew of coloring contests sponsored by the likes of CJCA, Johnstone Walker and this august publication. She still remembes studying the color of the roof on the piggy's ark for a contest staged by the Valley Zoo. She won, and picked up a trip to Disneyland along the way. One of her works still hangs in the office at her high school alma mater, Queen Elizabeth.

"I had a nice set of color pencils," she laughs, 'a big set."
Following university graduaton, a job developed at the Provincial Museum ("foreground preparation, not painting") and the still-developing artist recalls "reassembling 600 or 800 wild rose petals over a solid four months."

"I loved blending in things for that 3-D effect, still love to look at it. I have a real affinity for scientific work, and probably would have ended up as a medical or biological illustrator if this hadm't worked out."

Admitting that things have worked out.

out."

Admitting that things have worked out is coming a bit easier these days for Thier-felder, a notoriously modest soul whose gentle ways and easy manner aren't necessarily standard practice in a ough milieu. Not that it was success that has changed her belief in her work.

"I always knew that (the academic

knock on realists) was a pile, and I've never deviated from the course I believed right for me. In general, I think there is still a curatorial bias in favor of the avantgarde, and the Canada Council reflects that in its grants. The point is, I'm not saying the formalists should be cut out, but there should be room for everyone. I think the public deserves easily accessible art as well—my tax dollars support these organizations, too."

Nor does she resent a bit of labelling.
"I' it helps other people figure things out, it doesn't matter to me."

Not surprisingly, a secondary interest in gardening has helped. There's a greenhouse on the Thierfelder spread, and she avidly collects bulbs for new varieties in her travels. The spring seed catalogues are welcome mail cach year.

Lately, other objects are being picked up along the way, for many other objects—vases, art postcards, fabric, Iruit, glass—have become integrated with the trademarked flora.
"It's not that I got bored exactly with flowers, but I felt I had pretty well gotten it down and needed to work on the backgrounds, to pall back from the front a bit. I love the way light is refracted on surfaces, the folds in fabric."

As to the fleurs, she says striped parrot tulips are hard to nail down, and that no one flower seems more popular than the next. Even so, there are limits.
"I usually try to stay away from roses and pansies, the same as some artists avoid painting mountains. It's the same reason I was never interested in lancacapes."

These days, she's cutting back from two major exhibitions to one C'iton much hard.

reason I was never interested in landscapes."

These days, she's cutting back from two major exhibitions to one ("too much hardwork"), and illustrating Judy Schultz's next book, and looks forward to her work being included in an Australian-published, worldwide-distributed book of 48 painters. Like the rest of us. Thierfelder has her emotional ups and downs, and recognizes a certain loneliness in her calling. Unlike most, she has her own answer.

"Art has saved me so many times, it always rewards you. It's a constant, and you don't get a lot of that — a true friend."



Connect and Create at Emily Murphy Park

Networking with Plein Air Artists

Friday, July 18, 1-3:30 pm at Emily Murphy Park

with Sharon Moore-Foster

Bring your sketchbook / canvas, create with the materials you choose!

Bring your essential outdoor gear: sunscreen, insect repellant, hat, umbrella, something to sit on- whatever you think you might need for a few hours of painting in the park.

To RSVP or for further information, contact

sharon@carfacalberta.com



Edmonton Art Club

On the Edge

Annual Juried Show

October 4 to Octobr 29, 2025

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



We are all artists, painting our lives upon the canvas of reality. Mix the colours your own way and apply emotion liberally. Don't be afraid to let your brushstrokes show, and above all else, make sure your art has soul.

-Cristen Rodgers



Al and the VISUAL ARTIST where do we go from here?

N JUNE 7, 2025, CARFAC ALBERTA HOSTED an opportunity to participate in a slide presentation on Artificial Intelligence and Visual Artists. Our presenter, Katrina Ingram, Edmontonian and Founder of Ethically Aligned AI and Professor at the University of Alberta, recognizes the many factors that involve AI technology.

Before we delve into the AI factor, let's take a step back into history. Some of you will remember the huge uproar about what would happen on the New Year of 2000. Surely disaster was on the way, and all technology was supposed to collapse; however, it did not. As an educator, I recall the intense debates when all teachers were required to use computers to input students' data. Some refused, but soon after had to comply. How long have you had your bank card? Have you seen the lineups at Costco for electronic payments?

How many of you have tried ChatGPT? ChatGPT is only one product. Al, however, is a vast field of science that utilizes a range of technologies. Al technologies, since the 1950's are already woven into the technological infrastructure. We are now encountering Al differently. The story of automation has shifted through the century. Creative, generative and knowledge work are now part of the automation, which may cause some angst.

Katrina shared that data is collected from numerous sources (including your artworks) and is used to create algorithms that create step-by-step information. As I type, my computer is alerting me to my spelling errors. It utilizes data that we often perceive as truth; however, there can be flaws in the data due to bias and fairness issues. As a user, you do not have information about what data was put into the program, and you do not know what training data was used; you have to understand that there are mixed possibilities about the truth of the data.

This brings us to the idea of how our art is used in technology. If we are painting apples and you post on the computer, then your apple can become part of the data. Technology scavenges for information, and as I understand, it does not adhere to copyright laws. I know artists whose art has been used by others without permission. We have to ask, who or what controls AI and its generative data? CARFAC Canada has been working on this issue for years. Check this out.

Some tips that I learned from the presentation and personal research through https://www.carfac.ca/tools/know-your-copyrights/are:

- In Canada your artwork is automatically protected by copyright the moment it is created in a fixed form, meaning you don't need to register it to have copyright.
- Use a copyright notice that typically includes the copyright symbol, your name, and the year of first publication.
- Add a watermark to your work.
- Sign and date your work
- Use low resolution when taking photos of your art.
- Use JPEG formatting.
- Do not share the entire image,
- Add a border to your online images.
- Do not share high-resolution images online.
- Put yourself into the photos- such as holding the artwork, or posting your work on a chair.
- Send a 'cease and desist' notice to the offender.

Artfully yours, Mary Frances FitzgeraldM F Fitzgerald



A Summer Pause, A Creative Pulse

An overview and perspective

Authored by Seraya Smit

Finding art in stillness and sunlight, letting inspiration bloom between seasons



When summer drapes its golden shawl across the city, the artist's heart turns inward – not to slumber, but to dream. In this quiet season, the brush listens more than it speaks, and inspiration slips in through sunlit silence.

A Season of Stillness and Spark

Summer, in its essence, is a paradox. It's both a time of pause and a time of awakening. When we step back from routine – from weekly gatherings, critiques, and studio chatter – something remarkable happens. Space opens up. And in that space, inspiration has a way of creeping in like the morning light through a sheer curtain: gentle, unexpected, but powerful.

Whether you're traveling to new landscapes, revisiting favorite spots around the city, or simply staying close to home, summer brings with it a unique palette. The golden prairie sunsets, the bold flowers of July, the quiet shimmer of the river valley at dusk — Edmonton itself becomes a living gallery, always shifting, always inviting us to see.

Creating Without the Pressure

Sometimes the best art happens when we don't set out to "make art." Instead of deadlines or perfect compositions, summer invites us to reconnect with the why behind our practice. That quick sketch on a napkin. That mix of colors inspired by a garden walk. That photograph you snapped just because the light made you stop in your tracks. These are the seeds of something more.

So if you're not painting every day – that's okay. This is a season for filling your cup: with beauty, new experiences, and rest. Creativity isn't a machine; it's a rhythm. And like any rhythm, it needs rests and pauses to breathe.

Inspiration Is Everywhere

Art doesn't always begin with a brush or pen. Sometimes, it starts with how we notice the world:

- · The way steam curls off a mug.
- The texture of tree bark after a thunderstorm.
- The shadow of your own hand reaching across a sunlit canvas.

By giving ourselves the gift of being present, creativity finds its way quietly into our days" – delighting us when we least expect it.

Take a moment to visit the local art exhibits still running through the summer. Wander the Whyte Avenue Art Walk. Talk to other creators. Observe, admire, absorb.

September Will Be Here Before We Know It

And when we reunite? Oh, what stories we'll have to tell.

The fall return of the Edmonton Art Club always brings with it a jolt of electricity – new faces, renewed energy, and a bursting sense of possibility. We'll gather around canvases once more, share what we've created, and lift one another up in that magical way only artists can.

If you're returning in September, consider bringing a piece that represents your "summer lens" – something small or simple that captured what inspired you during the hiatus. It doesn't need to be finished, or even polished. The beauty lies in sharing the journey.

To Our Community

To all our fellow artists, hobbyists, and art enthusiasts across Edmonton – whether you're a longtime member or someone who just wandered into one of our exhibits and found yourself moved – this message is for you too.

Your creativity is valid. Your art adds value to the world. And your story is worth telling through every brushstroke, sketch, sculpture, or photograph you create.

The arts are not just a mirror – they're a bridge. They connect us across backgrounds, generations, and experiences. And we are all better for that connection.

A Final Note Before the Pause

Take this summer to live colorfully. Let your senses guide you – the sounds of buskers downtown, the vivid turquoise of a rain-washed sky, the scent of lilacs and oil paint. These are all tools in your creative kit, whether you realize it or not.

We don't stop being artists just because we stop attending meetings. If anything, this is the season that reminds us art is everywhere – not just on canvas, but in how we move through the world.

So, rest if you need. Travel if you can. Reflect, recharge, and reconnect – with nature, with yourself, and with that irrepressible spark inside you that longs to create.

We'll see you in September. Until then, keep painting your world.

"It is my belief that we are the custodians of preserving and safeguarding the historical significance of the Edmonton Art Club." Seraya Smit is past-president and webdesigner for the Edmonton Art Club." Seraya Smit

SUMMER READING

Mary Frances Fitzgerald

As an avid reader, I was delighted to discover Libby, available through Alberta Libraries. With your free library card, you can read your books and magazines online.

Some of the magazines are:

- National Geographic
- Artists and Illustrators
- Native American Magazine
- International Artist
- Arte MagazineArtMagazine
- Southwest Art
- CosmopolitanArtists: Back to Basics
- Crate Magazine

Some books you might enjoy are:

- Chateau de Versailles
- The Artists Way
- The Creative Act
- Find Your Artistic Voice

See What You Are Missing!





Cinema for Seniors 2nd Friday of the month from 2-4:30pm \$5 for Seniors

Join us for a film screening inspired by art and our current exhibitions. Following the film, guests are invited to a 30-minute discussion, including tea and treats. Please visit our website to learn which film we are viewing each month, and to register in advance.

Seniors' Tours Last Friday of the month from 2-3pm Free with admission

Every month we visit a new exhibition at the AGA for a too or program led by our incredible Curators and Educators. Please visit our website to learn which exhibition we are visiting each month and to register in advance.



The AFA believes in the full and equal participation of all citizens in the economy, polity, and society. The AFA manifests this belief through its policies and programs that promote inclusive citizenship in two distinct ways: in the arts and through the arts.

https://www.affta.ab.ca/EDIA

- In the arts means encouraging a diversity of artists, arts organizations, and audiences to participate through inclusive access to opportunities and resources in the arts sector
- Through the arts refers to the use of art as a vehicle to help Albertans learn how to respond to differences in ways that enable dialogue, promote a sense of trust and belonging, and pave the way for innovation, vibrancy, and meaningful structural changes.

The objectives of the AFA's Pluralism Policy are to:

- Advance equity, diversity, inclusion, and access by committing to pluralism in the arts.
- Promote dialogue, understanding, AFA pluralism, and vibrancy by committing to a pluralist Alberta through the arts.
- Guide the implementation of the Pluralism Policy by the AFA.

See this short explainer video to learn more:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W60KcQ_gaYQ





CANADIAN OWNED ART SUPPLY BRANDS

Acrylic Paint:

Demco En Couleurs (Candiac, QC)

Kroma (Vancouver, BC)

Deserres in House Brand (QC)

Gwartzmann Acrylic (Toronto, ON)

Natural Earth Paint (Winnipeg, MB)

Opus House Brand (Vancouver, BC)

Tri-Art (Kingston, ON)

Oil Paint:

Kama Pigments (Montreal, QC)

Natural Earth Paint (Winnipeg, MB)

Demco En Couleurs (Candiac, QC)

Opus House Brand *mediums

only (Vancouver, BC)

*note: some art retailers may source their in-house supplies from other countries. While these brands are Canadian owned, they may source paint from other countrie









Watercolour/Gouache Paint:

BEAM Paints (M'Chigeenng First Nation, ON)

Stoneground Paint Co. (Regina, SK)

Humpbeck Studios (NS)

Natural Earth Paint (Winnipeg, MB)

Opus House Brand (Vancouver, BC) Drawing:

Nitram Charcoal

Misc. (canvases, paper, studio

supplies, brushes):

Gotrick/Apollon (QC)

St. Armand (QC) lots of the paint brans mentioned

also manufacture paint accessories!







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!











CARFAC Alberta works to promote and advocate for the visual arts in Alberta and help Alberta artists become more professional in their practice.

It is funded provincially and municipally and provides 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.

Member Benefits:

- Professional advice about best practices and rights of artists
- Advocacy on issues affecting the arts sector
- Information about intellectual property (copyright)
- Professional developement opportunities
- · And much more!

While we cannot speak all languages, it is our job to help all Alberta visual artists become more professional in their practice.

CARFAC Alberta Office & Project Space:

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

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

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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.