



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

October 2023

*EST. 1921*

**EDMONTON ART CLUB**

*edmontonartclub.com*

# EAC

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cover photo by Rob Guetre

# CRITIQUES



Karen Bishop was our critic for the September meeting

**M**Y WORK is not intended to be a faithful reproduction of the landscape before me. Instead I paint by feel. The paintings that evoke the most emotion are those completed on location where I am able to allow my surroundings and the weather to dictate how I proceed. I try not to worry about the ending, rather I let the painting unfold and track its own course across my paper. For me painting allows that perfect quiet, where I am peaceful and at peace with myself, and my surroundings. It's an escape from the everyday, a chance to experience the earth more fully, a chance to breathe and know that all is well. To put it simply, I paint because it makes me happy. My hope is that the viewer can find a similar joy and peace in my work.

adapted from  
<https://www.karenbishop.ca/>



**PENNY LAMNEK**

A very nice pattern and design. The colours are clean and fresh. The outside border behind the sunflowers is lovely.



**BETTY DEAN**

A mysterious vibe. Add light around the side edge of the front and middle trees to help the eye move around this piece. A bit of dark on the bottom left might help ground the front tree.



**DIANA PANIZZON**

The texture behind the trees is well done. Definitely has an expressionist feel. There could be a little more light in the foreground on the lower left side. Beautifully painted.



**YVONNE BILAN-WALLACE**

This piece tells some kind of story and I want to read the words so I know what it is. Reminiscent of a scrapbook with a story wanting to be told. The flowers look like they have been pressed. The bowl on the bottom could do with a bit of contrast, perhaps with a touch of purple to convey the impression of a vessel that the flowers are coming out of.



**JOHANNE SEPTOU**

Beautiful subject and composition. Plein Air is challenging as the light is constantly changing. Taking a photo of your view is helpful to determine the correct values. Here, the rocks in the background could stand to be darkened, as the view does recede. Good variety of greens in the foliage. Adding a few bigger shapes (for variety) in the trees would help this piece pop. The trees in the furthest background should be less solid looking.



**JENNY RODRIGUE**

I really like the line work in the washes. The softness is good. A little more shadowing in the right places would make this look less flat. Determine your light source and go from there.



**SERAYA SMIT**

A very fun piece. The tracks need to be a touch wider in the foreground with the ties narrowing towards the front of the train. Careful rendering of perspective in the tracks and deck to match that of the train would improve the composition.



**RICHARD ST. AMANT**

This piece has a very earthy, organic feel. The butcher twine contributes to that. The treatment of the mask could be a bit "messier" by allowing some leaves to stick out.



**RHEA JANSEN**

Those strawberries look good enough to eat! The pink reflections in the bowl and underneath are nice. Enhance the detail in the front strawberries with touches of contrasting colour to depict the seeds. The cloth is nice, soft looking. The yellow tablecloth may be a bit strong. Maybe a strawberry in front of the bowl on the yellow tablecloth would tone down the yellow a bit, and improve the composition overall.



**MYRNA WILKINSON**

The atmospheric perspective is amazing. The values of the trees as they come forward are expertly rendered. The layering of the water works well. The splashes of red in the figures are wonderful. You might want to add a splash of red somewhere on the lower right to balance it better, just a thought.



**ADA WONG**

The top half of your piece is spectacular. The leaves are well done. The top leaf in the centre foreground requires a bit more contrast against the water, and the crack in the rock more noticeable.



**SACHIKO MOTODA**

The vertical and horizontal lines provide a pleasing texture. I see a story here, the front steps leading to the doorway and the surrounding trees. Some of the horizontal white lines are repetitive and could use some variation in thickness and distance between them at varying widths.



**JANI GALARNEAU**

I loved the books and know the story, so I find this piece engaging! The letters could be pulled up a bit at the right, past the corner of the page. The composition is very well done. The fabric and mixed media works well. His foot and tail may need some extra contrast so they stand out more.



**MARY FITZGERALD**

The high contrast and expert composition is intriguing. Love the purple colour and the way you've got just this tiny green element is so cool. The cleanliness of your colour is very nice.



**MICHAELA YANISH**

This has very nice texture for such a small piece. The colours are lovely and loose. This could be expanded into a bigger work. The river could be narrower in the back or wider in the front to convey depth. The touches of pink are beautiful.



**FRANCES HESSELS**

A very lovely piece. She's a sweetheart. I love the light you caught on her face. Her hand could use a bit of a cooler tone at the top to convey the angle of its turn away from the viewer. Amazing work!



**ROB GUETRE**

Nicely done. The bunny does feel a bit crowded therefore creating a tension. Perhaps have an ear going off the canvas or introducing fluffy tail on the bottom right going off the page would ease it.



**HELENA BALL**

Beautiful painting. There is a bit of tension on the shadow of the bridge, maybe drop the darker line a bit lower. Darken up the bottom of the archway for a bit more contrast between it and the boat. The distant buildings need to be pushed back by adding a light wash. The light and reflections of the water is lovely.



**GAIL FAREWELL**

The pink tones are interesting and work well, the line work is well done. The reflections and the bank of trees have an abstract feeling to them and works well. Some of the harder lines could be softened a bit. You've done a nice job and kept your colours clean, a nice variety of hard and soft edges and different sized elements enhances the composition and tells a cool story.



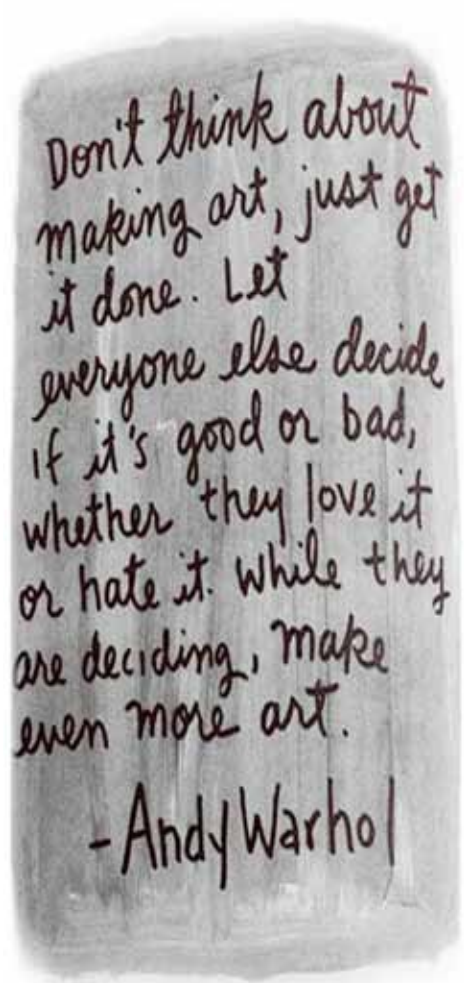
**JUDY KOCH**

I like the earthy, neutral tones. The left side of the canvas feels a little heavy. The tub in the upper right needs more of a shadow underneath for balance. It's okay to use your artistic talent to change the photo to help convey the emotion or mood. That chair is amazing!



**JUDY WHITE** (*work in progress*)

A very sweet picture and the mother figure is touching. The baby looks a bit to grown up, like the mother. The mouth needs to be smaller and the cheeks a touch rounder. The crease in the baby's chin, and the definition in its nose could be toned down. More shading is needed to indicate the baby's arm underneath the blanket. Painting people in watercolour is hard, you did a great job.





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# Our Members

An overview and perspective

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By Seraya Smit

## Our Members are Our Heart and Soul

They are the ones who bring life, color, and creativity to our club and our community.

Our Members are our heart and soul. They are the ones who bring life, color, and creativity to our club and our community.

They are the ones who share their passion, skills, and vision with each other and the world. They are the ones who inspire us to grow, learn, and explore new possibilities in art.

Our club is more than just a place to make art. It is a place to connect, collaborate, and celebrate with fellow artists. It is a place to support, encourage, and challenge each other to reach new heights of artistic expression.

It is a place to honour our history, embrace our diversity, and shape our future.

Our mission is to foster a vibrant and inclusive art culture in Alberta.

We aim to provide opportunities for our members to showcase their work, develop their talents, and engage with the public.

We also strive to promote the appreciation and understanding of art in our society through education, outreach, and advocacy.

We believe that art is essential for human flourishing. It enriches our lives, expands our horizons, and empowers our voices. It reflects our identity, values, and dreams.

It connects us with ourselves, each other, and the world.

We are the oldest art club in Alberta, but we are always evolving. We welcome artists of all ages, backgrounds, styles, and mediums. We invite you to join us in our journey of artistic discovery and expression.



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

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## SKETCHBOOKS OF THE PROS





## INSPIRED OR RETIRED?

Jan Fraser

adapted from *sage-ing*, number 46, fall 2023

**I PAINT AT MY KITCHEN TABLE** so I can touch up a canvas while dinner is cooking, and walk by the art many times to let it sink in. It's a very ordinary studio.

Artists take pleasure turning ordinary things into unique feelings. The plants in a ditch by the road can become unordinary with the stroke of a paint brush, the tap of the computer, the press of a camera or phone. Art began early in my life with the artists, musicians and poets around me. My late grand-uncle, Murray MacDonald, taught watercolours with The Group of Seven at The

Banff School. He retired from the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta with an honorary LLD for his work in art education. His work hangs in the Massey Collection in Ottawa and the Art Gallery of Alberta. He taught my aunt Edythe and me in his home for several years, demonstrating watercolour techniques and then giving a positive critique of our work. In 1981 we had our first three-generation show. His stories about learning art stick with and continue to influence me.

I retired from my work as a teacher and special needs administrator at an elementary school where all students took music, art, drama and dance with the regular curriculum. After the novelty of sleeping in and winters in Arizona wore off, I felt something was missing. Did I feel needed? Was I bored? I was painting in a vacuum by myself. I volunteered as an Artist on the Ward at the University of Alberta Hospital. That helped. Visiting patients and doing art was rewarding. But something was still missing in my retirement journey. Then I met with my friend Betty Dean, a wonderful artist who I first encountered when she was my principal at a needy inner city school. (see Betty's story, "Reflections on Creativity" in Issue 41 of *Sage-ing*, Summer 2022.) She gave me "Retirement Lessons" and talked me into joining The Edmonton Art Club. The learning and collegiality of the club continues to be so encouraging, and was the answer to the questions I held.

Soon I was teaching beginner art to seniors' groups. Then, at The Paint Spot art supply store in Edmonton, I taught a variety of courses, something I've done now for several years. I had started a new career. Now I draw or paint every day and show my work. Inspiration comes from prairie atmosphere, trees and roots, and water. My art has evolved from watercolour to textural and sculpture-like bas-relief. Sensations come back to me reminding me of those childhood summers at the farm. Time acts like a filter, weeding out what is no longer necessary.

Today, I feel inspired, not retired. Uncle Murray painted every day until he was almost 90 years old. So will I.



Author with her painting *Tree Party*; when humans go to sleep, the trees have a party



Above: *Tree Root, Our roots keep us strong, feeding us.*

Born and raised in Alberta, Jan Fraser's interest in art began in childhood with her family who wrote poems, played the piano and built inventive objects. Mentored by her granduncle, Murray MacDonald, a well-known Canadian watercolour artist who worked with the Group of Seven, she returned to painting upon her retirement from public education. Known for her watercolours and bas-relief, textural sculptural acrylics, Jan's work is in private collections in Norway, Hawaii, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and Salt Spring Island. Jan does art every day. She finds joy in the Alberta prairie, trees and roots as symbolism and metaphor, and water. One writer said about her work, "Prairie storms are likened to a dramatic production. The big black cloud curtains begin to form and all of a sudden, the 'play' begins. The art elements are interwoven."

Jan Fraser <janfraserart@gmail.com >



*Follow the Path*



*Tree*



*Sculpted Bird's Nest*

# 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!



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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](http://affta.ab.ca/home).



CARFAC  
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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:**

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**CARFAC Alberta is becoming a Visual Artist Online Resource for your information and perhaps to download, share or simply enjoy with a sip of coffee or tea:**

<https://www.carfacalberta.com/becoming-a-visual-artist/>