

A dynamic community that celebrates and supports *Arts and Creativity!*

Red Deer Arts Council and Red Deer Public Library are delighted to present

LEAP!

The 2024 Red Deer Arts Council Visual Arts Members Exhibition

running in the Kiwanis Gallery until April 21, 2024.



Our Last Supper
 Andrea Swainson
 Cast Acrylic, Cedar, Gold Leaf

2024 is a leap year and we encouraged our visual arts to take a leap ahead, use their imagination and see where the word LEAP sent their creative juices! Jump, spring, bound, proceed without pausing, by leaps and bound, leap in the dark, soar, leap into the unknown, leap forward, leap of faith, leap into action.. We've marveled at the creations inspired by this fun four letter word!

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception March 1 from 5:30–7:30 pm with many of the artists in attendance.

Gallery Hours: Mon to Thurs 9am–8pm, Fri 9am–5pm, Sat & Sun 10am–3pm

The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

Journey to Expressionism

Works by Kelvin (Kelly) Christenson

in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery until April 10, 2024.

Mom's Wildflowers
 Kelvin (Kelly) Christenson
 Acrylic

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception on March 1st from 5pm – 7pm with the artist in attendance.

Kelly has been creating evocative and realistic landscapes in this art for many years, but his artistic journey is leading him to discover new ways of creating with more abstraction and expressionism. Watch his artistic journey unfold throughout the gallery, culminating in pieces reminiscent of Jackson Pollock and his mother's flower patch!

Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 12pm – 4pm



~ Celebrating 50 years of Arts and Creativity ~

Creative Happenings in March 2024

Red Deer Arts Council Annual General Meeting



RED DEER ARTS COUNCIL
Annual General Meeting
March 13, 2024 at 6:30pm
RDAC Office and Community Gallery
6 - 4919 49 STREET

Join us at the Red Deer Arts Council offices on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30pm for our AGM to learn about what's been happening with the RDAC and where we are heading in this our 50th year as a community organization. After the meeting, we'll be screen printing tees with our **Artful Elk** by Alison Forsberg with some live music, refreshments, and great conversation! MEC T-shirts with fresh screen prints are \$25. Bring your own shirt to have screened (black or white ink) for a \$10 donation!



Drum Circles Continue this Spring!

Our next monthly drum circle is March 3rd at Setters Place from between 1 – 4pm. Join us for these sessions on the First Sunday of each month, though we hope to move outside when the weather cooperates. FREE to attend and drum with us! We have drums to use, but you can also bring your own! All are welcome to play in whatever way works for you in our relaxed atmosphere. Hope to see you there!

Scholarships & Awards Applications Open for Submission!

There's still time to submit your application for our awards and scholarships! We also have the Emerging Artist Award, the Artwalk Developing Visual Artist Award, and Diane Hermary Volunteer Spirit Award available. For complete details, visit RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/scholarships-awards. Applications/Nominations due April 1st, 2024 by 5pm.

Join our Board of Directors!

We're seeking to grow our volunteer Board of Directors at the March AGM. Whether you work in visual, literary, or performing arts, we're looking for diverse and creative individuals to help guide the future path of the organization. Please submit a letter expressing your interest and qualifications with a resume to our Executive Director, Suzanne@RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca or reach out for more details.

Innisfail Artist Discovers You Can Go Home Again

Innisfail artist Karen Scarlett says one of her greatest gifts was learning from her creative grandmother to try “everything and anything.”

“I have no fear,” said Scarlett, who’s painted model’s faces, tried interior design and lived and worked in New York City. Recently, she’s returned to central Alberta to help beautify her hometown while building community connections through art.

Scarlett grew up entrenched in the Innisfail area: Her great-great-grandfather Moses Wildman was an original 1870s homesteader. Her great grandma Estelle Wildman Scarlett actually named the town Innisfail (Gaelic for ‘Island of destiny’).

Scarlett said her whole family was “super creative,” with her mom being an “amazing” knitter and her father able to problem-solve any building project. Scarlett grew up painting, crocheting —even learning to make resin tabletops.

But by the time she graduated from high school, “I wanted my life to be big and fabulous — and not in Innisfail,” she recalled.

Scarlett enrolled in the visual art program at Red Deer Polytechnic (then College), and soon dropped out after finding the program too “restrictive.”

She tried various careers, from co-founding Mode Models, to delving into make-up and hair design. For a few years she worked as a Chanel make-up artist, flying around the country to demonstrate “the newest and hottest thing...” “It was kind of fun,” she recalled. But Scarlett kept searching.

After studying Interior Design at Mount Royal University, she set her sights on living in New York City, where she had often visited during her Mode Model days. “I moved there for the fun of it,” she recalled, and worked for three years in the hotel industry.

Discovering that New York “felt like my second home, it didn’t feel like home,” Scarlett returned to Alberta with plans to open and franchise a store, but the financial crash of 2008 killed that dream.

Her partner encouraged her to give an art career a go. To her surprise, she found her greatest inspiration in painting the farm fields and livestock she knew from growing up on a dairy farm, just west of Innisfail.

Scarlett exhibited her art at the Calgary Stampede, and even won a residency at a Longview ranch. She began taking commissions. At the tail-end of the pandemic, Scarlett did what once would have been unthinkable — she returned to where she started. Hired to paint a mural about inclusivity at an Innisfail coffee shop, Scarlett was overwhelmed by old friends stopping by to pass on their greetings and support.

Her mural involved writing the word “welcome” in 63 languages. By the project’s end, the 55-year-old felt like she was thoroughly welcomed back into the fold.

Scarlett has since set down roots in Innisfail. She has embarked on a series of public art projects, including painting poppies on the local Legion and decorating chain-link fences with other community members. Her new goal is seeing 150 local murals come to fruition in her hometown — regardless of who paints them.

If Chemainus, B.C. can create tourism and growth from art, “why can’t Innisfail?” she reasons.



Ed’s Elevator
21
Mixed Media
on Barnwood
Karen
Scarlett, July
2014