



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

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

The Floral Female Connection Oils and Mixed Media by Sharon Wright

running in the Kiwanis Gallery from December 29 – February 20, 2023.



#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception February 3rd from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Refreshments served.

Gallery Hours

Monday to Thursday: 10 am – 8 pm,
Friday: 12 – 5 pm, Saturday: 10 am – 3 pm,
Sunday: 10 am – 3 pm

Sharon with her work *Peony Power*.

Star Struck Peonies
Oil on Canvas, 2022
Sharon Wright



The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

The Brush Decides

An Exhibition of Paintings by Cathy Fee

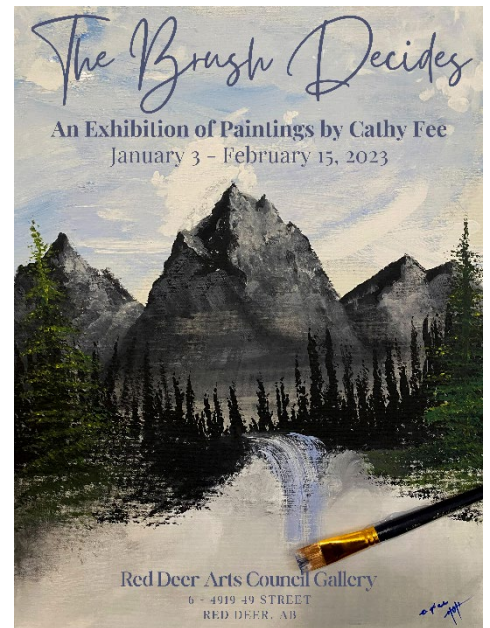
in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception
February 3 from 5pm – 7pm.

6 – 4919 49 Street, Downtown Red Deer

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

My work is about freedom. Sometimes I feel stuck in a wheelchair. Painting sets me free. It makes me feel like a normal, whole person and not someone who is broken. Painting inspires me to be free. Being free from pain reminds me of what it was like when I used to ride a motorcycle. When I rode, I felt like I was flying. Painting lets me fly again. Sometimes I'm not sure where the painting will end up when I start, I just have to let the brush decide.



~Creativity Understood~

What's Happening in February 2023

Apply for our 2023 Scholarships & Awards! Submissions due March 1st!



Red Deer Arts Council
Scholarships & Awards

Applications for our scholarships and awards are available on our website! We help fund continuing education and artistic developments through the following five scholarships:

- Princess Margaret Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students (\$500)
- Canada Centennial Scholarship for Secondary Students (\$500)
- Canada Centennial Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students (\$500)
- Waskasoo Bluegrass Music Scholarship for Secondary Students (\$500)
- Red Deer College Music Society Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students (\$750.)

Practicing artist awards include The Artwalk Developing Visual Artist Award (\$1500), and the Emerging Artist Award (\$1000) which supports artists in all genres. Complete

eligibility and submission details available at [https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-](https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-red-deer-arts-council/scholarships-awards/scholarship-awards)

[red-deer-arts-council/scholarships-awards/scholarship-awards](https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-red-deer-arts-council/scholarships-awards/scholarship-awards). Apply today!

Brave New Words – A Literary Open Stage

Join us at the Red Deer Arts Council's office February 10th 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. (2nd Friday each month.)



Art Speaks: Paths to Publishing with Crystal Kirkham, Local Writer & Publisher – February 22 6:30pm @ Red Deer Museum + Art Gallery



From self-publishing to signing a contract with one of the big five publishers, this presentation will give an overview of the many ways someone can become a published author. She'll cover the pros and cons of the various types of publishing as well as red flags authors should be aware of. Pre-registration is required. Purchase your tickets at:

[https://reddeermuseum.com/event/paths-to-publishing-crystal-kirkham-local-writer-and-](https://reddeermuseum.com/event/paths-to-publishing-crystal-kirkham-local-writer-and-publisher/?wcs_timestamp=1677090600)

[publisher/?wcs_timestamp=1677090600](https://reddeermuseum.com/event/paths-to-publishing-crystal-kirkham-local-writer-and-publisher/?wcs_timestamp=1677090600)



Our 2023 Raffle Fundraiser is underway!

Now that we've settled into our new space and hosted our big welcome back to creative living in Red Deer, it's time to build our funds as a means of continuing to pursue our awesome goals for 2023 and beyond! Your support is essential. Contact any Board Member or visit the office to purchase your old-fashioned paper tickets!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO OUR GRAND OPENING!

We are so grateful to everyone who attended our Grand Opening on Friday, January 20th. We'd like to shoutout some awesome local businesses who helped make it possible!

Red Deer Floral at 4921 48 St Red Deer donated two lovely bouquets to beautify our space. Jodi Doré of *The Chai Wallahs* also donated two of her delicious tea lattes for the event. *The Little Red Barn* and *Café Millennium* both provided delicious catering and we are grateful for their help! HUGE GRATITUDE to our amazing Volunteers for all their help with setup/décor, the buffet and cleanup! It was a great night

for our community of artists and creatives with music by Morgan McKee and Josh Rickard, an art game led by Wendy Meeres, encouraging remarks from Mayor Ken Johnston and an inspiring smudge ceremony by elder Lynn Jonasson. We are grateful to all Board Members, Staff, and Volunteers who made this night so amazing! Check out our website for pictures of the event! <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/>

Coping with Chaos Through Creativity

Red Deer artist Marnie Blair makes art out of adversity. When she was 19, Blair suffered cardiac arrest. She now depends on an implanted defibrillator to keep her heartbeat regular. Much of her subsequent artwork has focused on the human body — including her recent show *Nervous Systems*, at the McMullen Gallery at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Blair feels it vital, perhaps especially during difficult times, for people to have a creative outlet: “The brain is a wonderful machine and creating art is a great exercise for improving cognitive skills.”

Her multi-media exhibit in Edmonton looked at some of the dichotomies of living as a human being. Blair explored the fine line between fragility and resilience, biological systems versus artificial interventions, and decay and resuscitation.

“As a patient, I am acutely aware of the need for arts and humanities in health and Medicare,” she stated. Another instance of adversity fuelling Blair’s creativity happened during the coronavirus pandemic. She and her friend and fellow artist Erin Boake collaborated on an *Our Daily Bread* project of photos and still-life paintings. They focused on the various breads that Blair baked every day while two friends were in lockdown, separated from each other and their studios and workspaces. Blair explained the project filled their time, creatively. By measuring ingredients, kneading, and baking, Blair found solace and sanity in recipes. She was able to channel anxious energy “into the kitchen instead of the studio.”

From James Bay Treaty 9 in Northwestern Ontario, Blair moved to Red Deer in 2013 to teach visual arts at Red Deer Polytechnic. Making art, Blair said, was always her way of sating “an irresistible urge to ask questions about the world through making things.”

She’s currently working with copper-plate etchings and painted woodcuts, but also enjoys working in digital modes of art-making, often combining drawing, painting and the printmaking process.

As vice-chair of the Red Deer Arts Council, Blair enjoyed a community celebration held in January of a move into a new storefront space on 49th Street downtown.

“The board, our employees and volunteers have worked hard to design an inclusive space to increase community engagement in cultural activities in visual, literary and performing arts,” said Blair, who looks forward to “an exciting year of programming for creative makers and Central Albertans.”

Some of her favourites Arts Council programs are the Hub 2.0 ones that take place in the YMCA Northside Community Centre, the In the Neighbourhood Concert Series, and the Brave New Words Open Stage.

“You would be surprised at how extensive our portfolio of programming and outreach is,” she said. “As a visual artist, I look forward to our 2023 exhibitions in the Kiwanis Gallery and our new RDAC Gallery.”

On a more personal front, Blair will be participating in a group show at Chicago’s Woman Made Gallery. The exhibit is called

Roe 2.0 and consists of artworks responding to the United States Supreme Court decision last year to overturn the landmark *Roe vs Wade* ruling that established the constitutional right to abortion in 1973.

“Anyone with a uterus should have access to reproductive health care,” said Blair.



Marnie Blair printing a relief print onto paper on the printmaking press.



Marnie with several of her CNC carved woodcut paintings.
Photos courtesy of Infinity Brand Photography,
Rachelle Scrase.