NOVEMBER 2023

VOL XIV ISSUE XI

Red Deer Arts Council
literary | performing | visual

A dynamic community that celebrates and supports Arts and Creativity!

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

Echoes of Italy: Abstract Landscapes by Linda Mah

which runs in the Kiwanis Gallery until December 2, 2023.
#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception November 3 from 5:30–7:30 pm.
Calgary artist, Linda Mah journeyed through Italy in 2015 and captured the impressions of the landscape and historical architecture with her camera and developed this exhibit using various media including encaustic, watercolour and mixed media. In her desire to share this fascinating country, Linda used images from her photographs to share a unique point of view by remembering the individual random details from columns in Rome to the pigeons in Venice.

In Ruins
Digital Print on Archival Paper, 2023
Linda Mah

Reaching for the Sky
Acrylic on Cradleboard, 2023
Linda Mah

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

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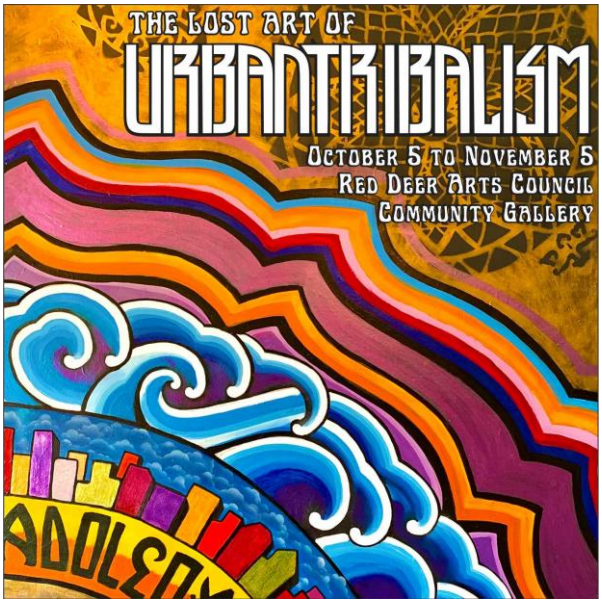
The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present our



2023 Scholarship Ceremony at Urban Tribalism

in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception on November 3 from 5pm – 7pm. Award Ceremony starts at 6pm.
Join us in celebrating the continuing development of two young Central Alberta artists pursuing their creative education with support from our scholarship and awards program! Winners will be in attendance!
6 – 4919 49 Street, Red Deer
The exhibition runs until November 14, 2023.
Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 12pm – 4pm

RV Red Deer
Red Deer & District Community Foundation
all for community.
Lifelong Learning Council of Red Deer
Alberta Foundation for the Arts
The City of Red Deer
Alberta Government
Business/Arts
~Creativity understood~
Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery
RDPL Red Deer Public Library

What's Happening in November 2023

Aesthetically Pleasing: The Multidisciplinary Practice of a Florist and Costume Designer

Art Speaks November 29 from 6:30 – 8pm at Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery
Join local florist and costume designer/seamstress Donna Jopp in a presentation of her multidisciplinary practices. Donna Jopp, former college instructor, and now florist shop owner, will speak on aesthetics and process in both artistic disciplines. Pre-registration is required. Light refreshments available. For ages 18+.

The Writes of Winter: *A Holiday Writing Contest!*

Red Deer Arts Council and the City of Red Deer have partnered on a Community Activation for Red Deer Lights the Nights 2023! We are pleased to partner on this writing contest to keep our imaginations warm this winter! We invite Red Deer youth, teens and adults to create a short poem or story (fiction or creative non-fiction) with a maximum length of 500 words about winter and/or the holiday season in Red Deer. Works will be published for folks to read on WeAreRedDeer.ca/stories/ and the Red Deer Arts Council's website and social media. Visit RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca /write-winter for complete details and to submit your story! **Holiday Season deadline: December 10, 2023 | Winter Blues story deadline: January 15, 2024**

Red Deer Arts Council T-Shirt Contest Winner!

Earlier this spring, we hosted a T-shirt contest that received several awesome responses from the community! Our jury selected the winning design by local artist and RDAC member, **Alison Forsberg** of Art is Off the Wall! Congratulations, Alison!!!
Now, we have a fun and funky T-shirt design ready for your holiday season gift giving! Our new order form on our website at https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/fundraising to order your custom screen-printed T-shirt or sweatshirt! Pickup of completed products will be at the RDAC office during weekdays 12 – 4pm.

Christmas Markets & More! Details about the many various Christmas markets being offered by our members are still being refined! Follow our Facebook page and Instagram to be kept up to date about all events happening this holiday season!

Her Own Family History inspires Red Deer author Susan Glasier

If you're going to be a writer, it helps to know some colourful characters — and Red Deer author Susan Glasier is aware of many — right in her own family.

So far, Glasier has written two books. Bend Like A Willow is a memoir of her life in Algeria, while married to her first husband, a foreign student she met at university in Arizona. Her second book, She Was Never the Same, is a fictionalized account of her secretive grandmother's life that was self-published last year.

The books are about cultural contradictions and contradictory characters.

Her 2012 memoir, recounting the early 1960s, contrasts Glasier's life in North America to living in an Algerians village where lambs were sacrificed and she was served a local delicacy — the animal's eyes. The story is ultimately about a marriage that couldn't survive the cultural divide.

More recently, she wrote about her inscrutable grandmother after reading her diaries, then filling in the blanks with a few extrapolations. The novelized account is rooted in reality and rife with explosive plot-points, including a rape and a murder.

Glasier feels both projects were therapeutic. "I probably cried less with the second book," she recalled. But writing about her grandmother helped her understand the "generational trauma" that coursed through her family. "There was a lot of alcoholism, drug abuse… it came from deep pain that carries through and is hard to get rid of…"

Glasier was born in Reno, Nevada, and spent her formative years living from Japan to the Philippines to Turkey with her mom and dad, who was a logistics analyst for the U.S. Army.

After studying agriculture in California, she arrived in Central Alberta in 1972 with her second husband. He was hired to run a cattle ranch near Olds for the pharmaceutical chemist Carl Djerassi, a co-inventor of the birth control pill. (They met him through university circles and were looking to get out of the U.S. because of the Vietnam War).

When this stint was over, Glasier and her former spouse became agriculture instructors at Olds College, where they worked for many years. Glasier eventually married for a third time (this marriage lasting three decades), moved to Red Deer, and has three children and a step-son.

"I always thought I would write about my experiences in Algeria," she recalled, but this didn't happen for 30 years. Ten years later, she finished her second book with the support and criticism from two local writing groups. At age 80, she feels the urgency of completing her next project — a book about her father, who hopped freight trains looking for work during the Great Depression before joining the army and travelling the world.

Susan Glasier at her January book launch for **She Was Never the Same**.

Her dad married an Indigenous woman after Glasier's mother's death, who introduced him to native spirituality, which Glasier believes took the sharp edges off his military personality.

It wasn't until her father was on his deathbed that she found out he was actually married four times.

It has all the makings of another page-turner.