



A vibrant community celebrating and supporting Arts, Culture, and Creativity!

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

What is Contemporary Art? Juried Members Exhibition

running from February 10th until April 19th, 2026, in the Kiwanis Gallery at Red Deer Public Library – Downtown Branch.

Our Visual Arts Committee is pleased to host “What is Contemporary Art?” – Contemporary art reflects current social, cultural, and political issues, engaging viewers in a dialogue about identity, technology, and global concerns. Contemporary is also artistic

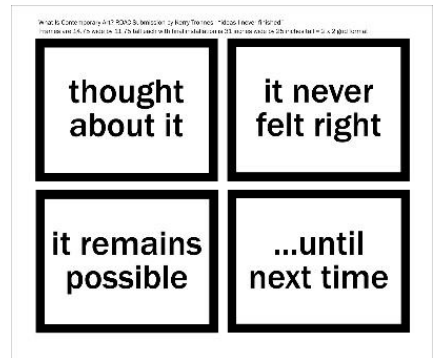


Keep Driving
Image print on Aluminum
William Armstrong

expressions created by living artists in today’s current times. Themes driven by the environment, political uncertainty, new emerging technologies, and expression of individual visual storytelling could be used for inspiration Consider what themes your work explores. What is Contemporary Art to You?

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening reception March 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

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



Ideas I Never Finished
2025
printed text in black ink
on white

Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

Februllage: Scavenging Through the Years

Collage works by Jaclyn Bell

The Red Deer Arts Council Community Gallery, Suite 6–4919 49 Street

Exhibition Dates: January 5th – February 20, 2026

#FirstFridaysRedDeer February 6 from 5–7pm with the artist in attendance.

Community Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 10am – 5pm

Februllage: Scavenging Through the Years showcases a collection of daily collages created in response to one-word prompts from the global February art challenge, Februllage. Built from found magazine images and guided by instinct, humor, and the joy of spontaneous creation, these works capture moments of curiosity and play across multiple years of participating in the global challenge. Viewers are invited to interact with the exhibit in their own way—by guessing the prompts behind each collage or using the provided guide to uncover them as they explore.



Sofa Journey
Collage, Magazine
Jaclyn Bell

Artist Biography: Jaclyn Bell is a self-taught collage artist, currently based in Edmonton, Alberta after calling Red Deer home for the past few years. Her love for collage began in high school, where she eagerly filled homework pages with magazine clippings. These early works weren’t about composition so much as the joyful obsession with leaving no white space behind. She even remembers making a collage for a friend’s homework, simply because she loved it that much. Years later, while visiting an architecture museum in Montreal, Jaclyn stumbled upon a collage station. Bored by the rest of the museum, she sat down alone and created three pieces inspired by schoolboys and architectural forms.



News & Events for February 2026

Follow Red Deer Arts Council on Facebook or visit our website for more details!

It's **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SEASON** for our members! If you're not signed up for automatic renewals, you might be overdue! Visit [RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/Membership](https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/Membership) to renew today!



Scholarships & Awards Applications are Open! Apply today!

<https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/programs-events/scholarships-awards>

A message from one of last year's winners, Andrea Swainson:

Last year I was privileged to receive the Red Deer Arts Council's Art Walk Developing Artist Award. Upon receiving the funds from this award, I enrolled in new learning opportunities. First, I attended an intermediate throwing class offered at Flux Studio taught by Dawn Candy. Where I developed my throwing further and learned new surface decoration techniques. I also took part in a chalk pastel workshop with David Skolney over the summer. I continued my exploration into chalk pastel while learning from an incredible instructor. Chalk pastel is a new favourite medium. In the fall I used the balance of the funds to take a 2D Strategies class at Red Deer Polytechnic. Being enrolled in a visual art course gave me access to the wood shop and the printmaking studio. I was able to utilize these resources to build an

installation piece that is currently on display at the Viewpoint Gallery in Red Deer as part of the "Process to Catharsis" Show. I am very grateful to the Red Deer Arts Council for this award as it has encouraged me to continue my learning and has given me support to explore opportunities to develop my art practice. Thank you again – Andrea Swainson. **Thank you, Andrea, for creating beautiful and meaningful art in Central Alberta!**

Art Speaks – February 2026 Edition features PUBLIC ART!

Join Jamie McGillicky for our February 25th Art Speaks talk at Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery! Get your tickets at RedDeerMuseum.com/product/art-speaks-more-public-art-please/.

General admission \$10, Students \$5!

Jamie is a Community Facilitator with the City of Red Deer's Community Development section, where she works as the coordinator for public art and supports community development initiatives in the downtown. She works closely with the Downtown Neighbourhood Alliance, a group dedicated to inspiring and empowering people to build a thriving, welcoming downtown through connection, positive conversation, and mutual support.

Jamie is passionate about working with people and strengthening community agency by removing barriers and supporting individuals to take action around the things they care about. She believes meaningful things happen when people come together and are free to express themselves.

Jamie holds a BFA from Emily Carr University of Art and Design and was the co-founder and owner of the Gam Gallery in Vancouver from 2009–2012. She has worked with the City of Red Deer since 2013 and is also the proud parent of three young boys.



More Public Art Please!

Public art responds to the place in which it exists by connecting to physical space, community, history, and ecology. It creates landmarks and contributes to a unique sense of identity within our communities. Public art is for everyone, that is the point of it. How can we invite new voices into the field and make it more accessible, not only for everyday audiences but for artists as well? This talk will shed light on the public art process, what commissioning bodies are looking for, and how artists who primarily work in the studio can move into the public realm. I hope you will join me to learn more about public art, the City of Red Deer's collection, and the often unseen processes that pave the way for the creation of new artworks.

Featuring
Guest Speaker

Jamie
McGillicky

Wednesday, February 25, 2025

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery



Burlesque is for Everybody — and Every Body, says Company Founder



Kaelyn Yeager as Domino Rogue

Burlesque can mean anything from tongue-in-cheek stage parodies to musical variety shows and striptease.

For Kaelyn Yeager, producer and co-founder of Red Deer's Private Universe Entertainment, burlesque is a pathway to self-acceptance — or as she calls it, “radical self-love.”

“Burlesque is a celebration of the human body and everything it can do and be,” Yeager explains — whether the stage acts incorporate songs and jokes or the coy peeling off of gloves and dropping of fans. All body types, colours, shapes and genders are part of the performance art form started in the 1860s, with roots in theatrical satire and musical parody. Yeager recalls being entranced by an ample female performer she saw at her first burlesque show in Calgary. “She had a large body, and I have a large

body,” says Yeager, who was struck by this positive representation.

The woman “was hilarious and creative, sexy and beautiful. She owned every bit of who she was.”

An inspired Yeager followed her brother, known as burlesque show host and producer Baron von Boom, into this colourfully brash world. For the past eight years, she's been performing under the stage name Domino Rogue.

Yeager's first time in the spotlight felt much like jumping out of an airplane with the supportive audience as her parachute: “It was scary,” she recalls. But Yeager discovered the stage can be a safe space where “you can be exactly who you are and do what you want to do...”

A year after moving to Red Deer, Yeager opened Private Universe Entertainment in 2023 with her partner, Preston Hoff. And their entertainments have been finding audiences in Sylvan Lake and Red Deer.

Seventeen burlesque shows have been staged so far at venues including the Scott Block, D2's, and Leah's Bar and Grill. Among them was last year's Red Deer Pride kick-off show as well as an enchantment-themed performance for the Ross Street Magic Festival.

On March 20, the next 'Tender Things' spring show will launch at Vin L Den in downtown Red Deer. (Tickets are available from Showpass.com.)

Yeager is interested in cultivating a thriving local scene so has been teaching classes to about 30 local students over the past year.

The age 18-plus participants learn about the diverse history of burlesque as well as classic moves: “the bump, the grind and shimmy,” says Yeager.

Students are encouraged to embrace their own bodies, create their own personas and solos. Acts can incorporate singing, dancing, comedy, or drama. While striptease is central to the art, performers remain partially clothed. The level of undress is determined by the performer, says Yeager.

“They can perform with hoola hoops, they can use silk fans or feathers... anything goes. One of the funniest shows involved a chicken costume!”

Burlesque isn't about showgirls or the “male gaze,” she adds. “It's about empowerment and the reclamation of our own bodies.”

More information about Private Universe Entertainment can be found on Facebook, Instagram or by emailing privateuniverselive@gmail.com.

~ Celebrating more than 50 years of Arts and Creativity in Central Alberta ~