



A dynamic community that celebrates and supports the **Arts**

Red Deer Arts Council is excited to present

The Online Arts Festival Part 2!



It's back! We are excited to pick up where we left off in May with the Online Arts Festival and start sharing great works of art from members of our creative community! We are so happy we were still able to make our High School Art Show happen online this year and now that it's complete, we're getting started a little early! We've got literary, visual and performing arts submissions, so keep checking in daily to see what our creative community has shared with us!



Sunflower
Acrylic on Canvas
Amanda Frost, 2020
16" x 20", \$125

There is still time to submit! We are accepting theatre, dance, music, writing and visual art submissions. Full details at <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/online-arts-festival/call-submissions-2020-OAFest>.

Whether you're a **visual, literary** or **performing artist**, please download and complete the submission form.



The Red Deer Arts Council thanks the City of Red Deer for all its support through Culture Services!

[RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca](https://www.RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca) | info@reddeerartscouncil.ca

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If you've loved what we've been doing the past 4 months to support our creative community and you're in a position to help, please consider donating to the RDAC on our website. Your contributions make a huge difference to keep these programs alive. <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/donations>



The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to launch a new project to build strong communities, improve mental well-being and celebrate arts and culture as a driving force for joy in a trying time.

With beautiful weather upon us and the onset of summertime screen fatigue, we're excited to plan small live community-based concerts around the city, working with community organizers, associations and block connectors to help neighbourhoods celebrate a united spirit in Red Deer.

Red Deer Arts Council is excited to present the inaugural **"In the Neighbourhood" Concert Series**, which will run from in July and August 2020 in different communities around town. Right now, we have 6 spots for solo and duo musical performers and we're looking for more neighbourhoods to host events too!

These live outdoor concerts will feature local musicians performing curbside for the residents of each selected neighbourhood, allowing for physical distancing with seating on private front lawns and green spaces. Dates, times and exact locations will be communicated in the neighbourhood one day prior to the event in an effort to follow current provincial guidance on attendee limits (which grew to 200 as of June 30th! Woohoo!)

The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to be able to support local performing artists through a grant provided by the City of Red Deer Culture Services and we are in discussions with other organizations, too!

Apply to be a performer in this project or register your community association's interest in hosting a concert here: <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/online-arts-festival/neighbourhood-concert-series>

If you're interested in volunteering with organizing, marketing, or other work to make this happen, please contact Suzanne at reddeerartscouncil@gmail.com and include 'In the Neighbourhood' Volunteering in the subject line.

Experimenting with the News in Olds

For this Olds artist, the past five years are all about change. New technology, new techniques, new media. After years of traditional art, Lorene Runham is now focused on creating digital collages and printing them on various media. It's "probably my main form of art now," she says. Runham has been devoted to art all her life, and has been teaching it fairly consistently since studying art and design at Red Deer College right after high school. As a teacher though, realistic, representational art dominated her work because that's what students want to learn. She understands their desire; as a novice, she wanted to learn to make an apple look like an apple too. And it is a good place to begin.

"At the very beginning of my art career, all I did was very, very fine, black-and-white, Rapidograph pen-and-ink drawings. No colour whatsoever," she chuckles.

Runham eventually allowed herself more freedom to explore her own artistic voice in her own studio work. About 15 years ago she started producing impressionistic, pastel landscapes. Collage, which was her childhood love, also worked its way into her main repertoire, and gave vent to her affinity for Van Gogh's vibrant expressionism.

Both forms are highly tactile, she says. Smearing around pastels and manipulating the pieces of paper get her hands right into the work.

Her choice to stop teaching about five years ago provided time and energy for still more new ideas, which is when she discovered digital. Initially, Runham used her computer only as a means to create reference work – until she recognized the potential.

"I quite liked what I was getting," she says.

Using her own photography, she manipulated and collaged the images on the computer. She realized she could print them not only on paper but other fabrics as well. She now sells all sorts of fabric pieces. Runham found an "ethical fashion" company in Montreal to manufacture the pieces. It handles the entire production from milling to the final seam, and doesn't create a work until it's ordered, so nothing ends up in the landfill.



Lorene Runham helped cofound the Wellspring Visual Art Network Association for rural artists north of Calgary and south of Red Deer.
(Photo credit: Noel West, Mountain View Publishing)

"I'm very, very proud that I'm working with 100 per cent ethical fashion and Canadian-made," she says.

The range of her artwork has put Runham in numerous solo and group shows. Her proudest moment so far was in 2017 when she was selected as one of the four Alberta artists to have their art in the Legislative Assembly's retail store that year.

She isn't settling into any niches, though. As much as Runham has appreciated the portability and cleanliness of working on a computer, she found she was missing the hands-on work of the studio. During the pandemic lockdown she had plenty of time to study and experiment, and is now finding herself creating abstract art. She laughs as she acknowledges the contrast with her early realist work.

"For a number of years I've been attracted to abstract," she says "As (artists) evolve, it's what we evolve to. We first must understand realism and representative art to begin with."

For more information, visit lorenerunhamart.org

Seasonal News
Mixed Media Collage
Lorene Runham, 36" x 40"