



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

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

Connection: Sculptures by Deb Laninga

running in the Kiwanis Gallery until August 14, 2024.

The Embrace

Cold Cast Bronze with Resin, 2022

Deb Laninga



#FirstFridaysRedDeer Reception July 5th from 5:30 – 7:30pm with artist in attendance.

Description: Redwater artist Deb Laninga works in realism to preserve “that moment”; the moment where our humanity shines and is most evident and revealing. Shown throughout her sculptures of the figure and portrait, she creates art that captures a scene that will stay in your mind, a moment where you identify with emotions, memories, family, friends, and community.

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

The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

Taming the ADHD Brain

Multidisciplinary Works by Carmen Winter

in the Red Deer Arts Council’s Community Gallery
until August 26, 2024.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception on July 5 from
5pm – 7pm with the artists in attendance.

Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 11am – 4pm

Wisdom

Pencil Crayon on Music Manuscript
Carmen Winter



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



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

Creative Happenings in July 2024

Summer Solstice Plein Air Painting Event! Thank you to everyone who came out for our first ever Plein Air event and it was a huge success! Thank you to all the volunteers who came out early and late to make the beautiful day even better!

2024 In the Neighbourhood Concert Series

We've got shows all summer long! Summer dates are:

- Tuesday, July 23 – G.W. Smith School 7pm w/ Carmen Winter
- Wed, July 24 – Benalto Family Resource Centre w/ Taylor Drive
- Fri, July 26 – Morrisroe West with Chuck Spadina
- Thursday, Aug 15 – Bower Community Centre – artist TBA
- Sat. Aug 17 – Riverside Meadows Community Centre, band TBA
- Sat. Sept 14 – West Park, band TBA

If you'd like an event for your neighbourhood, we've got a couple of slots left. Please visit bit.ly/Community-Concert-Registration for full details!

Awards & Scholarships Ceremony Wrap Up!

On Tuesday, June 25th, we hosted dozens of guests in the RDAC office for our 2024 Awards & Scholarships Ceremony!

We are pleased to announce the winners for 2024! (images in order, as listed)

The Scholarships: Chloe Lawson – Centennial Scholarship for Secondary Students – Writing
 Jessica Muchiri – Waskasoo Bluegrass Music Scholarship for Secondary Students – Violin Performance
 Ainsley Nivens – Centennial Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students – Dance Performance
 Christopher Armstrong - Princess Margaret Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students – Theatre
 Skylar Sabasch - RDC Music Society Scholarship for Post-Secondary Students – Vocal Performance (Opera)

The Awards: Kristina Miko – Emerging Artist Award – Visual Arts in Mixed Media
 Ariane Kamps - Artwalk Developing Visual Artist Award – Visual Arts in Oil Painting (primarily)
 Scott Barnabé – Diane Hermary Volunteer Spirit Award – 20+ years of commitment to the RD Arts Council



Art is a Healing Journey for Local Abstract Painter

Vincent van Gogh believed in the therapeutic power of art. He once wrote: “Art consoles those broken by life.”

Red Deer-area artist Mélanie Kilsby perfectly understands this sentiment. After the pandemic hit in 2020, she lost her administrative job in Abbotsford B.C. She became depressed and her marriage became strained.

“I didn’t believe in myself a lot,” she recalled, so Kilsby did what she’d done since she was a child. She brought out her oil paints and began applying streaks of colour to canvas. “I wanted to express my heart without any rules. I find abstract art is more freeing, without any restrictions,” she said.

“Abstract is my strength. I have a special awareness of colour.”

Kilsby painted the Fraser Valley mountains around Chilliwack, the community she grew up in after her parents split and her mom moved her west from Quebec. She depicted the familiar landscape with loose brushstrokes and in shades of blue.

She also created eruptions of geometric shapes in another painting, called Mental Mess — which reflected her confused state of mind at the time.

This was the start of a healing journey that eventually led Kilsby, her children and her (now reconciled) spouse to central Alberta.

She moved here a couple of years ago to take a job with Red Deer County and to rejoin most of her extended family, which had gradually migrated east from B.C.

Kilsby admitted she wasn’t sure the local arts scene would be easy to break into. But her introduction to her new artistic community went far better than expected.

“I didn’t think my abstract art would resonate here so much, but it seems to be resonating” — perhaps because it’s a little unexpected, said Kilsby.

I’ve already been invited to exhibit my paintings at Copper Lane” hair salon. Her show can be seen from July 4 to 31.

The mother of five kids, now between the ages of 12 and 18, never let her domestic or work duties stand in the way of her creativity. She said she would invite her children to make art with her.

As well as painting, she also writes young adult fiction and has had poetry and articles published.

The 41-year-old once considered making a career in art but her mother, who’s of Scottish heritage, thought it impractical. Kilsby instead took library sciences at university.

She’s since discovered that her father’s Métis relations include many talented people, including her woodcarver grandfather and two very creative aunts. “They are very artistic. They are always drawing...”

Kilsby now plans to travel to Quebec next summer to explore the French Canadian and Indigenous sides of her family. She feels this journey of personal discovery will be all the more important as her husband is part First Nations, as are their children. She believes what she discovers will impact her art.

In the meantime, Kilsby said she plans to look for more exhibition opportunities in central Alberta as she further connects with other artists and the local arts scene through the Red Deer Arts Council.



Melanie Kilsby with a pair of her works in City Hall Park. Photo credit: Bill Kilsby