

EAC



EST. 1921
EDMONTON ART CLUB
edmontonartclub.com

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cover photo: Micheala and baby



*about our critic,
Laurél Hawkswell*

Laurél has been a freelance artist for almost 40 years after going to Grant MacEwan and taking Graphic Design. Part of being a freelance artist for her was saying yes to almost every art job. Everything from menu, logo and sign design, murals, painting banners, window painting, face painting, the odd canvas painting, to cartooning and caricatures. Slowly but surely caricature commissions and caricatures at events, squeezed out almost everything else. When there were no events happening during Covid, Laurél wasn't doing caricatures. This gave her some spare time so she started painting more and more. Since then she has been invited and accepted as one of the resident artists at the NOA Gallery. She is also a part of The Budding Art Collective, the Cadmium Art Collective and is the current President of the Society of Western Canadian Artists.

Through everything she believes that her early education in graphic design has been her basic foundation in all the art she does, including canvas painting.



SERAYA SMIT

This will be a gorgeous piece once finished. The mountain currently occupies a central position but may become less prominent once the foreground is rendered. The yellow reflections on the water contribute to visual interest. The cloud bubble on the upper left side could be reshaped. The background mountains are executed effectively. The composition demonstrates an excellent colour palette.



JENNY RODRIGUE

This piece feels cheerful. Add a faded daisy to the mid right for extra interest and include angular accents on the doily's right side.



DEBRA LONG

A lovely colour palette. The dark spot where the fabric meets the neck on the right side could be lightened.



PENNY LAMNEK

The elements are visually engaging and encourage further examination. The inclusion of gold adds significant aesthetic value. To increase visual interest, consider enriching the colour of the left circle or adding foliage on it.

CRITIQUES



ADA WONG

Beautiful palette. Sharpen the transition where land meets water and add definition to the right side reflections for more emphasis.



JOHANNE SEPTOU

The story is intriguing and the piece is well done. Consider softening some facial features and the diagonal lines in the window frames. Extend the grass line to the right and remove the sitting stone.



MICHAELA YANISH

The artwork has a fantasy vibe. Reduce pink on the canvas edges, enhance pink in the image, and emphasize the head. Increase the background contrast.



MEHAR KAUR

The work conveys powerful emotions and keeps you guessing about whether she is feeling happiness or sadness. Lengthen the curb on the right side and switch the brown background to an orange one.

JANI GALARNEAU →

I enjoy the vibrant colours and textures; the jellyfish appear glossy and delicate. Their hues are stunning. To simplify the tentacles on the right, try darkening some of the white areas with a gentle wash.



MARG MILLER

The sky appears vibrant and full of colour. Using Yolo paper with cut-out trees created in alcohol ink will add more depth to the foreground. Including the multicoloured pieces will make the artwork even more beautiful.





KEVIN BIGELOW

A highly dynamic piece capturing a strong sense of movement. The use of complementary colours is particularly striking. The depiction of the eye is rendered in a distinctly graphic manner, providing a focal point that draws attention. The shadows underneath the tentacles could benefit from a less intense value and add depth and subtlety overall.



KEITH NUNAS

The colour palette is vibrant and well-balanced. Sunlight enhances the buildings in the foreground, while the moody sky gives depth to the background. The dark spots on the forward trees should be softened slightly.



ERIKA DIRK

This piece is very attractive and delicate, featuring a beautiful colour palette. The neck area might benefit from a gentler tonal transition. Keep creating more works like this!



FRANCES HESSELS

Admirably simple composition suggesting an intriguing sense of mystery. A coloured mat with an appropriate frame would enhance interest. Recommend that the boy's thumb be visible outside the fold of his shirt, and that his extended fingers be angled slightly downward.



DEBRA MCGINNIS

The scene is calm and visually appealing, with colours drawing attention rightward. The left front would benefit from a touch more yellow for added interest.



RICHARD ST. AMANT

The colour is intriguing. This piece conveys both bravery and fear. Adding yellow across the nose would enhance the face visually. It's a striking sculpture.



THE ARTIST'S

art supply candy store!



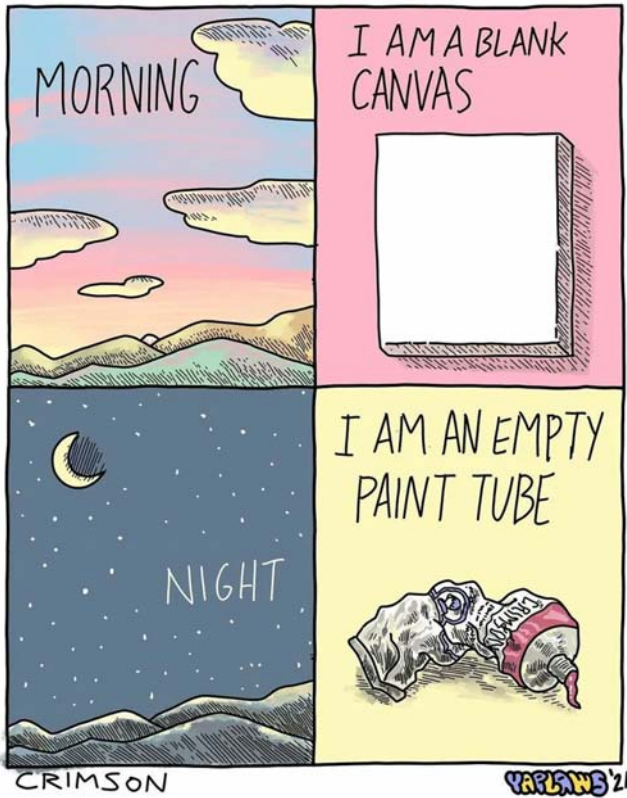
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ASHLEY THIMOT

Our Critic for March 2026

CANADIAN OWNED ART SUPPLY BRANDS

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!

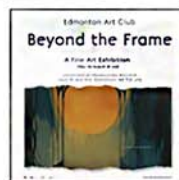


Misericordia Annual Exhibit

Date: May 1, 2026 to August 28, 2026

Location: Misericordia Community Hospital

Overview: A longstanding tradition showcasing member works in a healing environment, open to the public.

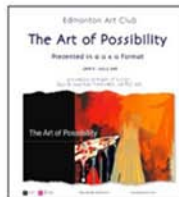


The Art of Possibility

Date: June 6, 2026 to July 7, 2026

Location: Night of Artists Gallery

Overview: Presented in a unified 12x12 format, this exhibit celebrates innovation through constraint and creativity.

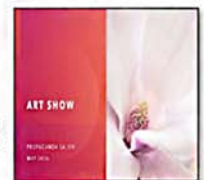


Propaganda Exhibit 2026

Date: May 3, 2026 to May 31, 2026

Location: Propaganda Salon, Edmonton

Overview: A spring showcase exploring bold themes and contemporary expression in a vibrant salon setting.



Outside the Lines - Annual Juried Show

Date: October 2, 2026 to October 29, 2026

Location: Night of Artists Gallery

Overview: A juried exhibition featuring original works that challenge convention and celebrate artistic individuality.



On The Horizon - Exhibits

AUTHORED BY SERAYA SMIT



So, Andre! ... The king wants to know how you're coming along with "St. George and the Dragon."

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GALLERY

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ART CLASSES

Balancing Dreams

Splash 27 Finalist

I'M DELIGHTED TO SHARE that my painting *Balancing Dreams* has been selected as a finalist in **Splash 27: The Best of Watercolour**, an international juried competition presented by Artists Network.

Splash is a long-running annual competition celebrating excellence in watercolour and other water-based media, attracting entries from artists around the world. To have *Balancing Dreams* chosen among such strong international submissions is both an honour and an encouragement.

Inspired by a poignant moment of my grandson learning to ride a bicycle, the painting captures his eagerness for independence alongside the frustration of finding balance and coordination.

I created the work in the studio from a reference photo taken outdoors. Edge control was central to the piece: softer edges in the figure suggest vulnerability and motion, while sharper edges in the bicycle provide stability. Painted in transparent watercolour on paper, the background was kept intentionally simple so the rider's expression and posture could carry the moment. I incorporated PanPastel to introduce subtle geometric



shapes that add visual energy and imply motion without competing with the subject.

As a finalist, the painting will appear in *The Best of Watercolour* publication. I'm grateful to be part of the Edmonton Art Club, whose supportive community continues to inspire my artistic journey.

DEBRA LONG



Helen Davies passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 5, 2026 with family at her side. Helen was an Honorary Member of the Edmonton Art Club, having joined in 2006, and for many years painted with friends, including Betty and Jan,



on a regular basis. She was best known for her landscapes, often reminiscent of her homeland, Australia, and for her gardening.

Helen will be remembered with great fondness.

NOA NIGHT OF ARTISTS GALLERY AND GIFTS
8330 Whyte Ave NW, Edmonton, AB

Collaborative
ART
Exhibition

Spark imagination and experience shared stories as you connect with works from students and teachers as they express why art matters.

3rd annual
The Heart of It

JANUARY 31, 2026 | OPENING RECEPTION
MARCH 1, 2026 | JAN 31 12-3PM

The Heart of It Student teacher Exhibit

The Heart of It brings together young artists and educators around one central question: Why does art matter to students personally and to society as a whole.

The Edmonton Art Club was pleased to recognize first place artists from Junior and Senior High Schools with gift cards to encourage their continuing art endeavors, and to further recognize selected pieces in this newsletter. Copies of the newsletter will be provided to all students who received recognition and to all mentor teachers who participated.

Many thanks to Night of Artists for this exciting opportunity.



First place winner Himatveer being presented with her gift card by Edmonton Art Club President Jani Galarneau.

Title: *Sound of the Heart*

Artist: Himatveer

Medium: Clay

Grade 11

School: Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack

Price: \$179

the presence of the emotions in the heart that are often unspoken. The bold color, heavy texture, and organic form and shape emphasize emotional truth and anatomical accuracy. By inviting viewers to activate sound by shaking it, the piece highlights the connection between touch and feeling, and it is a reminder that the heart is never truly silent.



**ELDER DR. FRANCIS
WHISKEYJACK
HIGH SCHOOL**

Sound of the Heart is a sculpture that explores emotion - both as physical and as an audible experience.

It is shaped like a heart and makes sound when shaken, which symbolizes a heartbeat and

First Place: High School 2D

Title: *Everything Left Unsaid*

Artist: Precious D

Medium: Acrylic

Grade 10

Archbishop MacDonald School
NFS



**Archbishop
MacDonald Catholic
High School**

Creative expression is such an important aspect - especially on growing minds. It acts as an outlet to breathe and express yourself in ways words could not carry on their own. "Everything Left Unsaid", is an acrylic piece that I chose to create in order to express the suppression of feelings a lot of youth feel today. Buried by academic pressures, overwhelming extracurricular activities, and just the rush of everyday life, these things start to build up and often lead us to fight our own silent

battles. I myself have unfortunately succumbed to these challenges, and it can get to a point where everything seems, well, gray. This is why I think that art, and art education, carries heavy importance in my life. During times of burnout I've found that painting has always been my release. It doesn't have any rules. It gives me freedom. It gives me peace of mind. Through my painting I wanted to convey the silent suppression of emotion. The feeling of fighting back tears. There is not words, nothing being said, but you can still see the weight that the eyes carry. I could've easily made the painting black and white to really enforce the themes of sadness, but by using brighter and more vibrant colours instead, I think that it carries more significance. The uses of subtle greens and bright reds show that there is still life in a person, no matter how much you might be struggling.



**Second Place:
Junior High 2D**

Title: *Untitled*

Artists: Rayden Martin

Medium Acrylic

Grade 9

Highlands School



Art is what prints out of your imagination — not just what you see, but what you express.

If someone tells you your art sucks or anything hurtful, making you feel like you should stop...Don't. They're just jealous they're not

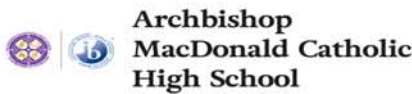


as good as you. Keep up the good work! Like the saying "practice makes perfect", anything can become art.



**Second Place:
High School 2D**

Title: *MLK*
Artist: Eyasu W.
 Mixed Media
 Grade 10
 Archbishop MacDonald
 \$289.99



This artwork of Martin Luther King Jr. represents the impact of Martin Luther King Junior in a historical context. I chose to create MLK because his message reminds us that one person's ideas can shape history. Through art, I am able to demonstrate the greater picture of his work.

Art education matters because it teaches us how to communicate powerful messages in creative ways. While history books tell us what happened, art helps us feel why it mattered. By learning art, I



learned how to use color, expression, and detail to show MLK's determination, not just his appearance. This process helped me think more deeply about his impact and the values he stood for.

Art education also encourages critical thinking. Creating this piece pushed me to ask questions about injustice, leadership, and how change happens in society. Art allow students to connect the past to the present and understand that issues like fairness and human rights are still important today.

Overall, this artwork shows that art is more than decoration, it is a tool for learning, reflection, and social change. Art education matters because it gives students a voice and helps them understand the world and their role in shaping it.



Many thanks to Kelsey Baker, organizer extraordinaire, for all her work bringing this show to life!



Third Place: High School 2D

Title: *Untitled*
Artist: Alona Rijesh
 Medium: Acrylic and gouache
 Grade 12
 W. P. Wagner
 NFS

The painting, though untitled, tells a story of my appreciation and awe of the art form of Thayam. It is an art form that makes me feel connected to my home country and where I grew up. This painting makes me feel like I still have a part of my story that is halfway across the world, but it is a part I still haven't lost.

Second Place: 2D

Title: *Godzilla*
Artist: Theo Garcia Bond
 Medium: mixed media
 Grade 6
 Ottewell Junior High



Third Place: Sculpture

Is the Ocean A Tea?
Artist: Hannah F.
 Ceramics
 Grade 11
 Victoria School of the Arts
 \$190



Art is not a skill to wield, it is what makes you human. In this time in history, it is important that we define what makes you human. Art is a reflection of you, it can be something that just makes you happy, or all the way over to something that reflects on a part of your heart so much that it makes you ache. Or anything in-between. Art is a way of communication that humans

have used for thousands of years. From mud on walls to the intricate paintings on church ceilings to digital drawing with a thousand layers, it is our history. It is what defines us. It cannot be taken away. Especially billionaires with neighborhood sized data centres, and AI making art. I love art and the way it allows me to make things that don't exist. I

appreciate new ideas and thoughts and enjoy being able to bring them to life. Lots of my pieces could be described as weird, mixing things that may not usually belong together or other artworks that make some people ask "Why?". Ceramics is a nice heightened version of that. I can mix my art into my daily life. Whether it's a dog's jaw for a jewelry dish at the end of the day, or a fish spitting out my tea in the morning.



Third Place: 2D

Title: *A Rose Garden*

Artist: Isobel E.

Medium: Digital Photography
Grade 8

School: Ottewell Junior High
School

Price: \$179



This painting is called *Roses* because it is about showing the progression of the flowers from young to old, from freshly bloomed to wilting. This demonstrates how we need to appreciate the little things in life, no matter how long they last.



Second Place: Sculpture

Title: *Slice of Pie*

Artist: Maële D.

Medium: Mixed Media
Grade 7

Ottewell School
NFS



Art matters to me because it's a way of expressing myself and my emotions. It calms me down after a long day. I can let my emotions free and put them in my art.

The Littlebirds Band



*Joel Gray,
Director, Littlebirds Band*

The **Littlebirds Band** was a big hit at the opening of *The Heart of It!*

The Littlebirds Junior and Senior Programs are designed to help the next generation of jazz performers hone their skills in a dynamic, 8 month long program.

Sponsored by the Edmonton Jazz Society, the band requires real commitment from the students, and offers an elite opportunity for auditioned music students ages 14-21 to play in jazz-driven big band and small combos. It gives these students a chance to work and perform with other young musicians with the same passion, and it often leads to lifelong friendships and musical collaborations.





Attendees were pleased to welcome Janis Irwin, MLA for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, to the show. She is shown here with Kelsey Baker, show organizer, and one of Kelsey's prints titled 'We the People'.



ACTIVE ARTWORK ARCHIVE

January 28, 2026 edition

AS THE FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHER AND HISTORIAN, exploring artist, collagist, jewelry maker, and nature photographer, former drama / theater educator, I find myself overwhelmed with STUFF. What you see below is the evidence!

Over the holidays, I found a link to archiving one's creative work. As you start creating your archive, you will be developing your personal art story. An archive is not only a history of your art, i.e., the past, but also a foundation for your art life in the future. As you start creating your archive, you will be developing your personal art story. Think about that! It is a powerful thing to create your story and be balanced by your archive. You are unfolding and creating your legacy. Many of our seasoned EAC artists do have that history of being long-time devoted artists. Also, many of them may be using AI to help organize their archive! We are moving toward accepting AI help when appropriate.

The common Archive Struggle asks, "Where are your images?" Do you know where your art details and images are, and what they include? You can use audio archives now. Do you use spreadsheets to store artwork details, measurements, descriptions, and high-quality images?

Have you listed your sales, invoices, and financial records? Have you tracked where your art goes in the world? Can you prove provenance? Do you take photos of your artworks at the beginning, in progress, and when finished? One little hint to start you off: here is how you number your works: Inventory numbers 2026, 001 versus 2026, 1.

The video is 30 minutes long and well worth it. Please see title.

<https://help.artworkarchive.com/>

Mary Frances Fitzgerald



Edmonton Art Club

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UPCOMING! A GLOBAL EXPLORATION



Into the Wild

Featuring
Tammy Taylor
&
Jani Galarneau

Opens April 4th
1-3 p.m.
April 4th - 29th
2026

Two artists bringing their love for animals to the forefront through distinct artistic styles. This show will allow you to experience their individual styles collaborative efforts.

They have curated three themes for the exhibition: African Animals, Ocean, and Birds.

Hoping to see you there!



The Intersection of Expression and Appreciation: Reflections from the Night of Artists Artwalk

An overview and perspective

Authored by Seraya Smit

An Artist's Journey and the Enthusiast's Perspective at a Celebrated Edmonton Event



The Night of Artists (NOA) Artwalk has long stood as a testament to the vibrancy and depth of Edmonton's art scene.

For over 27 years, artists and enthusiasts alike have come together in celebration of creativity, innovation, and the stories that emerge through artistic expression.

Spearheaded by visionary artist Phil Alain, this event has grown to symbolize more than just an exhibition—it is a communal gathering, an emotional journey, and an enriching experience for all involved.

The Artist's Perspective

For artists, the NOA Artwalk represents more than the act of displaying their works; it is a declaration of courage and vulnerability. Standing alongside their creations in a public space is an act of sharing a piece of their soul, inviting admiration, critique, or contemplation.

This process demands confidence, readiness to engage, and a willingness to connect on a deeply human level. At the same time, it serves as a humbling experience, reminding artists of the shared nature of art and its impact.

While some artists focus on using NOA as a platform to sell their works and build

their careers, many view it as a chance for dialogue and meaningful exchange. The opportunity to showcase series or works-in-progress alongside completed pieces reflects the diversity of artistic journeys and approaches.

For many, the experience is less about transactions and more about fostering understanding, gaining feedback, and drawing inspiration from the event's energy.

Months, or even years, of dedication often culminate in this weekend, making it both exhilarating and exhausting in equal measure.

The Enthusiast's Perspective

From the other side of the equation, art enthusiasts flock to the NOA Artwalk for diverse reasons. Some are drawn to discover new talent or acquire original pieces, while others come to immerse themselves in the creative atmosphere and connect with the human stories behind the art.

For these attendees, each artist's booth provides a unique window into an individual's journey—the passion, struggles, and triumphs captured on canvas.

The diversity of participating artists, ranging from seasoned professionals to those exploring fresh ideas, showcases the richness of the art world.

Enthusiasts often value this spectrum, as it offers an opportunity for meaningful connections and provides insight into the evolving narratives within the creative community.

Bridging Two Worlds

What makes events like the NOA Artwalk so remarkable is their ability to bridge the artist's perspective with that of the enthusiast.

Artists find validation and inspiration in seeing their work appreciated, while audiences deepen their understanding of the creative process through engagement and dialogue. This mutual exchange fosters a dynamic energy that infuses the event and connects all participants.

Through feedback and interaction, artists refine their craft and expand their horizons. Meanwhile, enthusiasts are offered a glimpse into the often-unseen facets of artistic creation—a reminder of creativity's power to connect and resonate on a human level.

Conclusion

The Night of Artists Artwalk transcends the traditional notion of an art event. It is a celebration of expression, resilience, and community. For artists, it provides a platform to step out of their studios and into a shared space where their visions can be appreciated and understood. For art lovers, it opens doors to inspiration and insight, offering moments of connection with the stories that make each piece unique.

By uniting these perspectives, events like NOA foster a sense of belonging and mutual appreciation. They remind us of the significance of creativity in building bridges, telling stories, and bringing people together. And in that, perhaps, lies the true beauty of the Night of Artists Artwalk.

"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.

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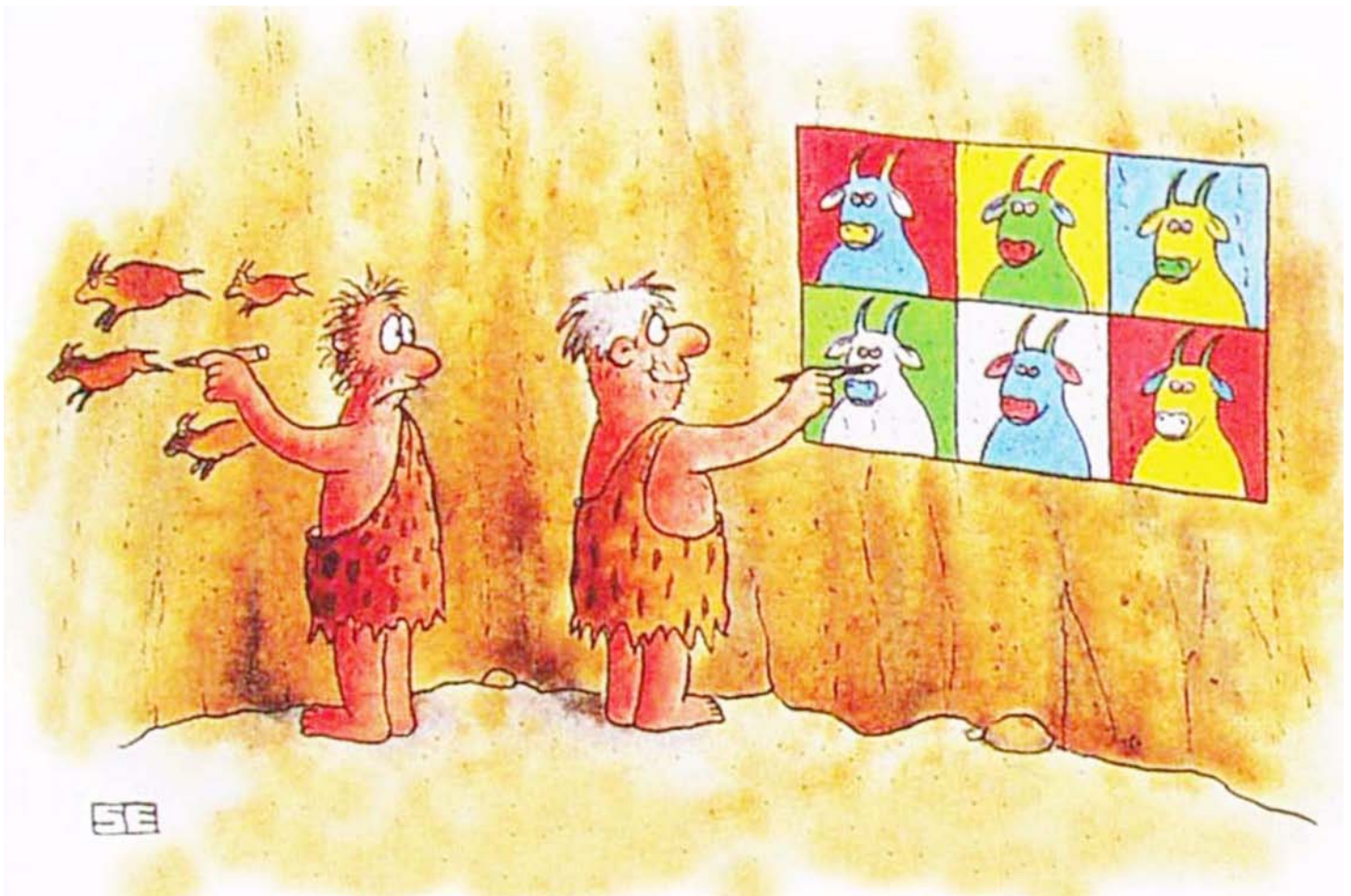
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The AFA believes in the full and equal participation of all citizens in the economy, polity, and society. The AFA manifests this belief through its policies and programs that promote inclusive citizenship in two distinct ways: in the arts and through the arts.

<https://www.affta.ab.ca/>

In the arts means encouraging a diversity of artists, arts



Alberta
Foundation
for the 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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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 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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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:

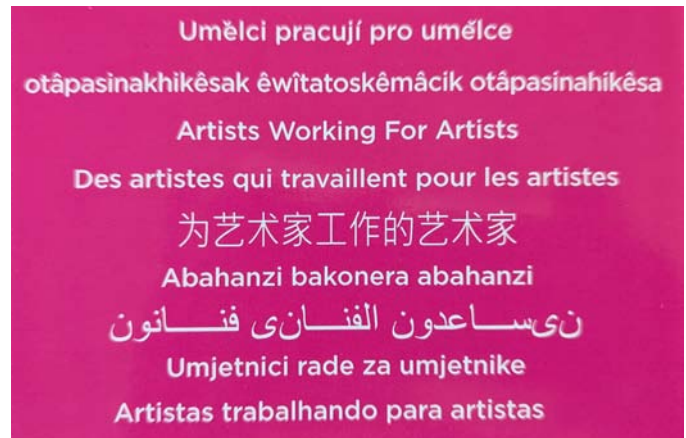
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Hours: Wednesday to Friday, 10–4pm and Saturday 12–4pm

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Alberta
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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 afta.ab.ca/home.