Summer 2026

EAC

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cover photo by maria holowinsky

EST. 1921 edmontonartclub.com

CRITIQUE

compiled by Jenny Rodrigue

Karen Bishop, our critic

KAREN WAS BORN IN CHELTENHAM, ENGLAND, and moved to Kingston, Ontario, in the winter of 1992. When she first arrived in Canada she was unable to work while she waited for her papers, so she made use of the time by enrolling in some art classes which she enjoyed very much. In 1996 she moved to Edmonton and in 2002 graduated from the University of Alberta's Extension Centre with a Fine Arts certificate. Since 2007 she has been pursuing her art full time and between May of 2011 and January of 2016 she co-owned and operated The Daffodil Gallery in the heart of Edmonton's Gallery district.

adapted from *https://www.karenbishop.ca/*

PUNITA CHOHAN

A lovely piece evoking mystery. Beautiful line work. A middle value above the foreground would enhance the sense of depth. A few highlights would lighten up the foreground.

BETTY DEAN

The purple and vibrant white work well together. Take some of the bluish white into the leaves to create interest. A touch of pink would play up the purple in the upper curl of the lily.

JANI GALARNEAU

Love the composition. Brighten up the leaning bird by introducing gold into the highlights to create more definition in the two birds.

ADA WONG

Lovely way of creating distance. The middle grey rock could be tucked in the left foliage. The railing is very nice, and the eye flows nicely in this painting.

JOHANNE SEPTOU

I like the shine and this has nice visual pathways. The white stones could be varied in size. Try brighter red around the dark stones. A rectangular format may suit this best.

DONNA CHAMBERLAND

The values are laid out beautifully in this painting. The foreground could benefit from additional bright yellow highlights.

RICHARD ST. AMANT

Love the look of medieval armor. The wool twisted beard is a nice touch. The air of mystery in the eyes. The red in the mouth is distracting. This is a very fun piece.

M SALAYI

Fabulous oil painting! The mist is very good. The mark making is lovely.

MARY FRANCES FITZGERALD

A great idea with natural material evoking Totem vibes. The base is nicely done, has an organic feel. The shell in the middle is heavy and could be painted. Paint the backside of the white bits of paper. Love the treatment of the back of the sculpture.

KATY LEENDERS

Beautiful background and beautifully painted. The whale could be a bit bigger.

JOAN MCCRACKEN

This piece leads to imagination, and the colours are well done giving the adobe, desert vibe. Straighten out the middle steps on ladder to match the perspective of the window. The ladder needs to be wider on the bottom and the shade in a darker value. The ladder could appear aged by making it ricketier.

SERAYA SMIT

This evokes a peaceful feeling. The warm and cool colours work well together. Perhaps add some orange and yellow hues to the rocks on the left side's shadows. Break up the sharp line reflection in the water on the right-hand side. The greyed down tones enhance distance perspective nicely.

MARIA HOLOWINSKY

The dog has spectacular eyes and nose. More depth in fur is needed. A darker value of shadow is needed under the dog. This dog is caged in with a wire fence. The wires could be added in before the fur on the dog is enhanced.

FRANCES HESSELS

Amazing! The face is beautifully done and evokes a mystery. The red lines on the left behind the man could be toned down.

ERICA DIRK

Fascinating use of pink making this a fun pose. Exciting, very good!

MEHAR KAUR

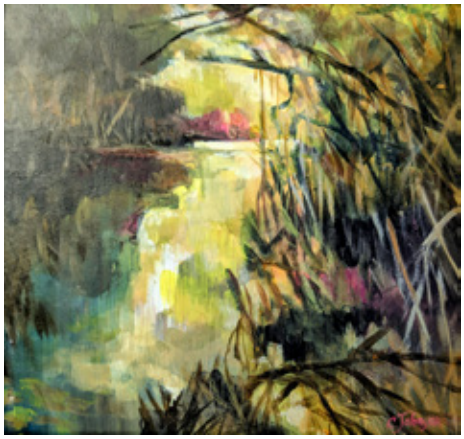
A lovely, beautiful bird. Suggestion of including more subtle branches to break up the background colour.

MARISSA CHAPMAN

I love the distance created by the waves in the ocean. The frothy waves create a mystery. A unique style with great mark making patterns. Soften the upper middle cloud by adding white and losing the pointy bit on the lower left-hand side.

KEVIN BIGELOW

Love the background and the colours. Have him set down on the platform. Maybe add shadow underneath the badger. Touches of light pink in the fur might increase the drama.



CHERYL JOHNSON

A spectacular piece with a lovely path leading to a mysterious red in the background. The variety of mark making used energized this painting.

JANET FRASER

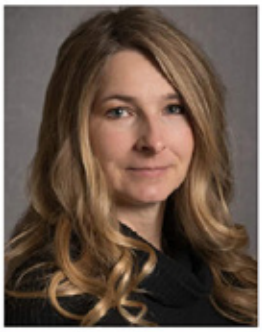
A great Prairie Scene with a lovely stream. Tuck the stream a bit behind the foreground. Brush stroke some grassy textures towards the middle above the foreground.

NEIL NICOLL

Gorgeous and a great painting. More splashes of water required on the right side.

YVONNE BILAN-WALLACE

Amazing technique with lovely, embedded silk textures. The open centre works brilliantly. The trees breaking out the frame is a nice technique. The darker tree on the left side needs more branches. The white trees on the left are a little too similar and could benefit with more varied branches.



September Critic

TAMMY TAYLOR

CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER!

OPEN STUDIO WILL RESUME AFTER SUMMER BREAK

the next Open Studio will be in September

email Betty at marydean@telus.net for more information and location

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

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Edmonton Art Club

Established in 1921 – Where Artists Belong

Join a Legacy of Creativity

- Exhibit and sell your work in group and juried shows
- Receive monthly critiques from accredited art professionals
- Grow through workshops, mentorship, and annual scholarships
- Enjoy exclusive discounts at select art retailers
- Be featured on our internationally recognized website

More than a club – it's a community.

Whether you're emerging or established, we welcome your voice, your vision, your art.

The Orange Hub, Room 440
10045-156 Street NW, Edmonton AB T5P 2P7

Contact us today! www.edmontonartclub.com

CANADIAN OWNED ART SUPPLY BRANDS

ACRYLIC

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

Kama Pigments (Montreal, QC)

Kama Pigments (Montreal, QC)

Natural Earth Paint (Winnipeg, MB)

Demco En Couleurs (Candiac, QC)

Opus House Brand -- mediums only (Vancouver, BC)

WATERCOLOUR / GOUACHE

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

MISCELLANEOUS

(canvases, paper, studio supplies, brushes)

Gotrick/Apollon (QC)

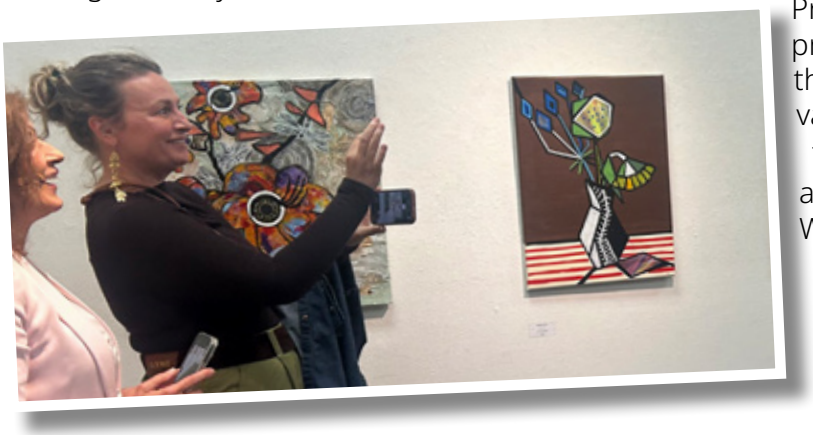
St. Armand (QC)

Lots of the paint brands mentioned also manufacture paint accessories!

*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 countries.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES: FLOWERS III

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES: FLOWERS III, is an 8-week course at The Paint Spot in which participants explored the work of 4 artists, imitated their styles and developed a finished work in the style of one artist. Through a series of structured assignments designed by instructor Samantha Walrod, participants explored flower drawing with acrylic and other mixed media. They experimented with the practices of Lee Krasner, Kurt Schwitters, Vincent Van Gogh, and Sonia Delauney to create rhythm and mood in their work. The course culminated with an exhibit of participants' work at the Naess Gallery on June 4 and the exhibit reflected a diverse range of styles and techniques. Scheduled to run in spring 2027, Professional Practices will again focus on developing professional practices and learning about the artistic vocabulary and techniques of a variety of artists.



To find out about spring 2027 dates and new artists profiled, join Samantha Walrod's mailing list at *samantha.walrod.art@gmail.com*.

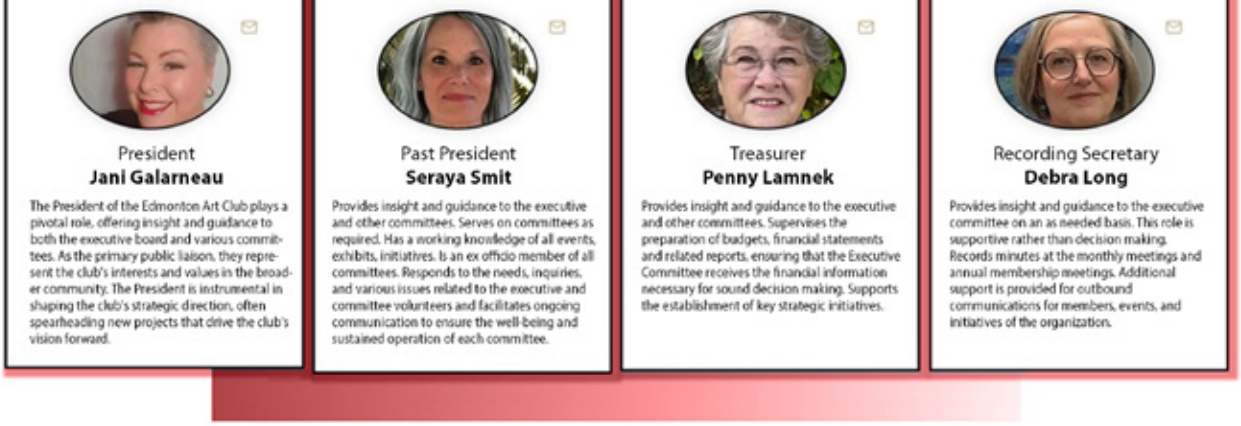
Jeff Olson holds a BA and MFA in painting and drawing and is a working artist exhibiting for more than thirty years. He has more than a decade of college and university teaching experience in studio art, and more than twenty-five years in the art materials. Olson's lectures deliver meaningful insights into the history, development, and application of artists' materials.

Oil painting has often been compared to alchemy: a process of transformation in which simple materials become something luminous, expressive, and alive. While the medium may seem mysterious at first, its "secrets" are easier to understand than you might think.

Join Jeff Olson, Royal Talens Art Education Director, for a lively introduction to the history, composition, and creative possibilities of oil painting. Participants will learn how oil paints and mediums are made, how to choose and use materials, and how to build paintings through a series of practical, step-by-step techniques.

The talk will include a comparison of Rembrandt professional-grade oils and Van Gogh artist-grade oils, highlighting the features and benefits of each.

Join us and receive the vocabulary and confidence you need to begin exploring the unique possibilities of oils.



President
Jani Galarneau

The President of the Edmonton Art Club plays a pivotal role, offering insight and guidance to both the executive board and various committees. As the primary public liaison, they represent the club's interests and values in the broader community. The President is instrumental in shaping the club's strategic direction, often spearheading new projects that drive the club's vision forward.

Past President
Seraya Smit

Provides insight and guidance to the executive and other committees. Serves on committees as required. Has a working knowledge of all events, exhibits, initiatives. Is an ex officio member of all committees. Responds to the needs, inquiries, and various issues related to the executive and committee volunteers and facilitates ongoing communication to ensure the well-being and sustained operation of each committee.

Treasurer
Penny Lamnek

Provides insight and guidance to the executive and other committees. Supervises the preparation of budgets, financial statements and related reports, ensuring that the Executive Committee receives the financial information necessary for sound decision making. Supports the establishment of key strategic initiatives.

Recording Secretary
Debra Long

Provides insight and guidance to the executive committee on an as needed basis. This role is supportive rather than decision making. Records minutes at the monthly meetings and annual membership meetings. Additional support is provided for outbound communications for members, events, and initiatives of the organization.

Meet Our Executive Team

Scholarship Recognition 2026

Congratulations to Our 2026 Scholarship Recipients

We proudly recognize this year's honorees:

- Yvonne Bilan-Wallace and Mary Frances Fitzgerald, recipients of the Card Alling Scholarship
- Seraya Smit, recipient of the Mildred Nelson Scholarship

Our sincere thanks to this year's Scholarship Committee – Betty Dean, Penny Lamnek, and Lorie Meyer – and to moderator Karen Bishop for their thoughtful guidance and dedication.

Next year's committee will be composed of this year's scholarship recipients.

Honourary Nominations

Betty Dean

Jan Fraser

Johanne Septou

WHY OIL PAINTING?

by M Salayi

NOT EVERYONE CAN TOLERATE THE FUMES of traditional oil paints, and they are certainly messier than water-mixable alternatives. Even so, oil painting remains the preferred medium for many artists.

If you are patient enough to work with its slow drying time, oil paint offers unique advantages that are difficult to find elsewhere. Its rich, buttery consistency and excellent flow make painting a pleasure, while the extended drying time allows for effortless blending and color mixing both on the canvas and the palette.

Oil paint is particularly well suited for portrait and figurative work, where subtle transitions and a wide range of flesh tones are essential. It is also an ideal medium for artists who enjoy bold brushstrokes, visible texture, and impasto techniques.

To minimize yellowing over time, I recommend using linseed oil sparingly when mixing colors. In my experience, clean solvent often works better for this purpose while maintaining the paint's handling qualities and promoting faster drying.

PUBLIC DOMAIN COPYRIGHT RULES EXPLAINED

Mary Frances Fitzgerald

ONE OF MY FAVORITE WEBSITES is the *Public Domain Image Library*. It is so much fun and highly educational. While teaching in secondary and post-secondary, it was and still is important for students to understand copyright. Certainly in the current times with the prevalence of Artificial Intelligence, it is more important than ever. If you have time, check out the site (link below) to find some great free art gifts and learn about the many ways countries approach public domain issues.

https://publicdomainimagelibrary.com/blogs/picture-trove-blog/public-domain-copyright-rules

Question What can I do with the images?

Answer You can use the images for anything you like – make prints to frame, postcards, posters, greeting cards, background papers for crafting, collages, altered art, calendars, mugs, mouse mats, t-shirts, fridge magnets, and so much more! Use them in a book, on your website, blog, or promotional post on social media.

If you wanted, you could start a whole new business, selling items that you've made.

Feel free to sell the products you make on eBay, Etsy, Facebook, your own website, at craft fairs, school fairs, church fairs, in shops – anywhere that there are buyers. Sell for charity, sell for yourself, use the items for educational purposes – let your imagination run wild!

Question Do I have to credit you when I use your images?

Answer Although crediting would be lovely, it's not necessary.

Unlocking Creativity: Using Public Domain Art to Create Saleable Products

See our Inspiration page (https://publicdomainimagelibrary.com/pages/unlocking-creativity-using-public-domain-art-to-create-sellable-products) for more ideas. Check out Fashion and Accessories, Home Decor, Stationery and Paper Goods, Gifts and Novelty Items, Print On Demand Items, Digital Products, and Educational Materials, Customized Products, Collaborations and Licensing, and Marketing Tips.

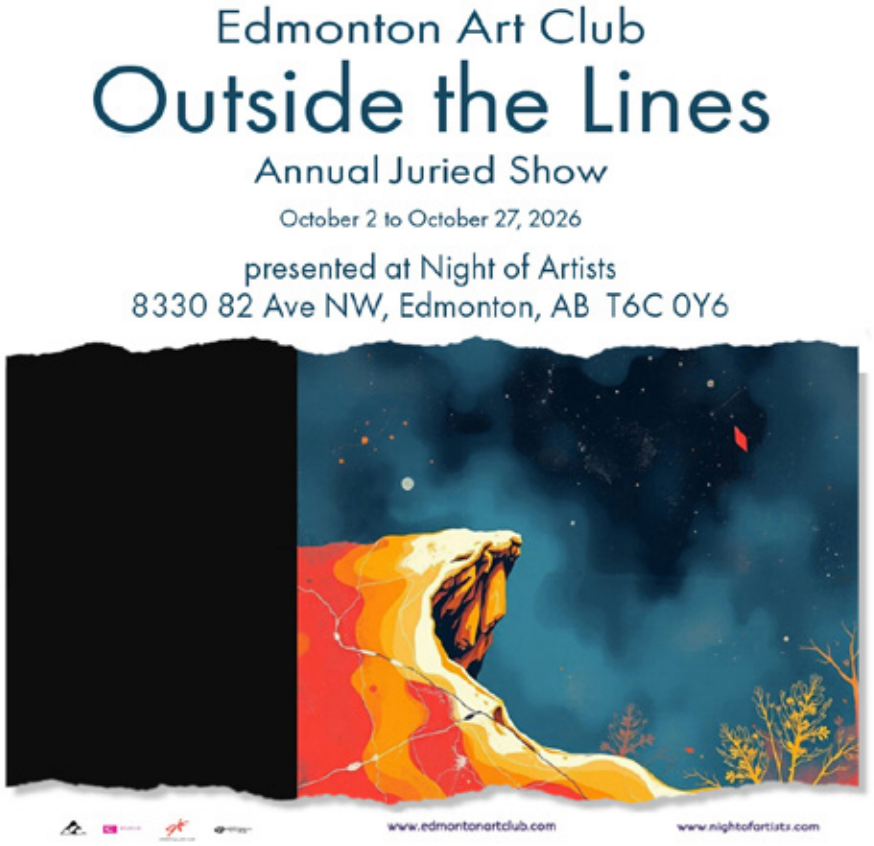
Have fun and be inspired!

ART CANADA INSTITUTE INSTITUT DE L'ART CANADIEN

A key mission of the Art Canada Institute is the creation of our open-access digital art library, the **Canadian Online Art Book Project**. The project is available in English and French and is free of charge. Recognizing that we live in a multi-platform world where readers seek content in different formats, there remains passionate support for printed books. In 2019, we created the Canadian Art Library that publishes four books annually. As well, numerous books are online, which you can download. Some of the artists are Robert Houle, Emily Carr, Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald, Jock Macdonald, Helen McNicoll, Molly Lamb Bobak, Betty Goodwin, and many more.

You can download these books for free.

https://www.aci-iac.ca/art-books/



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

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

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

THANK YOU!

Thanks to 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!

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14519 - 118 Avenue NW, Edmonton

Jake's Framing
Enriching People's Lives Through Art
10441 123 Street NW, Edmonton

THE PAINT SPOT
fine art materials
10032 - 81 Ave NW, Edmonton

CARFAC ALBERTA

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
t 780.421.1731 tf 1.866.421.1731
carfacalberta.com general@carfacalberta.com

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.