



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

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

## **Seeds of Growth**

### **Red Deer Arts Council Visual Arts Members Juried Exhibit**

running in the Kiwanis Gallery from February 21 – April 23, 2023.



*Strength Lies in the Roots*  
Darcy Gusse Edinga  
Hand Painted Silk/Dyes, 2020

Marianne Harris  
Backlit Poppies  
Watercolour, 2022



**#FirstFridaysRedDeer** Opening Reception  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.  
Refreshments served.

**Gallery Hours:**

Mon to Thurs 10 am – 8 pm, Fri 12 – 5 pm, Sat & Sun 10 am – 3 pm

The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

## **Common Threads**

**Paintings and the Quilts that Inspired Them**

**Works by Corinne Anderton**

in the Red Deer Arts Council's  
Community Gallery.

**#FirstFridaysRedDeer** Opening  
Reception

March 3 from 5pm – 7pm.

6 – 4919 49 Street, Downtown Red Deer

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Friday, 10am – 4pm and by appointment.

*Jewel Box*

*Watercolour on Canvas and Textile Quilt versions*  
Corinne Anderton, 2018 (painting), 2000 quilt



RED DEER & DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
all for community.



~Creativity Understood~

# What's Happening in March 2023

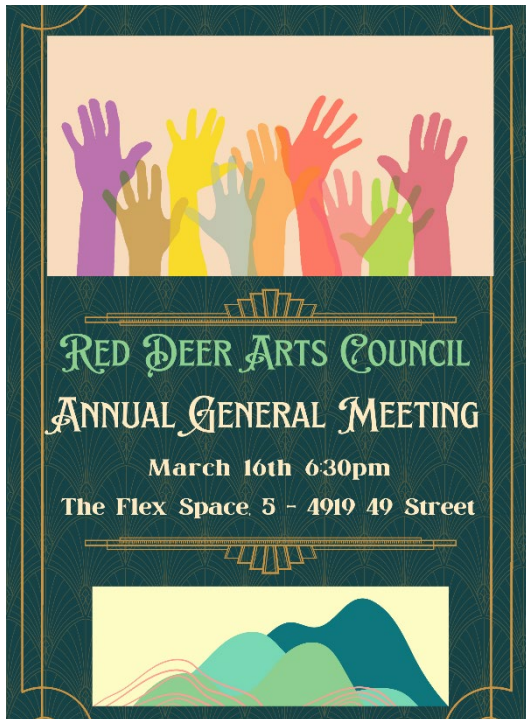
## Renew Your Membership for 2023!

It's that time of year again! Don't forget to join or renew your membership to the Red Deer Arts Council in advance of our AGM! Membership is just \$30 for Individuals, \$50 for Groups/Organizations, and it's FREE for Students in 2023! Join our Creative Community, add your voice to promoting arts and culture in Red Deer & Central Alberta. Visit our website to sign up or visit the office to buy your membership in person!

<https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/join-the-arts-council/become-member>

## Brave New Words – A Literary Open Stage

Join us at the Red Deer Arts Council's office March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, for our next chance to share your current writings, whether poem, short story, non-fiction with other writers to see how it feels in front of a supportive and encouraging audience. All ages are welcome. FREE to attend. (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday each month.) PS - You'll have a guest host for March as Suzanne will be away from the office that day!



## AGM for Red Deer Arts Council

The Annual General Meeting of the Red Deer Arts Council will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 6:30 pm in The Flex space of the Imperial Block building at 5 – 4919 49 Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1V1, next door to our office location. Parking is free and available in front of and behind the building. A Special Resolution vote will take place at the meeting to revise the organization's bylaws. Please visit our website to download a copy of the proposed bylaw revisions: <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-us/organization-information-documents>.

Following the meeting, Red Deer Arts Council will host a Creative Connections social with entertainment and light refreshments. The event is open to members and the public, but members must be in good standing to have a vote at the meeting. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member at the AGM, please email Suzanne at [info@reddeerartscouncil.ca](mailto:info@reddeerartscouncil.ca) to receive the Application Forms in advance of the meeting. Come learn what's happening with our organization as we build community through arts and culture. Contact Suzanne for the Zoom link to the event if you'd prefer to attend virtually!



## Art Speaks: So Many Artists, So Few Galleries – Finding Your Way In with Larry Reese – March 29 6:30pm @ Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery

How does one go about building a relationship with an art gallery? What approach is most conducive for a mutual beneficial connection? First and foremost, is the gallery right for you and are you right for the gallery? Larry Reese has multiple tips to offer those artists who seek to expand ways to get their art seen and potentially sold. The talk will include a list of do's and don'ts, informative handouts, and a lively, hopefully entertaining discussion.

## 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser Draw Date is March 31!

We are excited to share up to \$10,000\* with the winner of our old school Raffle Fundraiser (\*if we sell out)! Tickets are only \$5 each and easy to buy in person from Board Members, Volunteers, Staff, or by sending an E-Transfer to [info@reddeerartscouncil.ca](mailto:info@reddeerartscouncil.ca) in increments of \$5 and sending a separate email with your name, email, phone, and address so we can mail you your ticket stubs!





## Red Deer Fibre Artist Passionate about ‘Therapeutic, Meditative’ Felting Process



A honeymoon in Iceland was artistically life-changing for Red Deer fibre artist Veronica Graves.

While Graves was always creative, it wasn't until she travelled to Iceland with her new husband in 2015 that she was exposed to the spectrum of possibilities of making art from sheep's wool.

“As we were going around the country, we fell in love with the culture of Iceland and its folklore,” Graves recalled.

“Everywhere we went there were sheep.”

The animals were allowed to wander freely over the Icelandic countryside, until a special day of the year when everybody would lend a hand in rounding them up and returning them to their owners for sheering.

“No fences, no guard rails, they could just roam wild...”

The relaxed, almost magical, Icelandic mindset stayed with Graves after she returned to Alberta. She would seek out wool items in shops that reminded her of her trip to the island nation.

She noticed some of these items weren't crocheted and weren't knitted, but rather were made through another more mysterious process. Graves recalled finding some YouTube videos on felting and “I went down the rabbit hole.” As most of the demonstrations were in Ukrainian or Russian, she would watch how the felt artists worked the raw wool fibres with their fingers or needles.

Soon the mother of two was using her spare time to practise felting with materials she sourced from Alberta farms or ordered from a fine merino wool supplier from Italy.

A few years later, Graves has become proficient enough to teach classes on felting and she sells her originally designed scarves, shawls, and fanciful sculptures on Etsy.

She continues to be passionate about the tactile, hands-on process.

Graves first pulls wool fibres off the roving, wets and keeps “massaging” these fibres until they mat together into felt. Her oldest son, at age four-and-a-half, occasionally helps by running his toy trucks over it.

The process is so “meditative and therapeutic” that Graves feels it's helped her overcome some lingering trauma from a difficult childhood. “To heal as you are creating something... I feel so blessed that I came across this art form.”

The former alternative health practitioner is now looking into using organic dyes on her works. She appreciates how long-lasting quality felt products can be — the antithesis of quick fashion that's made with cheap materials that wear out fast and must be discarded.

“The more I get into it, the more I love it and want to keep exploring,” said Graves. “You never master this art, there are so many things to do — and I want to do them!”

A felted sculpture (see right) she created will be showing in the Red Deer Arts Council Members' group exhibit at the Kiwanis Gallery in Red Deer's downtown public library until April.

Her works can also be seen on Facebook or Instagram, under @veronicagravesfelt.



Growth through Vulnerability  
Veronica Graves  
Felt, 2022