

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

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

## Voices of Abstraction:

**Works by Barb Kreutter and Sharon Thompson**

which runs in the Kiwanis Gallery until February 11, 2024.



*Love and Healing*  
Oil on Canvas, 2023  
Sharon Thompson

*Hidden Pond*  
Photograph on  
Archival Paper, 2022  
Barb Kreutter



**#FirstFridaysRedDeer** Opening Reception January 5 from 5:30–7:30 pm with the artists in attendance.

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

The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present

## Healing Journeys Through Art

**Art from friends of Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre**


in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery.

**#FirstFridaysRedDeer** Opening Reception on January 5<sup>th</sup> from 5pm – 7pm with CASASC staff, board, and friends in attendance.

Art therapy is often used to help support community members through difficult times while working through trauma. The folks at CASASC have received numerous artworks over the years from clients and supporters and as a means of fundraising, we'll be exhibiting the works and hosting a silent auction that will run the duration of the exhibition, with final bids at the February 2nd First Fridays event.

The exhibition runs January 4 – February 13, 2024. RDAC Community Gallery 6 – 4919 49 Street.

**Gallery Hours:** Mon to Fri 12pm – 4pm



*Healing Journeys  
Through Art*

AN ART EXHIBITION FROM CENTRAL  
ALBERTA SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT CENTRE

Red Deer Arts Council Community Gallery 6 – 4919 49 Street  
Exhibition: January 4 - February 13, 2024  
Opening reception January 5th 5pm - 7pm with CASASC staff,  
board and friends in attendance!

# What's Happening in January 2024 | *Happy New Year 2024!*

## Hand Drum Tuning Workshop!

Join us Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4pm at Setters Place in Bower Ponds (the 2-storey building overlooking the football field/skating oval) to learn how to tune and play African-style drums with the friendly folks from One World Drum Co. of Calgary. This FREE workshop will show you how to maintain the drums and will include a drum circle at the end! (To come just to play, arrive around 2:30pm.) Help us get our new-to-us drums ready for more drum circle events this spring! Mark your calendars for February 4<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>! FREE to come and participate with us! Register with this QR code to help us prepare! (Walk-ins also welcome.)



**HAND DRUM WORKSHOP**

A workshop to help you tune and play drums

**FREE**  
1pm to 4pm  
6th January 2024  
Setters Place, Bower Ponds

[www.RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca](http://www.RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca)  
[www.DrummerDan.ca](http://www.DrummerDan.ca)

## The Writes of Winter Writing Contest!

Red Deer Arts Council

THE CITY OF Red Deer

The *Writes of Winter* Holiday Writing Contest

Embrace the chill of winter putting pen to paper  
Visit [reddeerartscouncil.ca/write-winter](http://reddeerartscouncil.ca/write-winter)

up! We invite Red Deer writers of all ages to create a short poem or story with a maximum length of 500 words about winter in Red Deer. Submissions can be fiction, or creative nonfiction: memoirs, events from history, and local legends are all welcome, so long as you've put your own creative spin on the source material. We will select a winner for each category (poetry, short story - fiction, short story non-fiction.)

**Winter Blues deadline: January 15, 2024**

## Scholarships & Awards Applications Launch Jan 10<sup>th</sup>!

We're excited to launch our annual scholarship and awards for 2024 on January 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition to our existing awards by application, we're also launching the Diane Hermary Volunteer Spirit Award, which is a nomination process. We look forward to supporting youth and practising artists in continuing their education in the arts. Visit [RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/scholarships-awards](http://RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/scholarships-awards) for complete details about all of the awards available. Applications/Nominations due April 1<sup>st</sup>.

(Portrait Detail of Diane Hermary Award by Carol Lynn Gilchrist)



## Digital artist Peter Fiala makes you believe in the unbelievable



Red Deer-based digital artist Peter Fiala has created imaginary worlds for films — but always wanted his meticulous labours to go unnoticed.

The mark of a good visual effects artist, he explained, is to make your personal contributions disappear so that viewers believe these worlds are completely authentic.

Fiala, who instructs in the animation and visual effects program he helped develop at Red Deer Polytechnic, previously worked as a digital artist in Vancouver on many movies — including big Hollywood projects.

He was on an effects team that helped create the thousands of rugby fans seen in arena shots in Clint Eastwood's *Invictus*, about the unifying effect of a South African rugby team. He also worked on the film *Angels and Demons*, based on the Dan Brown novel, and created missile launches, explosions, and grasses moving from the turning blades of a landing

helicopter — that wasn't really there — in the film *Tropic Thunder*.

"If you do a good job, you are supporting the story," he explained. "The idea is not to have people notice your work, because you're supposed to make people believe it's real."

The most important qualities of visual effects artists are creativity, focus and attention to detail, said Fiala, who takes still takes tons of photos of everything from European statuary to castles when he's travelling — for future reference.

Visual effects film projects are labour intensive, taking several months or a year to complete, even if they get only a few seconds of screen time. Artists must have patience. "And you need to have understanding that you are going to have to make revisions."

Fiala admitted he's made many changes that went against his artistic grain, at the request of a client or employer. "The client doesn't necessarily have your artistic sensibilities — but he does have the money," he added, with a chuckle.

The Edmonton native, who also worked for a time in animation and graphic production for start-up companies, originally wanted to be an architect. But he started by taking industrial product design at the University of Alberta, and his affinity for drawing and drafting drew him to eventually expand his education at the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts.

In 2015, he was hired by then-Red Deer College to develop a four-year Digital Effects and Animation Degree program. Only the third such program in Canada, it took in its first contingent of pupils in 2018. There are now about 90 students from as far away as Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Fiala, whose own specialty is creating digital surface effects, encourages students to keep honing their traditional art skills — drawing, colour theory and composition. He noted computers are only the tools to be used, instead of paints, to get their visions across.

He's excited some students are already landing great opportunities, such as working as applied interns in their fourth year of the program at Industrial Light and Magic (*The Mandalorian*), and for Sony Pictures (*Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse*).

"I think our reputation is slowly growing," said Fiala, who hopes to someday see students from B.C. choosing to come to Red Deer to learn digital effects, instead of going to Vancouver.

*Images contributed by Peter Fiala*

