



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

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

## Make Your Mark Dance at

### Voices of Abstraction: Works by Barb Kreutter and Sharon Thompson

The Exhibition runs in the Kiwanis Gallery until February 11, 2024. Our Visual Arts Members Exhibition, LEAP, is coming up later in the month!



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



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



MAKE  
YOUR  
MARK  
DANCE



#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception February 2 from 5:30–7:30 pm with ballet, jazz, contemporary and more performances from the students.

**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

By Friends of Central Alberta Sexual Assault Support Centre

in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery.



#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5pm – 7pm will feature the last chance to put your name down for the Silent Auction fundraiser!

The art currently on our walls was created during Art therapy programs offered from the folks at CASASC. Every piece is available to purchase via Silent Exhibition as a means of fundraising for the important work to prevent sexual violence in our region.



The exhibition runs until February 13, 2024. More details on our next exhibition coming soon!

RDAC Community Gallery 6 – 4919 49 Street.

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



~ Celebrating 50 years of Arts and Creativity ~

# Creative Happenings in February 2024

## Hand Drum Circles!

Our dozens of drums are ready to play and we're excited to make some music together this spring! Thanks to the City of Red Deer's ReConnect Grant, we're hosting monthly drum circles on the First Sunday of the month at Setters Place – always between 1 – 4pm. Join us February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup> (and more dates to come!) FREE to come and drum with us! All are welcome. Register with this QR code to help us prepare! (Walk-ins also welcome.)



## The Writes of Winter Writing Contest!



We've wrapped up our Writes of Winter contest and the Winter Blues stories will soon be posted on the website next to our holiday stories. The depths of the cold slowed things a little bit, HA! Winning stories will again be published on cups at Café Millennium early in the month – collect all the winning stories before they're gone! <https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/write-winter>

## Scholarships & Awards Applications Open for Submission!

The annual scholarship and awards are on our website for 2024! We've launched the nomination-based Diane Hermary Volunteer Spirit Award in addition to the Princess Margaret Scholarship, the Centennial Scholarships (for Post-Secondary AND Secondary students,) the Waskasoo Bluegrass Music Scholarship (all \$500 each) and the RDC Music Society Scholarship (\$750)! These student awards help support youth continuing their studies in the arts! For practising artists, we also have the Emerging Artist Award (\$1,000) and the Artwalk Developing Visual Artist Award (\$1,500.) Visit [RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/scholarships-awards](http://RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/scholarships-awards) for complete details about all the awards available. Applications/Nominations due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 by 5pm.

## Join our Board of Directors!

The Red Deer Arts Council is a non-profit organization that inspires, supports, and stimulates arts and culture through education, advocacy, and programming to create a vibrant community celebrating and nurturing arts and creativity. The Red Deer Arts Council Board of Directors is assembling a skill-based board (these are the key skills we are seeking): **Governance | Marketing | Finance & Accounting | Entertainment | Fundraising | Event Planning | Leadership | Sponsorship | Education | Volunteerism | HR | Social Media | Technology**

In addition, experience in board governance, strategic planning, risk mitigation and an understanding of fiduciary obligations is important. Prior experience with non-profit boards is not required but would be considered an asset. The Board meets monthly, AGM is March annually. Board members are expected to participate in committee work and attend all meetings prepared and ready to engage productively in respectful discussion and decision making. Please submit a letter expressing your interest and qualifications with a resume to our Executive Director, [Suzanne@RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca](mailto:Suzanne@RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca)





# Metal and Glass Sculptor Becomes In-Demand Artist



Lacombe-based artist Trenton Leach is carrying on a centuries-old tradition in Central Alberta. By teaching students stained-glass making in his Rogue Art and Design Glass studio in Lacombe, Leach is passing on a thousand-year-old practice that originated in Western Europe. Once a conveyor of religious imagery, stained glass has been solidly secular since the Victorian age. The 51-year-old believes it's been making a resurgence in the art world in recent years, and so he's "satisfied" to be imparting these venerable skills to new generations.

His latest stained-glass project is a luminescent reminder of a family homestead — a juxtaposition of field and sky, with bales of wheat, a grain elevator and farmhouse.

This is familiar territory for Leach, who was born in Regina, Sask. He moved with his parents to Calgary as a toddler, then to Red Deer in time to start Grade 1.

While his father was a graphic artist/printer and his grandmother a painter, Leach discovered his calling under the instruction of his former art teacher Dennis Moffat at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School.

Moffat was creating some public art projects at the time and the idea of making art to beautify public spaces resonated with Leach, who began thinking of ways to turn his "doodles" into three-dimensional sculptures.

While he later studied to become an electrician, he also took evening classes in welding at Red Deer College.

Leach put his metal skills to use in his off-hours, creating free-form sculptures, including garden ornaments, wrought iron railings and gates for private residences across central Alberta.

When one of his early project submissions threatened to outstrip his abilities, he learned stained-glass making about 20 years ago from Alexander Van Dongen. The now late artist, who had done church restorations in Calgary and many stained-glass commissions in Red Deer, became Leach's mentor.

Glass and metal have since combined in many of Leach's art projects. These include his large Fish Bowl installation with moveable marbles in Red Deer's G.H. Dawe Community Centre, and his Liberace with mirrored red and gold glass in the second floor of Lacombe's Memorial Centre.

With private art commissions coming in regularly, Leach stopped taking electrician jobs. He became a full-time artist about a decade ago, working out of his old studio in Red Deer with his life and art partner Holly Elliott.

About six years ago, he also began teaching summer Series classes in metal sculpture at Red Deer Polytechnic. He said, "It's so important to have that creative side and work through ideas and problem-solving" with his students.

Throughout the years, he's continued creating public art, including Jazz Nights at Varsity Hall. The metal, life-sized depictions of musical instruments has become a popular photo op at the entrance to the Sylvan Lake Pier.

Last fall, Leach and Elliott moved into a new studio in the Lacombe Performing Arts

Centre after scouting out prospects in small towns during the pandemic.

"Lacombe has all these lakes and gorgeous walking trails, and the arts community was really strong," he explained. About 80 students have learned glass art skills through his classes and workshops since the studio opened. Many of them are from Lacombe, said Leach, but others come from right across central Alberta.

