

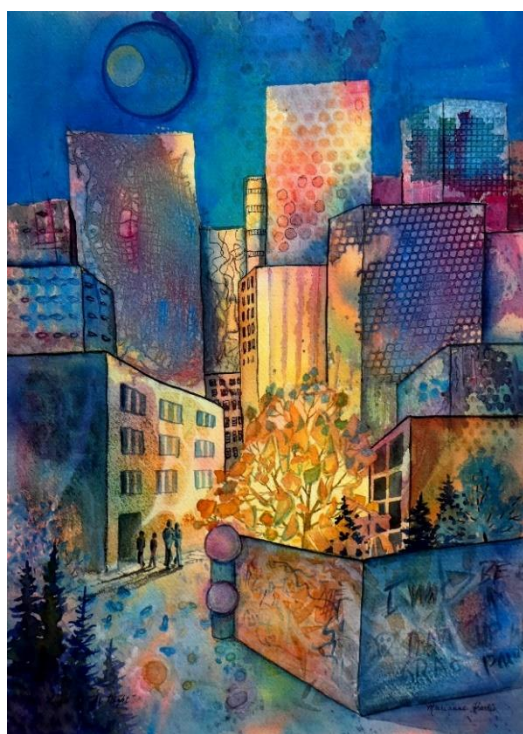


A dynamic community that celebrates and supports the **Arts**

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

VISION 2020

A RED DEER ARTS COUNCIL VISUAL ARTS MEMBERS JURIED EXHIBITION



Lights Of The Night
Watercolour; 2019
Marianne Harris

With the closure of the Red Deer Public Library and most public spaces, we've moved this exhibition to our digital platforms. Please come check out our daily posts on:

- <https://www.instagram.com/rdartscouncil/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/reddeerartscouncil/>
- <https://twitter.com/RDArtsCouncil>

We also created a Gallery Page on our website to continue to share with you these wonderful works created with a new vision for 2020.

Please note that not all works are suitable to this digital format, so we apologize for some missed works in this new online exhibition. Our April First Friday, scheduled to feature Cheryl Fisher, Eric Allison and Morgan McKee has been postponed until further notice. We look forward to presenting them at a later event in 2020.



The Vision of Youth
Watercolour, 2020
Susan Barker

Library / Gallery Viewing Hours:
TEMPORARILY CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
Please practice self-distancing during these unprecedented times.



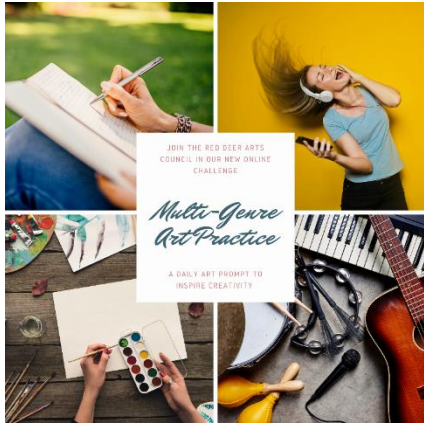
~Creativity Understood~



News and Online Activities Happening in April

Kiwanis Gallery Exhibition

As mentioned earlier, we've moved our 2020 Vision Members' Exhibition to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We've also created a website gallery page. Check it out at <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-red-deer-arts-council/visual/kiwanis-gallery/virtual-gallery>.



Online Activations

In addition to our virtual gallery posts, we're also posting a daily **Multi-Genre Art Practice** challenge to help you stay creative during these cozy days at home. Check out our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the daily prompt word. We hope it inspires you to paint, draw, write, compose a poem or song, dance a little with your friends on Instagram or perform and inspired scene. We also invite you to share your creations with us in the comments on each day's posts!

We've also got our **Nightly Singalongs** that we invite you to join in on! Every night at 7pm, we can lift our voices to sing together wherever we are! Inspired by our Italian quarantiners, let's raise morale in song! Check social media for the song of the day. Lyrics are always posted and you can play your favourite recording to join in!

Daily Facebook Live Videos

Suzanne is creating short Facebook Live Videos every weekday. Today's included a fun French recipe that you can try at home. Cheese, potatoes, bacon. Can't go wrong! Bon appétit!

<https://www.facebook.com/188574077965836/videos/209958370417751/>

A closer look at Van Gogh's Sunflower paintings:

<https://www.facebook.com/reddeerartscouncil/videos/208838520556531/>

A writing prompt: <https://www.facebook.com/reddeerartscouncil/videos/644883909666326/>

(Non-Facebook users, we hope you can still watch these using these links! We'll include them in the weekly listings for you IF this works. Please let me know.)

Open Studio Tour Updates

We are in the process of considering some dates later in the summer/early fall with the Visual Arts Committee. We are still accepting submissions for interest, but please know that the original June 13-14th dates are unlikely. More details will come as decisions are made.

Cancellations & Postponed Events

Annual General Meeting – Two days prior to the scheduled meeting, the RDAC Board decided to postpone our AGM until further notice. We will announce a new date with at least 3 weeks notice once it is safe to do so.

'The Princess Bride' Fundraiser – This will be rescheduled when it's safe to do so!

Art Speaks Learning Series at Red Deer MAG – we will resume this series in the fall, as planned.

Brave New Words & Brave New Writing - We will return to LV's Vinyl Café when it is advisable to do so. Keep writing and we look forward to hearing your new works when we resume!

Writes of Spring Writing Workshop at Kerry Wood Nature Centre has also been postponed due to the facility closures set down by the City of Red Deer.

Red Deer Arts Council

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Red Deer Arts Council



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Red Deer

Our thanks to the City of Red Deer for all its support through Culture Services!

A+ Art Gallery: A Secret Garden of Growth and Healing

If galleries were gardens, the A+ Art Gallery would be more a wilderness of native species than a City Hall Park – but no less beautiful.



The main room at the entry to the gallery exhibits clusters of works from local artists.

Owner and artist Michael Huyzer has shown his own work in formal galleries with pristine walls and precisely placed pieces, but that wasn't his vision for A+. He's proud to display a mix of sturdy perennials and budding new artists – the walls packed tight with fluctuating clusters of their work – with barely time to fix the nail holes.

"An art gallery does not have to be stuffy," Huyzer says. "It can be fun." He's also proud that most of the seeds have voluntarily drifted through the door during the past three years. The gallery represents about three dozen local artists.

"We don't put a call out; they come to us." But once the seeds implant, he puts in the effort to help them grow.

"That's why we're a little different," he says. "I spend the time ... to sit down with them and go through the steps. You'll learn a lot, and you can get an experience you wouldn't normally get."

Huyzer has experienced exhibiting in coffee houses and artwalk tents. He can nurture new artists through marketing basics, plus offer artistic mentoring. He loves watching them grow and transform.

Walking through the gallery's main room, he points out Amanda Frost's pointillist works, then the acrylics she's now developing.

"That's crazy talent," he exudes. "I want to show the beginning stages of what's going to happen next."

Touring all four rooms, he describes a wide variety of artistic categories, styles and media: colouring books, sculptures, and even repurposed materials. No word really defines the gallery except "unique," he says – noting that the gallery's full name is A+ Art Gallery and Unique Collections.

The classes and workshops are also unique, he stresses.

"Our workshops are just as quirky and different as us."

A different exhibiting artist teaches every Saturday, so the classes are as varied as the works themselves: watercolour, sculpture, drawing, oils, alcohol ink, etc. The only predictable element is they never finish on time. Participants can hang their work in the back rooms and even sell them.

Running a gallery like this was a lifelong dream, Huyzer says. Involved in art all his life, he still practises and teaches, maintaining two studios at home and leading weekly classes at the Hub on Ross. But he didn't open the gallery until his mom, Adriana, nudged him during her final months of life. She's the A+ in the gallery name.

He says his mom had always pressed him to "make it different": to encourage creativity, and treat his artists and customers like family. And he did. Many artists also exhibit in other places, but Huyzer's thrilled when they call A+ their home base.

His enlarged family has created a "well of creativity" that he finds healing, and he hopes will help everyone who comes through the door feel better during our economic "bubble of despair."

A+ Art Gallery and Unique Collections is located upstairs, at #203, 4919 49th Street. Visit aplusartgallery.com.



Michael Huyzer enjoys the comfort of "the living room" area of A+ Art Gallery and Unique Collections, while office manager Randy Jackson works at the front desk.