



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



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

Body & Mind: Works by Debbie.lee Miszaniec

running in the Kiwanis Gallery until November 30, 2024.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening reception: November 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm with the artist in attendance.

Description: Fall is the season of feasts, and this exhibition presents a lush abundance of Dutch baroque inspired still life paintings of ‘forbidden foods’, focusing on the psychological struggle between the body’s needs and the mind’s direction when pursuing weight loss. A soft sculpture, tortured by these sweet sights, sits caught in the struggle between nature and diet culture. Is it the food which tortures the dieter, or is it a message from the body which only gets louder the longer it is ignored?

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

Set In Stone
Oil, 2022
Debbie.lee Miszaniec



Funding support for this Exhibition is provided by Calgary Arts Development

Red Deer Arts Council are pleased to present

The Journey Within: Artworks by Kristina Miko

in the Red Deer Arts Council’s Community Gallery until November 18, 2024. Join us for **#FirstFridaysRedDeer November 1** with the artist in attendance.

Description: Kristina Miko reflects on “The Laws of One’s Own Nature” – the idea of looking into oneself and how we navigate through one’s life. “I want to express thoughts and images that can be enlightening or hindering. It can be messages that we see in our day-to-day lives, subconscious thoughts, and dreams.

Community Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 11am – 5pm



Midnight Bloom
Acrylic on Canvas
Kristina Miko, 2024



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

Creative Happenings in November 2024

Red Deer Arts Council
literary | performing | visual

THE CITY OF Red Deer

The
Writes of Winter
Holiday Writing Contest

Embrace the chill of winter putting pen to paper
Visit reddeerartscouncil.ca/write-winter

Holiday Themes due December 9, 2024
Winter Themes due January 13, 2025

Entry Categories:
Short Story Fiction, Poetry, Short Story Creative Non-Fiction

Writes of Winter Contest opens November 12th!

We're excited to launch the second edition of our Writes of Winter holiday story Contest as part of Red Deer Lights the Nights!

Submit your favourite short story (fiction), poem, or creative non-fiction tale up to 500 words in length for consideration in our Holiday Themes due December 9th, or our Winter Themes deadline of January 13th to win great literary-inspired prizes and be published on our website and www.WeAreRedDeer.ca! For full details, visit RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/write-winter!

50 Years of Excitement Grows!

We've been celebrating our 50th Anniversary since June, but we're now coming to the actual day that marks a full fifty years of service to arts and culture in Red Deer & Central Alberta. Just in time for the Red Deer Museum+ Art Gallery's Holiday Artisan Market, we'll be unveiling a wall full of memorabilia and art to honour the legacy of the Arts & Culture Community in our area over the past decades. With some video interviews with movers and shakers of past and

present, we'll look back on the history as we move into the bright and exciting future of the Arts Council for 2024 and beyond. At December's First Fridays, we'll have a mini celebration of that fateful date in 1974 when we were created! We'll be selling tickets to our Soirée at both events and we're launching our Short Story Vending Machine, too! Come check it out!

Anniversary Soirée Tickets on Sale NEW DATE!

Our 50th Anniversary deserves a rocking birthday party, so we're taking over the Scott Block Theatre on Saturday, February 1st starting at 7pm to celebrate with our whole creative community. Don't miss out!

This event will include live painting, music, and dancing, a pop-up art gallery & sale, poetry, performance, song, and theatre! A great date night with a speakeasy vibe, just in time for Valentine's Day! Wear your classy Blacks and Golds or stand out in brighter shades of your best! Be a part of an elevated evening of fun to celebrate arts, culture, and creativity in Central Alberta and kick off the next 50 years with a bang! 18+ Tickets \$40 at <https://www.showpass.com/RDAC50/>

DRUM CIRCLES! Join us at our Community Drum Circle on Sunday, November 3rd at The Flex, next door to our office (5 – 4919 49 Street) from 2 – 4pm as we get a little rhythm in our bones! Free to attend and fun for all ages!

Red Deer Arts Council
Anniversary
SOIRÉE

50 YEARS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025
SCOTT BLOCK THEATRE

4816 50 Avenue, Red Deer
Doors Open 7:00 pm
Tickets \$40 Showpass.com

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

Red Deer Sculptor Opens Local Ceramics Studio

Red Deer sculptor Jen Pankratz creates life-sized ceramic human faces as metaphors for life.

These complex creations are strategically built, requiring internal supports so they don't collapse in the kiln.

Pankratz enjoys the chemistry of mixing her own glazes and working through time-sensitive processes that require advanced planning.

It's ironic, then, to think that she once associated clay work solely with functional mug-making. She admits her first try at ceramics, as a visual arts student at Red Deer Polytechnic, did not go well.

"It didn't do anything I wanted it to do," she recalls, with a laugh.

"Clay is a very picky thing. You have to dry it at a certain time, carve it at a certain time... It doesn't wait for anyone."

By her second year, RDP instructor Trudy Golley had opened up "a whole world of possibilities" for the three-dimensional art form.



Pankratz now considers clay "an amazing material... It really never gets boring."

Part of being a ceramicist is learning to control the medium, she says. The second part is learning to enjoy "the magic" of being unable to predict exactly how something will transform in the kiln.

Many factors can change the outcome of glaze colour, texture and lustre, she explains. "Even 10 to 20 degrees in a firing of well over a thousand degrees Celsius can make a difference."

Pankratz grew up sketching in Wilkie, Sask. After moving to Red Deer, she began taking visual arts at RDP. She later graduated from the Alberta University of the Arts in Calgary (formerly the Alberta School of Arts and Design).

Pankratz initially intended to be a painter. But she admits she now only paints when she is craving a quicker art project, since ceramics is a drawn-out process.

She even mixes her own glazes using materials such as feldspar, silica, powdered cobalt, manganese, copper and iron to get different colours.

Her work is often influenced by human interactions with the environment. For instance, "I was walking by the river," she recalls, when she noticed a rebar and pipe structure partly unearthed.

"Somebody had obviously put a lot of effort into it and meant it to last, but it was still crumbled and the river was taking it over."

This inspired her sculpture Human Erosion, which shows a human head seemingly sinking into the ground so only the top half is visible.

Pankratz will exhibit her sculptures in a joint show in February at the Viewpoint Gallery in Red Deer.

Meanwhile, the former visual arts studio technician at RDP is teaching at her own Flux Studio, which she opened in 2023 at 4732 60th Ave. About 30 local ceramicists pay a membership fee to use the kiln and other workspaces in the facility.

There's already a waiting list of more potential members — just like the Red Deer Ceramics Club also has a long list of local residents waiting to get in.

Pankratz says she would love to see an art centre open in Red Deer, drawing people of many artistic disciplines.

This "would be recognizing that art is really important to the community just as the community is really important to art."

Visit <https://www.fluxstudiorreddeer.ca/> for more information.

