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cover: "she said whaaat?"
artwork by Erica Dirk

EST. 1921
edmontonartclub.com

edac

Erica Dirk



CRITIQUE

compiled by Jenny Rodrigue

Tammy Taylor, our critic

TAMMY TAYLOR IS A SELF TAUGHT ARTIST WITH A PASSION FOR WILDLIFE.

Inspired by the beauty of God's creation, she strives to achieve life like images of her subjects in their natural environment. For over twenty years she has been creating beautiful pieces in both oils and pencil. An Albertan, Tammy's art often portrays wildlife, agricultural scenes, domestic livestock and children at play.

Tammy is a member of Night Of Artists, Christian Artists of Alberta, and also participates in Mural Mosaics.

Along with her husband and their four children, Tammy resides on a farm in central Alberta not far from where she was born and raised. Their farm and lifestyle offer many opportunities for her to portray all she knows and loves

adapted from <https://tammy-taylor.pixels.com>

ELAINE TSURUDA SHAW ►

Your pointillism technique works depicting wind and soft background. Consider making the face and hands slightly larger. I especially like how the pointillism and texture combine to create a wispy sense of wind. Lovely colours.



PENNY LAMNEK

These soft colours create a calm, atmospheric piece with strong balance. The visual pathway draws the eye to the stones. Consider slightly darkening the lower part of the left pillar to better define it.



CHERYL JOHNSON

Beautiful colours, the water is effectively conveyed through expressive brushstrokes. Consider adding a glaze to even out the texture.



KATIE LEENDERS

The textured background has a unique sense of form. Consider softening the dark line along the back. The clover and eye are nicely done, and extending a few grass blades toward the bottom or sides of the canvas would help anchor the composition.



JOHANNE SEPTOU

Strong form, harmonious colour, and nice texture. The visual pathways, depth, and perspective are effective. Consider adding slightly more shadow through glazing, while keeping the strong shadow beneath the bottom cabbage, which anchors the composition.



JANI GALARNEAU

This is a beautiful piece with lovely colour flow throughout. The dragon's colours, scales, and execution are especially strong, creating a pleasing sense of movement and harmony.



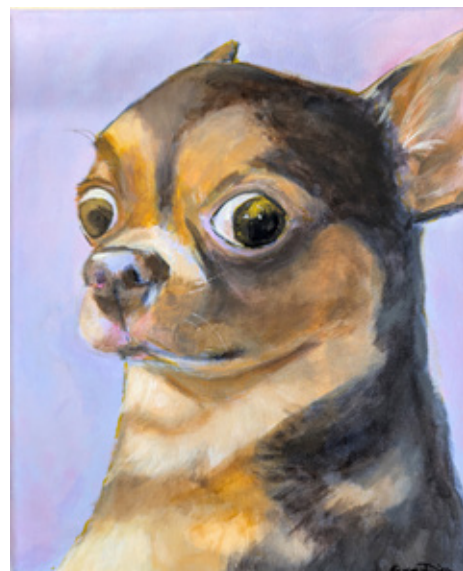
RICHARD ST. AMANT

The colours and harmony create a sense of mystery. Consider softening the red slightly so the main subject remains the focal point. This is an intriguing piece.



MICHAELA YANISH

This piece has a strong sense of mystery and a pleasing colour palette. The colours enhance the sense of depth. Consider toning down the broken section of the platform with the exposed rebar so it does not draw too much attention.



ERICA DIRK

This is a lovely piece with a wonderful expression. The colours are used effectively and harmonize well, while the background colour ties beautifully into the eyes, nose, and mouth.



RUTH CARR

Your palette works beautifully. The road creates a pleasing flow that draws the eye into the painting, and the gradual transition from hills to plains is effective. A fun painting!

CRITIQUE *continued*



FRANCES HESSELS

The light is captured effectively, and the colours complement the rendering of the face, hands, and hair beautifully. The subtle background works well.



JAMES TORDIFF

A technically strong piece with excellent pen work, controlled confident cross-hatching. The gnarly tree is well rendered; consider adding slightly more subtle definition to the roots.



KEVIN BIGELOW

Love the narrative quality of this piece! It has a cheerful feel and invites the viewer to imagine the story behind it. The layered dimensions are fresh and unique, with well-handled shadows and contrast. The pathway leading into the blue is a strong touch, adding to the work's originality.



MARIE HOLOWINSKY

This is a fun narrative piece with a strong story, appealing textures, good facial proportions, and an interesting background. Consider placing the shoe closer to, or directly against the dog and adding some of the background colour into the corner for better cohesion.



ROB GUETRE

The limited palette works creates a warm, harmonious atmosphere. The strong lines in the adult and the twigs help bring the focal point forward. Consider adding a darker glaze to the left wing and giving the front-left rocks a firmer edge similar to the treatment given the other foreground rocks on the right.



BETTY DEAN

This piece has a lovely encaustic quality and a joyful, uplifting feel. For added harmony, consider letting the sunflowers touch each other. A simple, expressive, and engaging composition.



PUNITA

The colours and contrast work well. Consider lightening the value near the top of the green hill and lowering the bottom bird into the grass.

CRITIQUE *continued*



JENNY RODRIGUE

The colour scheme works well and creates a pleasing overall feel. Consider lowering the horizon to break up the large area of water. The fruit and leaves are nicely handled.



SERAYA SMIT

This is a strong composition, and the complementary colours work well together. Consider lightening the right side of the bank and reflection to soften the effect. The main rock's reflections could also be lightened slightly.



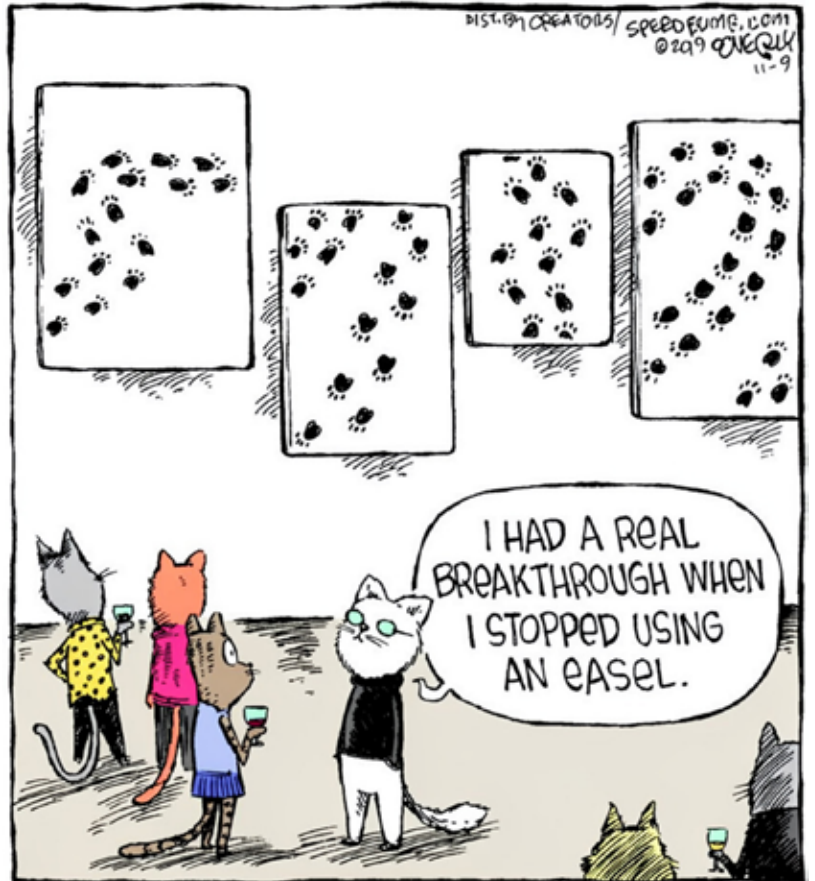
CARMELLA HAYKOWSKY

Lovely colours with a soft, subdued quality. Consider bringing a few petals forward, slightly sharpening their edges, on the bottom and upper-middle flowers to add more depth.



October Critic

ALLEN BALL



FREE Zoom: Art Talk

Why Acrylics Rock: Fast, Reliable, and Fun with Artist Jeff Olsen

Wednesday October 21, 2026

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Join Jeff Olson, Art Education Director for Royal Talens North America, for a lively introduction to what makes acrylic paint so versatile.

Learn about the history and composition of modern acrylics. Discover why acrylics dry so quickly, clean up easily with water, and work on almost any surface. We'll explore their flexible nature, unique drying qualities, and why they are perfect for everything from traditional painting to mixed media and creative experimentation.

Whether you're brand-new to acrylics or a seasoned painter looking for fresh ideas, you'll come away with practical insights and inspiration. Acrylics offer big possibilities limited only by your imagination!

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.



10032 81 Avenue

info@paintspot.ca

www.paintspot.ca



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



Two of our long standing members, Betty Dean and Jan Fraser, have recently joined a new store in Southgate Mall called "*Bless the Maker*". Be sure to check out their work and cheer them on!

From Quiet Hours to Creation

An Overview and Perspective

Authored by Seraya Smit

Exploring the Creative Power of the Colder Seasons



As October settles in and the first hints of winter brush the edges of our days, artists across Alberta feel a familiar shift — a quiet turning inward. The light changes, the pace slows, and our creative rhythms begin to realign with the season's contemplative nature. Fall and winter have always carried a certain gravity for artists, offering a rare blend of solitude, focus, and emotional depth that fuels meaningful creation.

The Seasonal Shift: How Fall and Winter Shape Our Creative Energy

With summer's vibrancy now behind us, the cooler months invite a different kind of inspiration. The crisp air, muted landscapes, and long stretches of evening create an atmosphere that naturally draws us back into our studios. This is more than a change in weather; it is a recalibration of our inner creative compass. Autumn's palette — ochres, umbers, deep greens, and soft greys — often finds its way into our work, not only through colour but through mood. The season encourages reflection, and many artists discover that their ideas take on new layers of nuance and intention.

There is something profoundly grounding about this time of year. The world outside begins to quiet, and in that stillness, we find space to listen — to the whisper of ideas that may have been drowned out by summer's noise. The rhythm of creation slows but deepens, becoming more deliberate, more thoughtful. The brushstroke feels heavier, the composition more intentional. We begin to paint not just what we see, but what we feel in the hush between moments.

The Hunkering-Down Mentality

Fall and winter are synonymous with "hunkering down," a phrase that perfectly captures the focused, almost meditative state many artists enter during these months. The shorter days create a natural boundary around our time, helping us carve out uninterrupted hours for deep work. Our studios become sanctuaries — warm, quiet spaces where ideas can stretch, evolve, and take shape. Without the pull of summer events, travel, and outdoor commitments, we find ourselves able to commit fully to experimentation, exploration, and the slow, deliberate refinement of our craft.

Creative Impact on Artists

This is the season when breakthroughs often happen: new techniques emerge, dormant projects awaken, and long-imagined concepts finally find their form. The solitude of winter is not a withdrawal but a return — a return to the essence of creation, where the artist and the work exist in quiet dialogue.

The hum of a heater, the faint scent of turpentine, the soft light filtering through frosted windows — these become companions in the creative process.

For many, this period also brings a sense of ritual. The act of preparing the studio, mixing paints, or stretching canvas becomes a meditation in itself. There is comfort in repetition, in the rhythm of work that unfolds without rush. The world outside may be cold and still, but within the studio, there is warmth — the steady pulse of creativity continuing through the season's quiet.

The introspective nature of fall and winter encourages artists to work from a deeper emotional well. Many find themselves exploring themes of memory, transition, resilience, and inner landscapes. The season's stillness allows us to listen more closely — to our instincts, our stories, and the quiet ideas that require patience to unfold. It is also a time of skill-building. With fewer external distractions, artists can devote themselves to honing techniques, studying new mediums, or revisiting foundational practices. This period of creative hibernation strengthens our artistic voice and prepares us for the busy exhibition season ahead.

There is a certain honesty that emerges in

winter work — a stripping away of excess. The colours may be subdued, but the emotion is vivid. The compositions may be simple, yet they carry weight. In the absence of external stimulation, we turn inward, and what we find there often surprises us. The creative process becomes a mirror, reflecting not only our artistic growth but our personal evolution.

For members of the Edmonton Art Club, this season often marks a time of preparation and renewal. As we look toward upcoming exhibitions, workshops, and community events, the work created during these months becomes a testament to our shared dedication. It reminds us that art is not only about expression but endurance — the ability to keep creating even when the world grows quiet.

Impact on Artwork

Artwork created during the colder months often carries a distinct emotional resonance. Pieces may feel more intimate, more layered, or more contemplative. Colours soften, compositions deepen, and themes become more personal. The subdued light of winter lends itself to subtlety — to the exploration of tone, texture, and atmosphere. The brush moves differently in this season, guided by introspection rather than urgency.

As we look toward the Edmonton Art Club's spring exhibitions and community events, the work born from this season becomes a testament to our dedication. It reflects not only our artistic skill but our willingness to sit with the quiet, to create in the stillness, and to trust the slow unfolding of inspiration. Each piece carries within it the memory of those quiet hours — the patience, the solitude, and the steady hand that shaped it.

In many ways, winter art becomes a conversation between light and shadow. The muted tones of the landscape echo the introspective mood of the artist, while the occasional burst of colour — a streak of crimson, a glint of gold — reminds us that even in the coldest months, warmth persists. These works often resonate deeply with viewers, inviting them into the same contemplative space that birthed them.

continues next page

The Emotional Landscape of Creation

Beyond technique and composition, the colder seasons invite emotional honesty. The solitude of winter can be both a challenge and a gift. It asks us to confront our own creative doubts, to sit with unfinished ideas, and to find beauty in imperfection. It is in these quiet hours that we rediscover the essence of why we create — not for recognition or applause, but for the sheer act of expression.

The creative process becomes a dialogue between the artist and the season itself. The muted light, the long evenings, the hush of snow — all become collaborators in the making of art. They shape not only the palette but the pace, guiding us toward a slower, more deliberate form of creation. In this way, winter becomes both muse and mentor, teaching us patience, resilience, and the art of listening.

Community and Continuity

Within the Edmonton Art Club, this seasonal rhythm connects us as artists. Though each of us works in solitude, our collective creativity forms a tapestry of shared experience. The winter months may be quiet, but they are rich with unseen activity — canvases being stretched, sketches taking shape, ideas being refined. When spring arrives and the exhibitions open, the work displayed carries the imprint of these months of introspection.

Our role as artists extends beyond creation; it includes preservation. "It is my belief that we are the custodians of preserving and safeguarding the historical significance of the Edmonton Art Club." This sentiment rings especially true in the colder seasons, when reflection naturally turns toward legacy. Each — a story of resilience, creativity, and community that has endured through generations.

Final Thoughts

Fall and winter offer artists a powerful blend of solitude, focus, and renewal. As we settle into our studios this October, we embrace a season that encourages growth — not loud or hurried, but steady, thoughtful, and deeply creative. The artwork that emerges from this time captures the essence of who we are as artists: resilient, curious, and committed to the craft that connects us.

In the quiet hours, creation becomes an act of devotion — to art, to self, and to the enduring spirit of the Edmonton Art Club. The season may be cold, but within our studios, the warmth of creativity continues to glow, reminding us that even in stillness, beauty thrives.

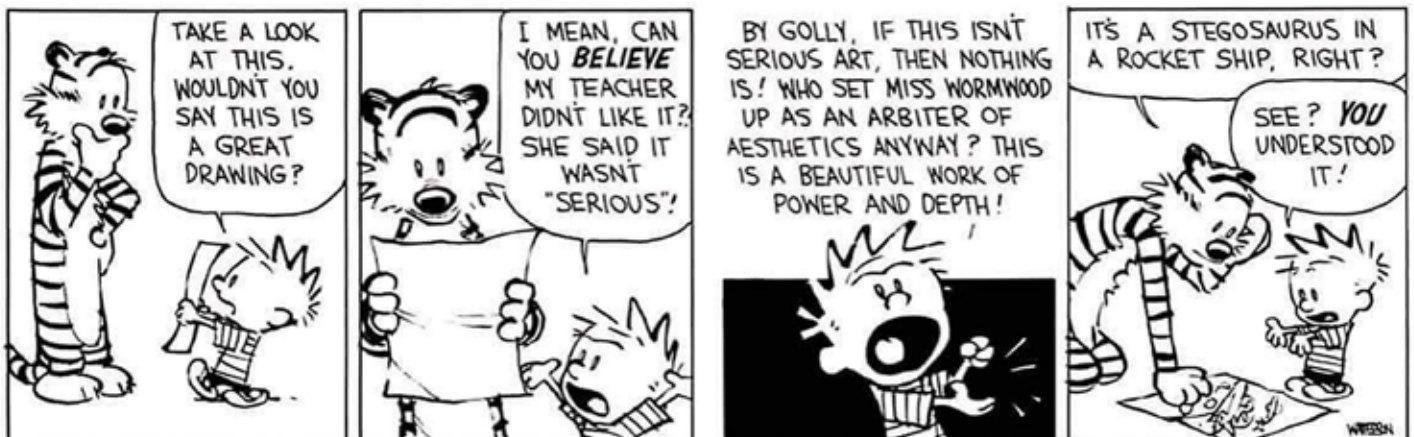
"It is my belief that we are the custodians of preserving and safeguarding the historical significance of the Edmonton Art Club."

Misericordia Exhibition – 2027

- ✓ EAC returns to the Misericordia Hospital in 2027
- ✓ Opens the next phase of our creative season
- ✓ Another opportunity to showcase member artwork
- ✓ High-traffic, welcoming community venue
- ✓ Registration for The Creative Pulse is now open
- ✓ Members encouraged to register early



AUTHORED BY SERAYA SMIT





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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
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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'Chigeeng 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.





Register through Eventbrite!

Edmonton Art Club Outside the Lines

Annual Juried Show

October 2 to October 31, 2026

Opening Night

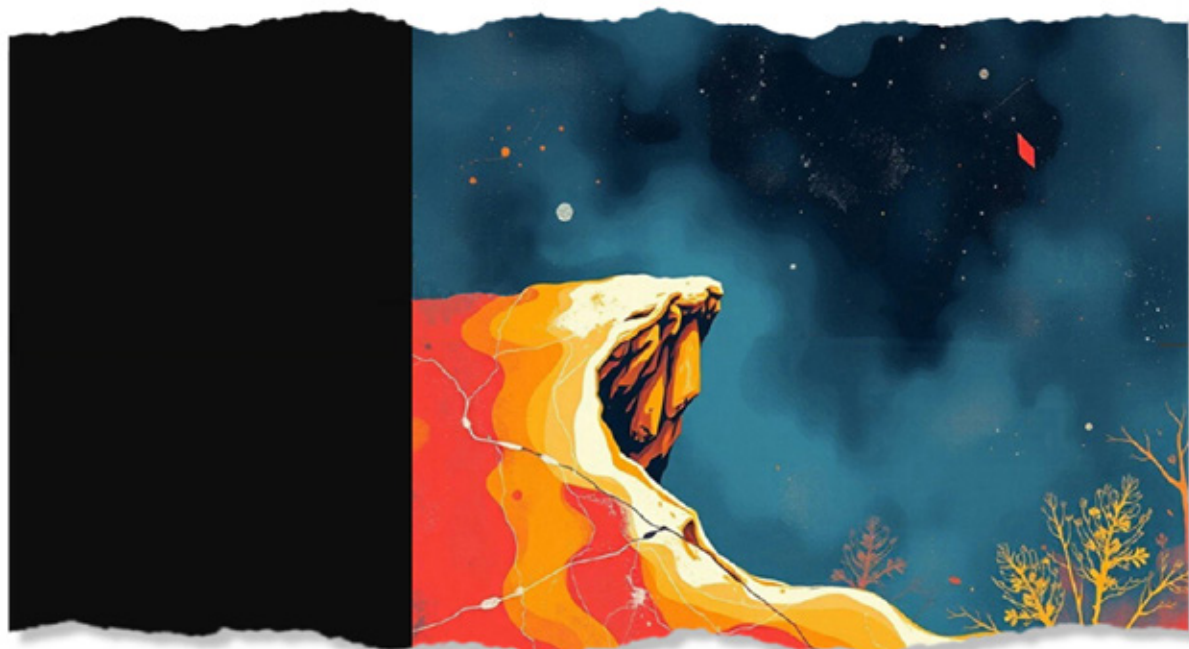
Members and VIP Guests Only

October 3

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

presented at the Night of Artists

8330 82 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6CoY6



www.edmontonartclub.com

www.nightofartists.com

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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/>

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!



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.

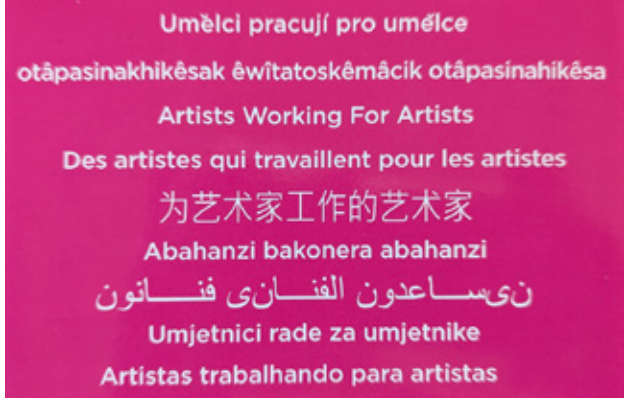
Visual Arts Alberta – CARFAC is the affiliate for the national arts organization Canadian Artists Representation/le front des artistes canadiens.

Member Benefits:

- Professional advice about best practices and rights of artists
- Advocacy on issues affecting the arts sector
- Information about intellectual property (copyright)
- Professional development 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 afhta.ab.ca/home.