



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

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cover: backyard crab apple blossoms,  
photo by Rob Guetré



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

## FEATURED ARTIST

# Cynthia Carson



I'VE RECENTLY RELOCATED with my family from Cochrane to Edmonton, and am a new member of the Edmonton Art Club.

Professionally trained in photography, I've always had an affinity for the arts and crafts.

After marrying into a Métis family, I was taught the art of beading and making moccasins, which quickly became a favourite way to relax and unwind.



Vulnerable Beauty

However, in late 2017 everything changed in one second of one day. The "normal" I knew was gone forever.

I suffered a severe traumatic brain injury that left me fighting for my life.

I had to relearn a lot of things, reading, writing, walking without an aid, managing stairs, even putting jam on toast, and more.

Gone were the days of working as a senior administrative professional, peering through a camera looking for a great subject, or getting lost in crafting detailed beadwork.

There I was with shelves full of leather and boxes full of beads, which no longer had a purpose and were left forgotten where I had left them.

Until one day I visited someone's house and saw a piece of native art by an unknown artist. The only known thing about it was that it was sold at a native cultural festival years ago.

At the time I was in dire need of some rehabilitation to help me regain many lost skills. Unwilling to simply

give up and accept my fate, I decided to begin my own kind of rehabilitation.

I loved the idea of this piece of art, but no matter how much I've researched, I just couldn't find out more about it. It was a scene depicting a man dancing around a fire, crafted completely out of leather.

It is this piece of art, by an unknown artist, that gave me the idea to use up some of my leather.

In the beginning it was not at all about creating art. That is something that developed over time. It was all about relearning lost skills. It was a way to work on my cognitive function, fine motor skills, concentration, endurance and so much more.

I'd spend 5, 10, maybe even 20 minutes on a task before calling it a day. Cutting some leather, trying to make something, anything. Even if it didn't work out, I kept trying to make something.

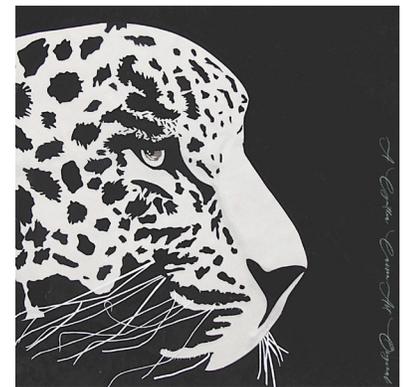
Each piece is significant as it has helped me to regain lost skills as well as work through trauma.

My art became a CAN in a world of CAN'T'S. And I've adopted the mantra "when life is filled with things you can no longer do, you need to find something you can do".

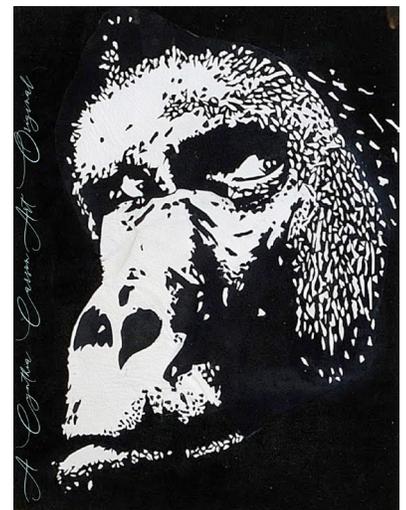
My art style developed over time, and is tremendously different from the piece that originally inspired me in giving this a try. I mainly use leather, and sometimes explore mixed media, with beads, feathers, pebbles, and epoxy resin.

To you my pieces of art may just be a leopard, a gorilla, dancing shoes, an hourglass, a brain, or a peacock. To me every single one was created with a specific idea in mind.

There is the leopard - *Perseverance*, which is part of my "Strength Within"



Perseverance



Confidence

# FEATURED ARTIST



*Illusion of Time*

series. A series that features pieces to remind us of how strong we truly are, even though we might not realize it until strength is the only option we have left. These are portrayed in animal form; as often we, as humans, recognize strength in animals but not in ourselves.

Or the gorilla - *Confidence*, which is a combination of the reason behind the "Strength Within" series and a reminder that even though our confidence might completely shatter, we are able to rebuild it and come out stronger, and be just as strong and confident as this gorilla looks.

There is *Illusion of Time* - A reminder to stop waiting and live life.

The Dancing Ballerina Series - which might imply a love for ballet and could certainly be seen as such, but was created to symbolize that even though one might not be physically able to dance, we can still let our souls dance.

*Vulnerable Beauty* - maybe it's just a peacock. For me it's a reminder of how fragile life is.

And there is *Brain Injury Puzzle*, a piece I've created in recognition of Brain Injury Awareness

Month. It was a very significant piece for me, displaying that we still have the pieces though they no longer fit where they once belonged. This piece has found a new home in a psychologist's office.

I fully realize that to whoever bought, or buys my pieces in the future, they likely will mean something very different, and that is perfectly OK. These are the ideas that inspired their creation.

Ideas that might come to me while driving, when I tell my husband to make a note on my phone of some cryptic message that doesn't seem to make any sense but gives me the clue as to where my thoughts were at the time.

My style is still evolving, I like to try new things. I don't think there is a right or wrong way to proceed. My pieces are tremendously different from the piece that inspired me to start. So far I have not come across anyone else using a similar method to create.

My life turned out different than planned or expected. The challenges of a TBI are at times very tough, but this art has given me a new purpose. A way to express myself. A way to work on something I enjoy, in my own way. There is no pressure of time.

If I don't feel well today, then I don't do anything. If I feel great, maybe I manage a whole hour. But every little bit I do adds up to these pieces shown here.

If you would like to follow me online, you may do so on Instagram and Facebook @CynCarsonArt. I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

CYNTHIA



*Dancing Ballerina Series*

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*Brain Injury Puzzle*





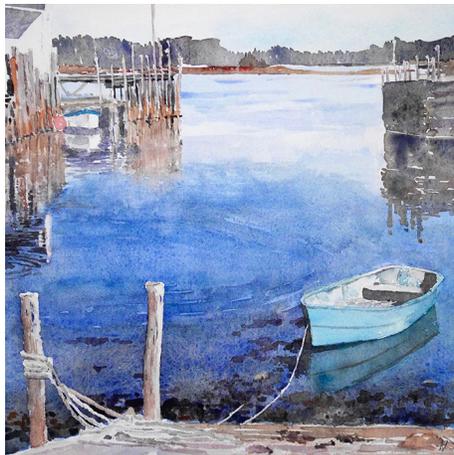
## Meet our April critic...

**I**ZABELLA ORZELSKI holds an MFA from the New York Academy of Art and a Ph.D. in Art Education from the University of Alberta. Her awards and grants include a Winspear Fund Grant and a Dahesh Museum Award in New York. Among her commissioned works is the lifesize portrait of Dr. Harriet Winspear, the late Honourable Lois E. Hole, former Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and of Dr. Grant MacEwan.

In collaboration with her husband and fellow artist, she has created a number of portrait series that were exhibited across Canada. Izabella has been an art instructor at the Faculty of Extension of the University of Alberta for the past 20 years. Additionally, she has been invited as a guest speaker to many international conferences.

Izabella strongly believes that it is possible to be both a passionate educator and an excellent artist.

Adapted from Izabella's website at <https://www.izabellaorzelski.com/>



**Ada Wong** Wonderful job the way you've used colour to your advantage, warm colours have been introduced wisely. There's enough tonal information without overdoing it. The movement in the water is good. Some shadows are missing under the rope and the bottom of the boat, some warmer colours needed.



**Andrew Bedingfield** Like the way the sphere is created, good colour gradation. Instrument could use work, rounding out the edge of the opening more like an ellipse rather than the pointed. The finger holes aren't even, and are differently sized. Colour gradations on the sphere could use more variety picking up colours from surroundings such as blues and yellows.



**Connie Clarke** Beautifully done. Good composition. Movement in the sky. Nice colour transitions, strong contrasts at the top becoming more subtle coming to the horizon. Like the treatment of trees and the play of warm and cool colours. Some of the strokes in the middle area are too well defined, diffusing them would improve things. Your cast shadows are good.

## Jake's Framing

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

# CRITIQUES



**Cynthia Carson** Really love this. Fantastic composition, the bird moves in one direction and the tree, the other. The colours, the shapes, there are so many things to discover. Good variety of colour in the leaves, the flowers compliment the bird. I am impressed.

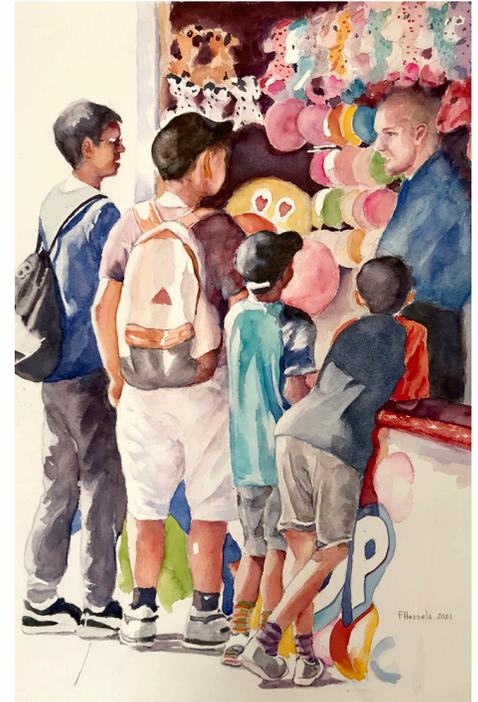


**Donna Chamberland** You have a beautiful technique. Warm and cool colours work well, nice brush strokes. There is a sense of movement, and the marks on the snow are well done. Something I noticed - there is a lot of space at the front of the painting, I would extend the water or include a bush or pebbles.



**Eleanor MacAllister** I like your minimal palette, the red really brings the eyes in to your composition. I would render the shadows more diagonally and not simply right to left. Subjects should be more carefully proportioned, looking at sizes of heads, of feet, the seated figure, etc.

**Frances Hessels** Very colourful. Each person well defined, we know what is going on. Need to counterbalance the diagonal line going from right to left, we need something to counterbalance this. The heads of the shorter boys seem small. These are little things. The animals and balloons look good.



**Jan Fraser** I like the contrast, the blues, purples, yellows, and reds. The bottom contrast may be a bit much. Very nice transition into back centre. There is an obvious yellowish line in the clouds, you could simply smear in a little white to lighten it.



# CRITIQUES

**Jani Galarneau** Love this very much. Reminds me of Art Nouveau, with the patterning and use of heavy line. There is organic movement, busy but not overstimulating. Very successful piece.



**Jenny Rodrigues** Mountains are painted a little too sharply, and their colours are too intense, use aerial perspective: lighter more muted treatment. The warm and cool colours in the trees are very good, but they are painted all the same way. No need for so much detail.



**Johanne Septou** I like the way the flowers crowd the edges. The vertical line of the stems should be made more diagonal. Add interest to the large areas of negative space by mixing your own black.



**Ruth Baker-Bailey** The water is nicely rendered. The mountain is too static, perhaps because it is centred in the picture. Bring the pink colour in behind the mountain. Introduce cooler colours and some yellows into the sky.

**Kerra Nelson** You work fluidly, nice movement. Give it even more movement by rotating the feather away from horizontal. I like how you have laid the colours and how you left some feathers open. Very good painting.



**Penny Lamnek** You are a very experienced painter. I see the music notes, nice touch. The introduction of warm and cool colours, this is a very successful painting. The right petals in the upper flower is looking flat to me, an easy fix.



**Marge Somkuti** Good composition, nice use of diagonal lines. Your use of warm colours on the right and cool colours on the left has worked well. The nose seems not at the correct angle. I like the cast shadow under the chin. Works well in warm colours. Maybe use a different colour for the leash.

# CRITIQUES



**Rhea Jansen** Very interesting painting, Lots of movement, yet not overpowering. You can easily recognize the subject, very well done. Neutral colours provide balance without overdoing.



**Lori Frank** Beautiful brushwork. The outline on the right side of the dog tends to flatten it when compared to the other side. Some little breaks along this edge will make a big difference, as well as around the nose and mouth areas.

**Sharon Bongers** Good rendering. Boost the contrast in the sky just right of the bear's head, lighten the snow and ice to the lower left. Too much of a halo around the bear's nose.



**Rob Guetre** Good proportions for the mother but not enough volume. This can be easily fixed by adding a purple glaze under the wings. An ultramarine blue glaze in the eye and adding blue to the sky would be a nice touch.



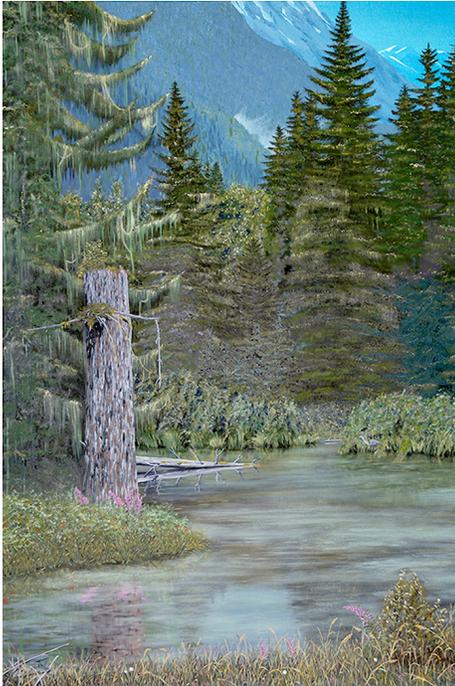
**Seraya Smit** Add variety in mountains by varying the planes and introducing another colour. Vary the greens in the trees also. Trees are always darker at the bottom, glaze some areas. Tone down the reds in the rocks in the centre area. Beautiful rendering of the water fall.



**Stanza Widen** Such a beautiful work. It seems you've included everything. Perhaps add something in the top right corner. All the butterflies everywhere and the flowers, there is something different to see each time you look at it. It is very peaceful.



# CRITIQUES



**Ted Widen** Very successful, the shadows and the reflections on the water, the colours, especially the variety of greens and the pinks throughout. Really impressed with the atmospheric perspective. It is busy, but there is a nice introduction into the space. You are an accomplished painter. The movement in the water is a nice effect.

**Betty Dean** A beautiful painting. It has a bit of an Oriental feel. The colours work very well, and the way you have created movement is good. The reflection on the water actually creates a feeling of temperature, most people forget about this. It's a beautiful piece, there is nothing to add, the composition and colours work well.



Urban Landscapes in Oil



R&F Pigment Sticks Demo



Colour Theory in Watercolour



## Online Classes and Zoom Demos



Figure Reference Photos



Watercolour on Yupo

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# HOW'S THAT BOOK COMING ALONG?

**Y**OU MAY HAVE HEARD that the Edmonton Art Club is in the process of producing a book as part of its centennial celebration.

Several months ago a committee of volunteers began meeting to tackle the logistics of publishing a book...it can't be all that difficult right? Don't they make computer programs for that?

Planning started for real in the summer of 2020 with the mural project. Members were asked to participate in the painting of tiles. They were also asked to submit a headshot and a brief biography, as well as "the best of your best" artwork to feature in the book. That same artwork will hang as part of the club's show at the Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) beginning in September.

The book committee, under Seraya's leadership, wants the mural and our individual contributions to be a central theme in the book. Those 96 tiles had to be individually photographed, re-assembled and glued onto a custom-made backing board, covered with resin, and finally framed. All of this was completed by February.

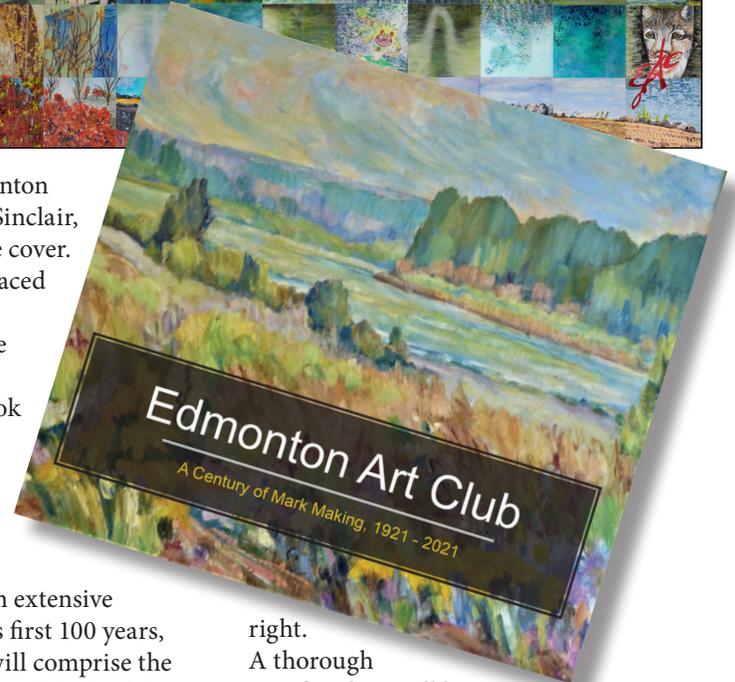
Seraya and Betty met with a print shop to get a quote for publishing the book. "How big do we want it to be? How many pages? How many copies? What kind of paper? Hardback or paperback? Do we have someone to do all the layout and send the files in?..." Ted was asked to work with the dozens of photos, ensuring correct size and clarity. He became part of the book committee when he asked if they could use some help preparing all the pages.

A painting by one of the founding



members of the Edmonton Art Club in 1921, J G Sinclair, will be featured on the cover. That same painting graced the cover of the 1987 book by the EAC, "The Changing Picture" (a copy of this earlier book may be downloaded from the EAC website by clicking on the "about us" tab).

As this report goes out, Betty is writing an extensive summary of the EAC's first 100 years, an introduction that will comprise the book's first pages. Most of the book has been laid out, pending final submissions. Each member has a two-page spread (see example pages to the left). Members' artworks will occupy the left side of the spread, with the other information on the



right.

A thorough proofreading will be done, and the committee hopes the books will be available some time in May.

The price of the book is set at \$50 each. Connie has organized a major fundraising campaign with the ATB (Alberta Treasury Branches). Details can be found on the our website under the Home tab, click on "ATB boostR fundraising campaign." Also on the Home Page you can click on "Order Here" in the middle of the section.

With the Mural Project completed, and nearing the completion of the Commemorative Book, we will soon have only the third project to work toward... the EAC show at the AGA.

These three projects are our centennial celebration as Edmonton's oldest continuing club.

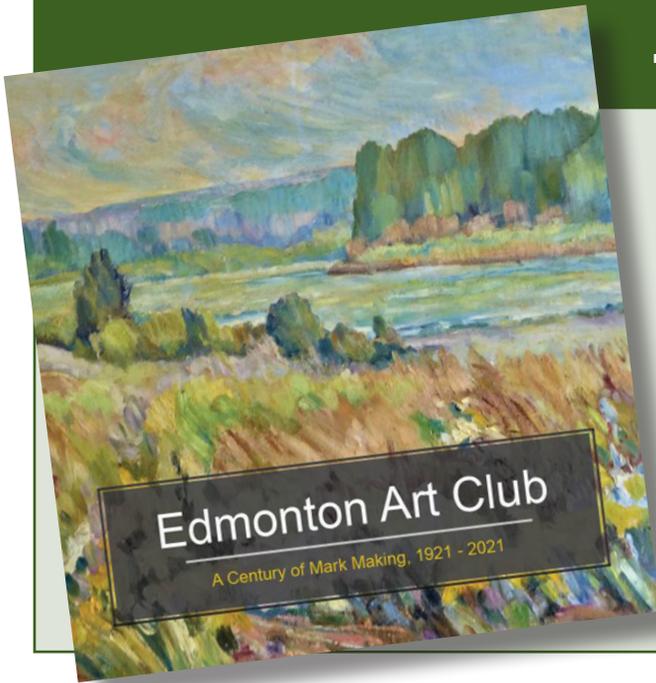


# THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO GET YOUR HANDS ON A COPY

You can purchase Edmonton Art Club's Commemorative Book by clicking on the following link:  
<https://app.atbboostr.ca/offering/edmontonartclub100thanniversarycommemorativebook>

or you can send an e-transfer for \$50 to [edmartclub.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:edmartclub.treasurer@gmail.com)  
or you can mail a cheque to the EAC Treasurer

Contact Connie Clarke at 780.862.4038 to make arrangements.



From CKUA headquarters in the lobby of the Alberta Hotel, ATB Branch for Arts and Culture presents 



## All the Notes We Cannot Hear

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Edmonton Art Club

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Saturday, May 1st to Saturday, July 31st  
at the ATB Branch for Arts and Culture  
9804 Jasper Ave [www.edmontonartclub.com](http://www.edmontonartclub.com)

The image is a poster for an art show. It features a central illustration of musical instruments: a guitar, a drum, and a double bass, rendered in a stylized, expressive manner with bold colors and visible brushstrokes. The title 'All the Notes We Cannot Hear' is written in a large, yellow, cursive font across the top. Text at the bottom provides details about the 100th anniversary celebration and the 'Save the Date' for the art show.

## ART SHOW

MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL

October 8 – December 3, 2021  
schedule (Admitting Hallway)  
16940 87 Avenue, Edmonton

The image is a poster for an art show. It features a large, abstract, colorful artwork in the background, composed of various shades of pink, purple, blue, and red, with organic, flowing shapes. The text 'ART SHOW' is prominently displayed in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the location 'MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL' and the dates 'October 8 – December 3, 2021' are listed. The schedule is noted as 'schedule (Admitting Hallway)' and the address is '16940 87 Avenue, Edmonton'. Logos for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and CARFAC ALBERTA are at the bottom.

Virtual Show will begin on May 9th  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW



# Edmonton Art Club Celebrating 100 Years

1921 - 2021

The Edmonton Art Club is a professional association for visual artists with a mandate to promote the visual arts through exhibitions, special projects and arts advocacy. It is an environment of artists gathering to explore creativity.

Friendships are established, information is shared, opinions and ideas are exchanged in a supportive environment.



Artwork: J. Gordon Sinclair  
"Tawatinaw Creek Country"

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

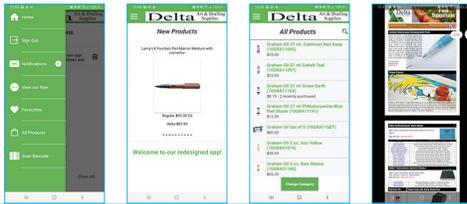
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# A CALL...AND AN OPPORTUNITY!



## THIS PUBLISHING ROYALTY OPPORTUNITY IS FOR ARTISTS THAT HAVE CREATED COLOUR WORKS OF EDMONTON AREA LANDSCAPES AND CITYSCAPES

Victoria based Timeline Paper Co., is producing an art calendar for 2022 featuring artwork based on notable Edmonton locations and engaging profiles of each included artist. The twelve artists selected will receive a royalty of 0.77% of the sales of these calendars, which will be sold primarily to professional services businesses and through tourism and paper product retailers in the Edmonton area, as well as Timeline's online clients.

Timeline is providing online and offline co-marketing with the artists during the month their work is featured in the calendar, as well as a print-on-demand option for artists, producing

high quality canvas reproductions of the feature works with a commission of 40% to the artists after expenses.

St. Albert artist Rick Rogers (SWCA) has been engaged by Timeline to curate the works to be included in the calendar. Visit Timeline's site for submissions of works at <https://timelinepaper.co/blogs/blog/call-for-artists-2021-timeline-art-calendars>. The full prospectus is presented on this page.

Please contact Rick directly by email: [artist@rickrogers.art](mailto:artist@rickrogers.art) if you have questions or concerns that are not addressed in this prospectus.

**Deadline for submissions is May 15th**



**The Loft Art Gallery & Gift Shop of the Art Society of Strathcona County is OPEN!**

*Saturdays & Sundays  
from 12 noon to 4 pm.  
at the Ottewell Centre (the Red Barn)  
590 Broadmoor Blvd, Sherwood Park*

Feature Artist is member,  
**Marilyn Rife**  
New beautiful artist-made  
gifts and artwork  
from member artists

Support your local artists with a visit to the Loft!!  
[www.artstrathcona.com](http://www.artstrathcona.com) or [artsoc@telus.net](mailto:artsoc@telus.net)

# THANK YOU!

Thanks to Colours, DeltaArt and Drafting Supplies, The Paint Spot, and the Strathcona Art Society for their on-going 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



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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)