



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



November 2025



EST. 1921
EDMONTON ART CLUB
edmontonartclub.com

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MEMBERS ONLY

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cover photo by Cheryl Johnson

ANNUAL JURIED SHOW

OUR FALL ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION, *On the Edge*, which took place from October 4 to 29 at the NOA (Night of Artists) Gallery in Bonnie Doon, was a vibrant celebration of artistic excellence and community spirit. As the Edmonton Art Club's most prestigious event—anchored in over a century of tradition—it once again showcased the remarkable talent of our members. Each participating artist submitted three entries, with at least one guaranteed for display, as selected by our juror.

We were honoured to have 24 members participate in this year's exhibition, showcasing a remarkable total of 72 paintings. Our sincere thanks go to all the artists for their contributions and creativity.

The show hanging was completed with care, adjudication was thoughtful and thorough, and the award winners were announced to great acclaim.

Opening night was a lively and inspiring gathering, filled with conversation, connection, and appreciation for the work on display. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the members, friends and family who attended the Opening Reception—it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and share the evening together.

The public is encouraged to visit the NOA gallery and support our local artists. Your presence helps foster a strong sense of community and reinforces the spirit of collaboration that defines us.



Erica Dirk and Penny Lamnek received honourable mentions for their works: *Long Dog* (left) and *Lofty Reading* (above)

Top honours went to Jani Galarneau's *Phone With a Cord*



ANNUAL JURIED SHOW

all the works

continues next page



Donna Chamberland



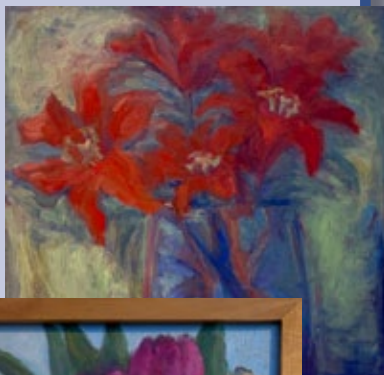
Erica Dirk



James Tordiff



Carmella Haykowski



Jan Fraser



Jani Galarneau



ANNUAL JURIED SHOW

all the works continued



Rob Guetre

Punita Chohan

Yvonne Bilan-Wallace



Johanne Septou

Judy Koch



ANNUAL JURIED SHOW

all the works continued



Betty Dean



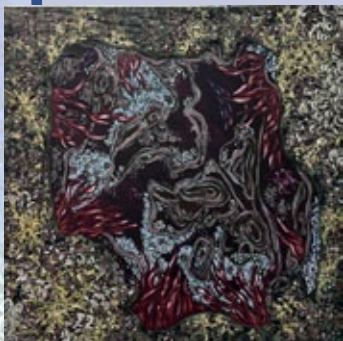
Debra McGinnis



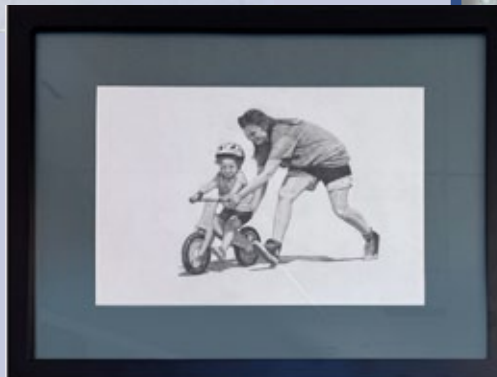
Debra Long



Penny Lamnek



Tamara Dupas



ANNUAL JURIED SHOW

all the works continued



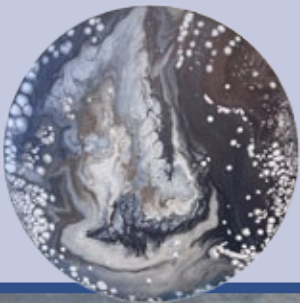
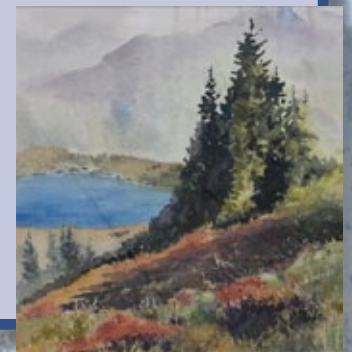
Keri Haskell



Jenny Rodrigue



Ada Wong



Mary Frances Fitzgerald

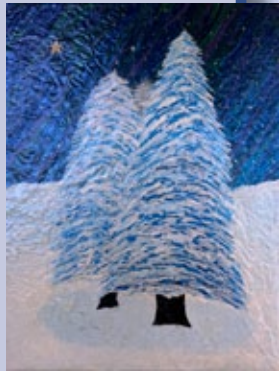


ANNUAL JURIED SHOW

all the works continued



Marj Miller



Kevin Bigelow



Mehar Kaur



Cheryl Johnson





Meet Frances Alty-Arscott, our critic for the October meeting.

FRANCES RECEIVED HER BFA from the University of Alberta in 1980. Her paintings are included in public and private collections across Canada and the United States. Her subject matter includes various aspects and seasons of both urban and rural Alberta, expressed in her unique expressionistic style.

Frances continues to work with watercolours and began using acrylic on canvas in the early 2000's. She transferred her use of vibrant colour from watercolour to acrylic, which allowed her to create larger paintings and participate in more public exhibitions.

In 2015, she was commissioned to paint a large piece for the Canadian Western Bank in Edmonton, Alberta, leading to additional commissioned works for various clients.

The artwork of Frances Alty-Arscott is represented by Rowles Fine Art Gallery, Art Gallery of Alberta, Art Gallery of St. Albert and Jake's Framing in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

adapted from altyarscott.net



YVONNE BILAN-WALLACE

Gorgeous arrangement. The pot is rich in colour. The stencilled text is thoughtfully done and doesn't take away the focus.



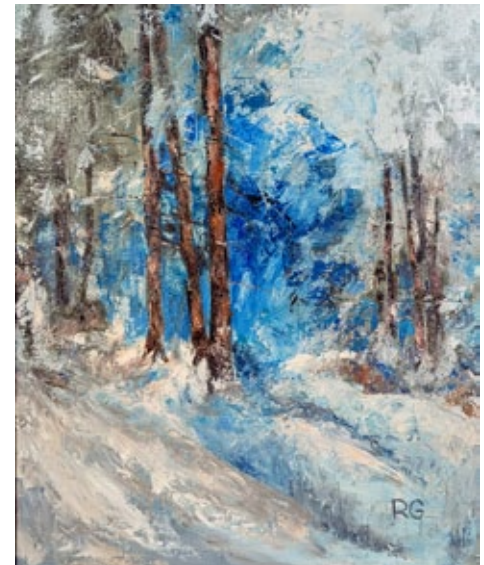
PUNITA CHOHAN

I love the looseness of the hair. The patterns in the fabric is nicely drawn. Maybe introduce burnt orange Conté in the background. The hard and soft lines are very well done. The right eye needs to be closed.



CHERYL JOHNSON

Very rich colours. Enhance the focal point by warming the tones toward the middle back. Add violet in some tree branches. As well, the bottom portion of the tree trunks need darkening. Add yellow splashes in the foreground.



ROB GUETRE

The snow and trees are well captured. A darker value in the middle will create depth. The snow is handled well. Nice contrasts with the bluish/white snow. A few warm bits of colours like bright orange or red might help provide tension to guide the viewer's eyes.



◀ **JANET FRASER**

This painting really glows and captures this time of the year. Beautiful reflections. Break up the shape of line on left shoreline.



ERICA DIRK

The eyes are beautifully rendered. Suggest a soft more detailed background to enhance storytelling.



DEBRA MCGINNIS

A very nice capture of a waterfall. The grey in the rocks sets off the other colours. Add a few more branches in the back to push back the trees. Add some yellow on top of the trees to push back the sky. Add warm hues to the rocks on the left to help our eyes move around.



LORI MEYER

Peaceful. Beautiful softness of watercolour. May extend grass on left by a couple of lines.



MARY FRANCES FITZGERALD

I love the curved lines and connections. Very playful work. Has a nice flow of movement and a mechanical feel.



MEHAR KAUR

Good contrast between the red and yellow flowers. A nice composition. A light blue wash over the trees will help push them back. Add touches of orange to where sunlight is coming in.



BETTY DEAN

Great colours and nice rhythm. This is fun, peaceful and delightful. Produce a series!



RICHARD ST. AMANT

An interesting composition with the warm colours. The triangular line in the front really pulls you through this piece. Do more!



JUDY WHITE

The colour combinations are beautiful. The grass needs to be pulled further away from the hand to create depth. A story could be told by adding a few raspberry stains on the fingers or in some fingernails.



ADA WONG

Hard and soft edges create a nice balance. The approach of division in the background, middle ground and foreground is very good. I love the colours that you have brought around the whole painting. Soften the lower tree on the right by lacing leaves to pull off of the page.



JANI GALARNEAU

Very well done, the Canadian flag comes to mind. Nice contrasts. The bird is beautifully done, but needs to be anchored with a shadow.



ALICIA ROBINSON

Very well defined forms with their reflections. Ground the little chunk in the mid right with the same reflections. Soften some of the edges. The waves create a nice balance in this piece. The overlapping of the objects is beautiful.



KEVIN BIGELOW

Like the background. Well done illustration with the minimal detailing. A few soft edges around the outline by breaking up the hard edges will create a more 3-dimensional form. A tiny bit of wash on some of the fingers would make it more realistic. The eyes are really well done.



JAMES TORDIFF

Nicely composed. The sense of distance is skilfully rendered.



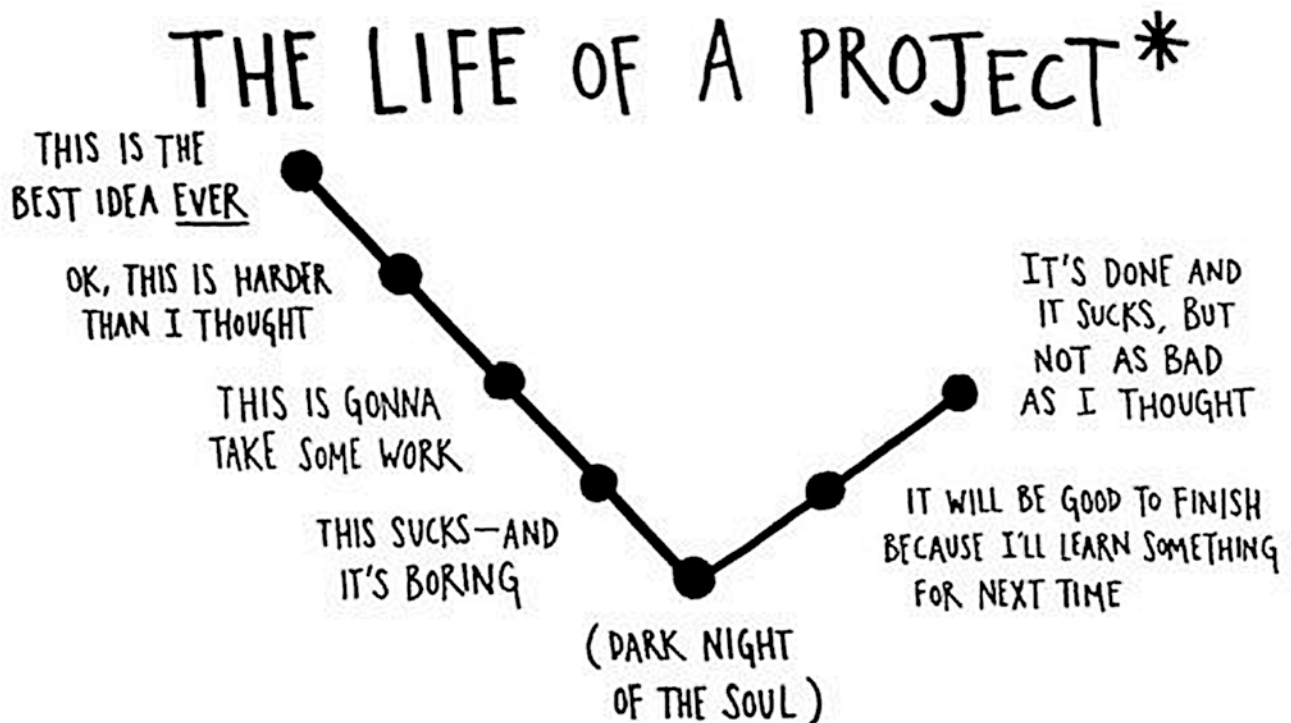
BEFORE

JENNY RODRIGUE

The iris is well done with the formation of lines. Calm down the background with a cool wash in areas to pull the flower out. Darken up the stem.



AFTER



* STOLEN FROM MAUREEN MCHUGH

CSPWC OPEN WATER 2025 EXHIBITION Celebrating Excellence in Watercolour

by Debra Long



Teichert Gallery, Halifax, NS. (photo D. Long)

THE CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOUR (CSPWC), established in 1925, is dedicated to fostering excellence in the watercolour medium. Through seminars and open juried exhibitions, the society showcases and supports outstanding talent—both from Canada and around the world.

This September marked the 100th annual Open Water exhibition, a significant milestone in the CSPWC's history. The centennial exhibit was hosted at Teichert Gallery, located within the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in Halifax, and featured a stunning range of watercolour works selected through international jurying. The exhibition ran from September 11 to October 2, 2025, and is available for online viewing at:

<https://cspwc.ca/open-water-2025-gallery/>

This year's exhibition drew approximately 300 submissions, from which 46 artworks were juried into the final show. Of those, 14 artists were honoured with awards, including—for the first time ever—a Youth Division Award, highlighting the CSPWC's commitment to encouraging the next generation of watercolour artists.

We are proud to share that two members of the Edmonton Art Club, Frances Hessels and Debra Long, had their paintings accepted into this prestigious show. Debra was also honoured to receive the Royal Talens Award, which included a beautifully curated set of Rembrandt watercolours and artist materials.

Frances Hessels, BA, BEd, CSPWC

Frances Hessels is a painter who works primarily in watercolour and oil, with a strong focus in recent years on portrait and figure work. Before turning her full attention to art, she spent many years as an educator, helping children observe the world around them and express those observations creatively—skills that now inform her own artistic approach. While she enjoys the vibrancy and richness of oil, watercolour remains her preferred medium for portraiture due to its transparency and nuance.

Her work has been featured in both local and international exhibitions, including juried shows with the CSPWC and the International Watercolour Society (IWS), with her paintings displayed in galleries across Canada and abroad—in countries such as France, Bulgaria, and Indonesia.



Frances Hessels



Frances Hessels
22 x 15
Open Water 2025

continued next page

CSPWC OPEN WATER 2025 EXHIBITION

Celebrating Excellence in Watercolour

continued from previous page



Presentation of Royal Talens Award to Debra Long from Gary McFarland, co-chair of Open Water 2025. (photo D. Long)

Debra Long, PEng, MPH

Debra Long is an emerging Edmonton-based watercolour artist whose creative journey began after a rewarding career in engineering and science. Though not formally trained in fine arts, she has developed her practice through local workshops and classes, building on a lifelong

appreciation for visual detail and structure. She appreciates watercolour's luminous qualities to explore light, expression, and emotion.

A member of the Edmonton Art Club and the Alberta Community Art Clubs Association (ACACA), Debra is actively involved in group exhibitions and continues to explore new directions in her work.

Sources:

<https://cspwc.ca/>

<https://www.edmontonartclub.com/memberprofile/>

<https://franceshessels.org/>

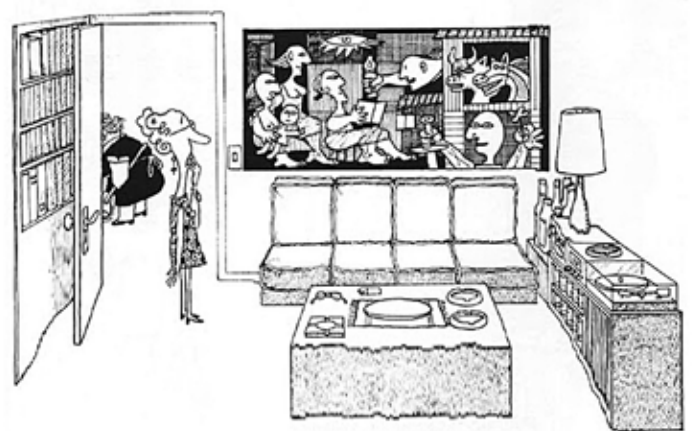


November Park Bench

Debra Long

11x14

Open Water 2025, Royal Talens Award





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Healing the Heart

M F Fitzgerald

(with permission by Phil Alain)

AS A LIFELONG EDUCATOR OF DRAMA, theatre, music, poetry, storytelling, and counselling, I have worked with children, youth, and adults. At any age, the exploration of self through many art forms can be challenging, risky, and amazing. By jumping into creating art, I have experienced the challenges, risks, rewards, and accepted critique, always with worry until it is over. I understand this is how we learn and accept, in different ways, the power of the other/viewer. Which brings me to the art of Phil Alain.



While at the grand re-opening of the Night of Artists Gallery (NOA) in October 2025, I was able to view the artwork of Phil Alain, the owner of NOA, curator, designer, artist, and to me, a person on a mission – or many missions. Amidst his art show were four themes that emerged from

his life experiences. Tucked in a little corner were three dramatic paintings that Phil had called his dark period. His words will give an example of how healing and art work together.

A Dark Period that Turned to Light

“There was a time in my life marked by difficult decisions, relationship struggles, and unexpected shifts in my artistic journey that sent me into a tumble of uncertainty. As a young adult, I faced loss and emotional pain, but I also discovered the healing power of friendship and the strength of community. Out of

this period came a body of work unlike anything I had created before – paintings that were raw, emotional, and deeply personal. At first, I rarely showed them, as they felt too vulnerable and revealing. Yet when I did share these pieces, I was astonished by how profoundly they resonated with others. Viewers found their own struggles, hopes, and resilience reflected in the shadows and tones of my work. That began as an expression of darkness, ultimately revealing light, teaching me that art born of pain can forge some of the deepest human connections.”

Thank you, Phil, for sharing your dark period, as you have demonstrated sensitivity, bravery, and courage. Thus, you have set an example for the many others that surround you.



Year-End Reflections

An overview and perspective

Authored by Seraya Smit

Brushed in Light: A Year of Creativity and Connection



As the final golden leaves drift to the ground and the crisp air of winter begins to settle over Edmonton, we find ourselves at the close of another remarkable year.

For the Edmonton Art Club, 2025 has been a season of growth, resilience, and radiant creativity—a canvas filled with bold strokes, subtle hues, and shared inspiration.

This year, our community of artists has done more than create art. We've cultivated connection. We've nurtured imagination. We've built bridges between generations, styles, and stories.

Whether through the quiet concentration of a studio session or the lively energy of an exhibition opening, each moment has been a brushstroke in the masterpiece of our collective journey.

Reflecting on a Vibrant Year

From January's frosty landscapes to the warm glow of autumnal palettes, our members have embraced the seasons with open hearts and open sketchbooks.

We've explored new mediums—watercolor, acrylic, mixed media, digital—and revisited old favorites with fresh eyes.

Our workshops have been filled with laughter, learning, and the occasional splash of paint in unexpected places.

We welcomed new members into our fold, each bringing their own unique perspective and passion. Their enthusiasm reminded us that art is not just a skill—it's a way of seeing the world, of expressing what words cannot, of connecting across boundaries. And for our long-standing members, this year has been a reaffirmation of the enduring power of creativity to uplift and inspire.

Our exhibitions, both local and online, showcased the incredible diversity of talent within our club. From abstract explorations to finely detailed realism, each piece told a story. Visitors were moved, challenged, and delighted. We received heartfelt feedback from the community, and many of our artists found new audiences and opportunities through these events.

The Power of Community

One of the most beautiful aspects of the Edmonton Art Club is the sense of belonging it fosters. In a world that often feels fast-paced and fragmented, our gatherings offer a space to slow down, to share, to create. Whether you're a seasoned painter or just beginning your artistic journey, there's a place for you here.

This year, we've seen members support one another through creative blocks, celebrate each other's breakthroughs, and collaborate on projects that blend styles and ideas. We've hosted critique nights that were as constructive as they were encouraging, and we've shared countless cups of coffee over conversations about color theory, composition, and the joys of finding just the right brush.

Art, at its core, is about connection. And in 2025, we've connected deeply—with our work, with each other, and with the broader Edmonton community.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As we approach the end of the year, it's natural to reflect on what we've accomplished—and to dream about what's next. The blank canvas of 2026 awaits, full of possibility. What will we create together? What stories will we tell? What new techniques will we explore?

We're already planning exciting workshops, exhibitions, and community outreach initiatives for the coming year. We hope to expand our presence in local schools, partner with other arts organizations, and continue to make art accessible and engaging for all.

We're also exploring ways to incorporate more digital tools and platforms, allowing our members to share their work with a wider audience and connect with artists beyond our city.

But most importantly, we want to continue nurturing the spirit of creativity that defines our club. That means creating space for experimentation, for play, for vulnerability. It means celebrating not just finished pieces, but the messy, beautiful process of making them.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To every member of the Edmonton Art Club—thank you. Thank you for showing up, for sharing your talent, for encouraging others, and for believing in the power of art. Your contributions, big and small, have made this year unforgettable.

To our volunteers, who keep things running smoothly behind the scenes, your dedication is the backbone of our success. To our supporters and partners, your generosity helps us grow and reach new heights. And to our community, thank you for embracing local art and supporting the creative spirit of Edmonton.

As we enter the holiday season, may your days be filled with warmth, wonder, and inspiration. Whether you're painting by the fire, sketching in a quiet café, or simply observing the beauty of a snow-covered street—remember that art lives in every moment we choose to see it.

Here's to a peaceful close to 2025, and a bold, brilliant beginning to 2026.

With gratitude and creativity,

The Edmonton Art Club Executive Team

"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



Seniors Programs at the Art Gallery of Alberta

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 tour 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.



**Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts**

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



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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 countries.

Watercolour/Gouache Paint:

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

Misc. (canvases, paper, studio supplies, brushes):

Gotrick/Apollon (QC)

St. Armand (QC)

lots of the paint brands mentioned also manufacture paint accessories!



LEADING EDGE ART WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS

REGISTRATION

LOCATION INFO

LINKS

CONTACT

MORE...



The following comes from the latest 'Leading Edge Art Workshops' newsletter, used with permission and with Chantel Barber's permission:

Over the course of Chantel Barber's Workshop, some great nuggets of information came up in our discussions. These are artist's GOLD, so we thought you might like to hear some of them!

1. Don't be too quick to wipe off something that you think is a mistake!
2. To be BOLDER, use a BIGGER brush than you think you need, and swing it like a GOLF CLUB!
3. When painting mouths: Because mouths are always moving, just make little brush marks and don't over-define it – that will keep a mouth more natural looking.
4. You DON'T have to copy your reference. If your painting is developing in a pleasing way, GO WITH IT! Your reference is your inspiration only.
5. Don't let the facts get in the way of the truth. Don't get too perfect – perfection is a lie.
6. Colours never look out of place if they appear in multiple areas of your painting.
7. How heavy-handed you are REALLY makes a difference – sometimes you need a slather, sometimes just a touch. Think about this as you lay your brushstrokes down.
8. Don't be afraid to make BOLD DECISIONS!
9. What sets your work apart from others is the unique vision of how YOU see something and interpret it.
10. Be selective about who you CHOOSE to influence you – get good advice that works for you



Visit our blog for helpful tips for artists.



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- How to Repair a Tear
- Priming & Sealing

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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 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.

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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.