



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



February 2025

EAC

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EDMONTON ART CLUB
edmontonartclub.com

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cover art: photo by Rob Guetre

CRITIQUES



Meet Crystal Driedger, our critic for the January meeting!

CRYSTAL DRIEDGER is an artist and illustrator with a passion for exploring the natural world. She graduated from the Design program from MacEwan University, specializing in Illustration, and has spent the past 20 years immersed in the fine art and illustration world. Crystal's work celebrates the diversity and richness of plants and animals in both wild and urban environments. Her art is a beautiful testament to the intricacies of nature, capturing the unique textures, colours, and personalities of everything from cows to heirloom vegetables. Through her art, Crystal reminds us of the value and importance of the natural world and encourages us to take notice of the beauty that exists in even the smallest of creatures and plants. Her work is a testament to the power of art to inspire, engage, and connect us to the world around us. Her work has been exhibited and sold internationally; her illustrations are on products worldwide. She is a scientific and botanical illustrator and a nationally recognized painter as well.

Adapted from Crystal's website at <https://www.crystaldriedger.com/about>



RICHARD ST. AMANT

The atmospheric perspective is beautiful. Very captivating with the bits of colour in the background. The sky is energizing. It could be a bit calmer.



MARY FITZGERALD

This is fantastic! The mustard yellow colour could be warmed up a bit by adding orange. The texture on the right could be carried through to the left. This is very playful and the textures and shapes are interesting.



MEHAR KAUR

I really like the uniqueness of this. The mark making and splattering is effective in some of the scenes. The perspective looks great. These scenes are very relatable views. Suggestion is to make a theme when doing a collage for story telling.



LINDA NELSON

A difficult scene to paint but I love its complexity. Your focal point needs to stand out more. The colours are beautiful and vibrant. Tones in the background could be glazed back.



M SALAYI

Beautiful brush work. The girl's expression makes you wonder what she is thinking. The fabric has beautiful texture. I love the details and the transparency. The hat could be glazed a bit on the sides to impart volume. The eyes need to be darkened a tiny bit.

CRITIQUES



PENNY LAMNEK

Beautiful colours and details. Darker blue could advance towards the bottom right. Beautiful converging lines. Another pink flower could be added/moved to the gold sphere in the upper right.



DEBRA MCGINNIS

Beautiful mark making reflections and perspective. The darker strip in the back could be lighter. The river could be raised up on the bottom to enhance the composition.



ROB GUETRE

The background is perfectly blurred and balanced. The warm under painting gives this piece a nice consistency. The composition is great as the leaves are just off centre. The upper branch could be swept off the page. The veining of some leaves should follow their contours.



ADA WONG

The clouds, mountains and background are beautiful. The branches could be extended a little. The yellow stripe in mid fore ground could be toned down a touch. Beautiful atmospheric perspective.



REBECCA VIEZEL

This is very exciting and the I feel the "grief". Suggest using 80% grey for the face, adding a subtle stem, and pop of colour in the middle of the flower is recommended.



JANI GALARNEAU

This is a vibrant, colourful mixed media piece. The joyfulness is captured through the colours. More lighting on the octopus's head is needed by using a few highlights. The blue rings on the tentacle's could be fatten up a bit.

CRITIQUES



JAMES TORDIFF

Dynamic composition, good sense of depth. The hatching on the right is a bit heavy, and contour lines would work well. Adding a bit of gold ink to the sky would finish off this piece nicely.



KEVIN BIGELOW

This has great lines and shadows, very precise. Shadows are mapped out nicely. The shadow on the hippo's belly could be toned down. Consider warming the blues a bit.



YVONNE BILAN-WALLACE

Unique; excellent craftsmanship. Perhaps yellowish white stitching into the outline of the face in the black area would help emphasize the face.



MICHAELA YANISH

Love the colour palette! The light from the candles should cast a glow on the hair and face. A very intriguing painting to explore which makes this very exciting.



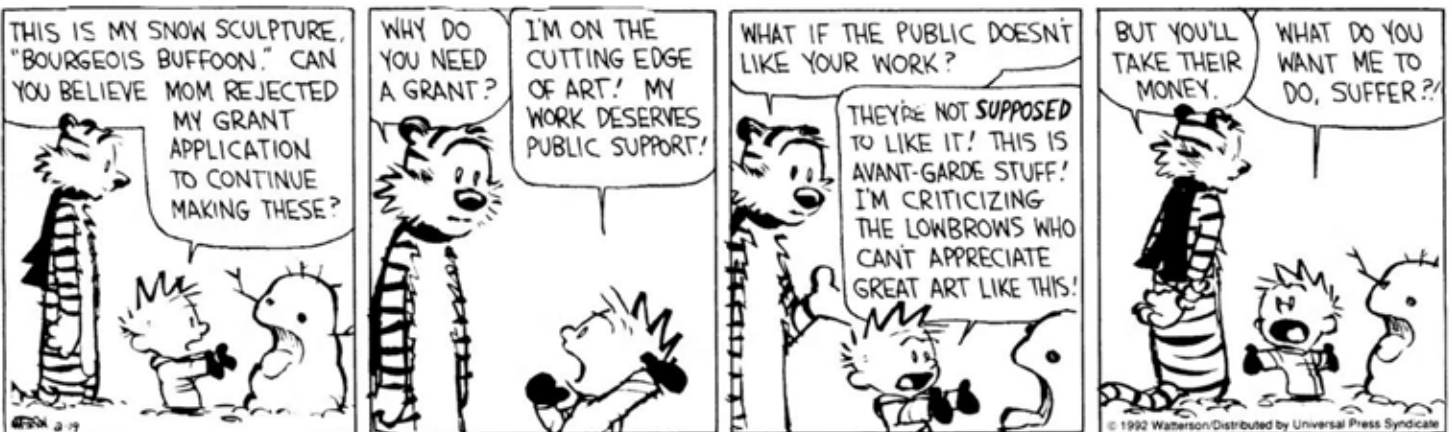
JENNY RODRIGUE

Natural palette. Add reflected off the fruit and leaves, and warm tones for added contrast in foreground. The leaf veins need to follow leaf contour.



PUNITA CHOHAN

Lovely colour palette. Looking at the boat, perspective could be off. Like the gritty texture using the white.



CRITIQUES



SERAYA SMIT

Beautiful and emotional. Nice lighting. Maybe tighten up the background a bit by adding a bit more forest.



MYRNA WILKINSON

Nice display of muted colours and shadows. The sky could be lightened up a touch.



JUDY WHITE

Good lighting, emotional quality and colour choices. Suggest adding a puddle under the bridge, top right, to communicate the walkway's disrepair.

OPPORTUNITY: A Different Art Perspective

Hey everyone, Here's a wonderful opportunity for Creative Arts Therapist – World ART THERAPY Conference 2025 is a FREE online conference with expert speakers covering topics of Arts Therapies and Neuroscience, working with grief, death and loss; and The Role of Art Materials and Techniques. I attended the Creative Summit, hosted by Creative Art Therapies Events and found it inspiring and educational.

Dates: February 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 2025

The broadcast will start 2pm Sydney time.

Register here: <https://www.artstherapies.org/.../world-art-therapy...>

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES EVENTS

2025

WORLD ART THERAPY CONFERENCE

ONLINE | FREE
FEBRUARY 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 2025
WWW.ARTTHERAPIES.ORG
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Art Intentions with Art Making

M F Fitzgerald

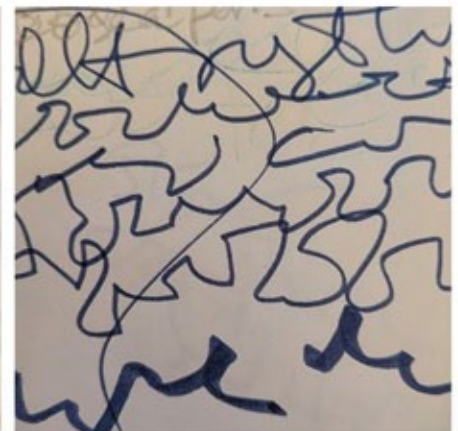
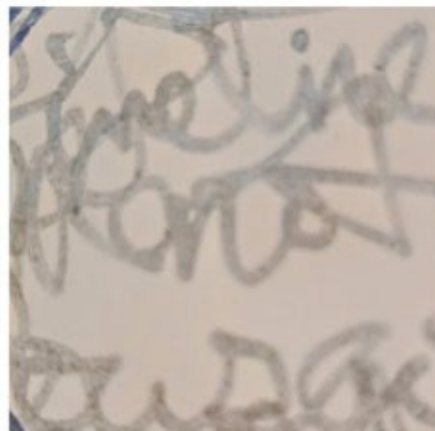
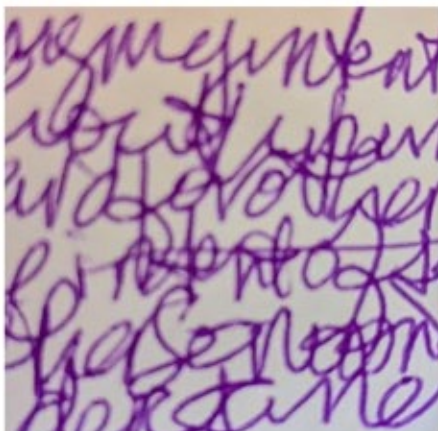
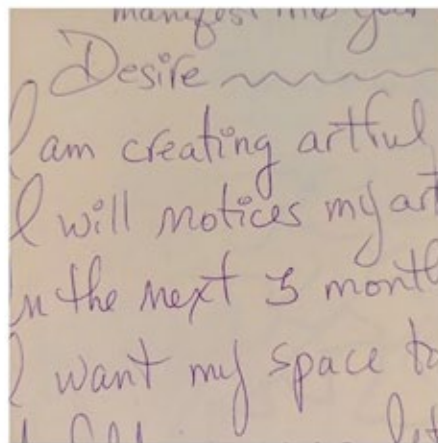
A **SAN EDUCATOR**, I often taught goal setting and the steps to achieve one's goals. I am sure we have all done that at some point, especially at the start of the New Year. However, "researchers suggest that only 9% of Americans who make resolutions complete them. In fact, research goes on to show that 23% of people quit their resolutions by the end of the first week, and 43% quit by the end of January" (osu.edu). Other researchers suggest that only 9% of Americans who make resolutions complete them or that 90% fail to reach their goals. Therefore, I appreciate setting intentions.

An intention is different from goal setting. Goals are focused on the future. Intentions are in the present moment. Goals are a destination or specific achievement. Intentions are lived each day, independent of achieving the goal or destination. Goals are external achievements. Intentions are about your relationship with yourself and others.

In early January 2025, I took a free introductory collage course with Catherine Rains, and her first task was to help us set up our artistic intentions. As we

thought privately about our art intentions, we were asked to write them on fresh paper and rewrite our intentions to fill the page. Next, we were asked to write our intentions in a squished manner so that no one could decipher the writing – no breaks between words. This was more like mark-making than writing. Then, we were encouraged to experiment, explore with our different pens and colours, and write on tissue paper. Finally, we were to use 'asemic writing,' mark-making that looks like writing; however, it is not discernible and has no semantic content of actual meaning. We aim to chop up, rip up, and reuse these papers for collage-making.

During our 15 minute session, Catherine offered ideas, such as saying and repeating your intentions aloud every day – like when driving or walking. Also, she briefly discussed that intentions may shift and change as our needs shift over time. She also shares that visiting one's intentions every three months is an idea that shifts with the seasons. I will work on thinking of my intentions daily and start talking to myself aloud. Don't worry, I will be working on my intentions.



<https://fisher.osu.edu/blogs/leadreadtoday/why-most-new-years-resolutions-fail>

Art Lovers Book Club

Michaela Yanish

In October, I attended the Art Lover's Book Club at the Sherwood Park Library, where we read *Bad Cree* by Jessica Johns. Jessica Johns is a Canadian writer and visual artist from Edmonton, Alberta. The book is a gripping debut tinged with supernatural horror, following a young Cree woman named Mackenzie. Her dreams lead her on a perilous journey of self-discovery, forcing her to confront the history of violence on her family, community, and the land they call home.

We gathered around a table to share our opinions, thoughts, and feelings about the book. Afterward, we toured the art gallery, which featured the **Landwatch - Evolution** exhibition by Lynn Malin. The artist creates paintings on thin sheets of Lexan, which are then mounted on larger plexiglass sheets and displayed with backlighting. She uses various tools to add texture to her work, such as chain link fence, mesh, and lace. This collection focused on



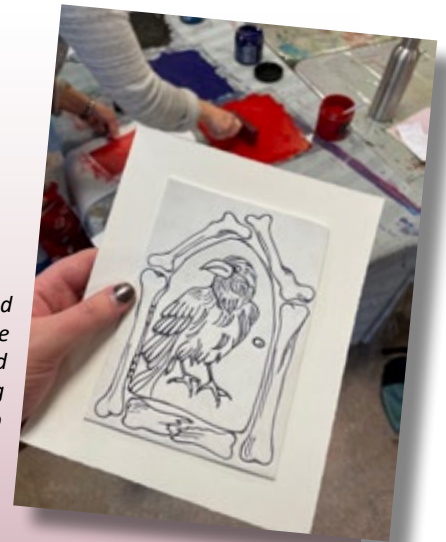
the landscapes of Strathcona County, using inspiration from aerial photographs.

Next, we moved to the art studio to start our project: creating a piece inspired by linocutting, but using foam instead of linoleum. Our wonderful host explained the process in detail. We began by drawing and planning our designs on paper.



Once we were satisfied with our sketches, we transferred them onto foam blocks.

Carving into the foam with pens and pencils required patience and precision. We carefully pressed into the foam to create our designs. After carving, we applied ink to the surface of the foam using a roller, ensuring an even coat. Finally, we pressed the inked foam onto paper to create our prints.



It was my first experience with this type of printing, and I found it quite challenging. Carving the piece in reverse so that the image would print correctly was particularly difficult for me. This is definitely a skill I need to practice more, and I would love to attempt actual linocutting in the future!



On The Horizon - Edmonton Blues

- Join us for an extraordinary art exhibition, "Edmonton Blues," where creativity knows no bounds.
- We invite our artists to submit their masterpieces on an unframed 12 x 12 substrate, exploring the diverse and subjective theme of Edmonton Blues.
- Whether it's the vibrant hues of the city's skyline, the soulful rhythms of its music scene, the serene beauty of its river valleys, the dynamic energy of its festivals, the rich history of its architecture, or the unique charm of its neighborhoods, we want to see your unique interpretation.
- This is your chance to showcase your talent and be part of a captivating collection that celebrates the essence of Edmonton. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow artists and art enthusiasts.
- Register now and let your art shine!



Black Cat Ranch

\$300 Double Occupancy

\$450 Single Occupancy

May 2 to May 4, 2025

Bissett Stained Glass

Bissett Stained Glass, Parsons Road Northwest,
Edmonton, AB, Canada

Instructor: Sharon Moore-Foster

Facilitated Art Retreat with Sharon Moore-Foster

Our February 2025 Critic Francis Marte



Jani Galarneau

President



Mary Frances Fitzgerald

Vice President



Seraya Smit

Past President



Penny Lamnek

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Michaela Yanish

Recording Secretary

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Historical Art Auctions

M F Fitzgerald

<https://www.gallerieswest.ca/magazine/historical-art/auction-report-fall-2024/>

ONE OF MY FAVORITE ART WEBSITES is Galleries West. This monthly magazine hosted *The Auction Report Fall 2024* by Douglas Maclean. The January 6, 2025 facebook post is fabulous. Seeing the fabulous amounts of money spent on art, viewing the paintings on your large screens is an art lesson in itself.

Galleries West was launched in 2002 by Calgary publisher Tom Tait after he noticed that artists and exhibitions in Western Canada often received little attention outside their local communities. The print magazine, with a circulation ranging from 17,000 to 28,000 copies, was distributed through art galleries at

no charge to readers three times a year. After 15 years, in 2017 Galleries West moved to an exclusively digital model, seeking to build community engagement through the immediacy of digital technology. The magazine, which releases a new issue every second Tuesday, is accessible on all digital platforms and devices without an app or a pay wall. *Sign up now.*



Call for Artists

In 2025, The Paint Spot is celebrating 40 years of providing beautiful materials to inspire creativity. It's a great opportunity to pay homage to what makes The Paint Spot special – ART SUPPLIES and of course, YOU – our community of artists.

Paint your favourite art supplies and we'll display them. Let's fill our gallery and store from front to back and side to side, with 200+ paintings. Think of images of beautifully squished tubes of paint; sun reflecting light on dirty water cups; bouquets of paint brushes; a line-up pencils, and beautifully arranged ceramic palettes. The more 'in-use' the better and you may include easels, tables and studio spaces. It is an opportunity to focus on lighting and composition.

We are open to a range of interpretations, techniques and styles. Any medium is permitted—painting, drawing, collage, encaustic, and so on. The scope is intentionally broad to be as inclusive as possible.

Everyone is invited to participate! Here's how...

- Get a 12x12" gallery profile canvas or birch panel.
- Create an image related to the theme of art supplies.
- Deadline for delivery is between June 1 - 30, 2025. (The exhibition runs July 4 to Aug 26, 2025).

#fortheloveofartsupplies.



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PAINTSPOT.CA

February Sale
SAVE 10% - 30%

GALLERY

ART CLASSES

ART SUPPLIES

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!



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



10441 123 Street NW, Edmonton



10032 - 81 Ave NW, Edmonton



11116 - 120 Street NW, Edmonton



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.



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

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