

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



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

Transitions

Cyanotypes by Vivian Smith



running in the Kiwanis Gallery until February 9, 2025

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening reception: November 1 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm with the artist in attendance.

Description: In Vivian’s Artist Statement, she describes her latest body of work as follows “Transitions, positive and negative spaces work in tandem to repeatedly depict a body unsupported in space, caught in the act of moving from one location to another and without stable footing. The environment surrounding the bodies is ambiguous – it might be the ocean, a frozen lake, mist, the sky, in – utero, an x-ray, a blast zone etc. It is a space where a body once was. Major life events can leave us feeling unsettled and unmoored, floating in an undefined space. While this temporary state is disorienting, it also offers opportunities for transformation and growth, allowing us to gain knowledge and insight.”

Untitled
Cyanotype Dye
Vivian Smith, 2021

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

Red Deer Arts Council are pleased to present

Decades: Watercolours by Greg Swainson

in the Red Deer Arts Council’s Community Gallery until January 3, 2025. Join us for #FirstFridaysRedDeer December 6 with the artist in attendance.

Having painted watercolours for more than 40 years, Greg is celebrating a long and colourful career as an artist both in Red Deer and on Vancouver Island. Check out his beautiful works on display until early in new year.



Community Gallery Hours: Mon to Fri 11am – 5pm

Show and Shine
Watercolour
Greg Swainson



Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts



THE CITY OF
Red Deer

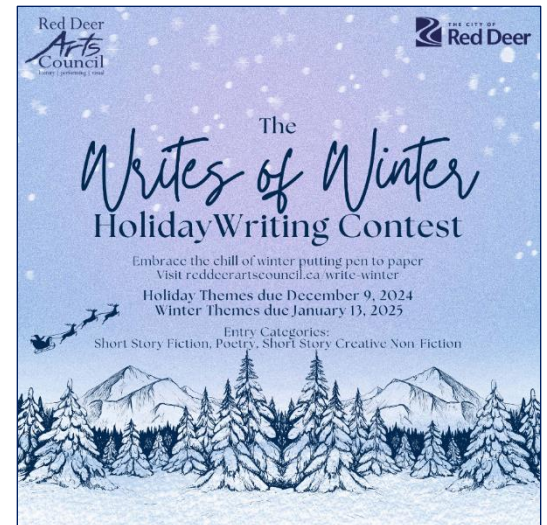


Creative Happenings in December 2024

Submit your Holiday Stories to the 2nd edition of the Writes of Winter Contest!

Our Writes of Winter holiday story contest is back as part of Red Deer Lights the Nights!

Submit your favourite short story (fiction), poem, or creative non-fiction tale up to 500 words in length for consideration in our Holiday Themes due December 9th, or our Winter Themes deadline of January 13th to win great literary-inspired prizes and be published on our website and www.WeAreRedDeer.ca! For full details, visit RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca/write-winter/!



Anniversary Soirée Tickets on Sale

By February, we'll all

need a great party, so escape the winter weather at the Scott Block Theatre on Saturday, February 1st starting at 7pm to celebrate our 50th anniversary supporting Arts & Culture in Central Alberta. With live painting, music, dancing, a pop-up art gallery & sale, poetry performances, song, and theatre, we can guarantee a great night out, just in time for Valentine's Day! Wear your classy Blacks and Golds or stand out in brighter shades of your best! Be a part of this celebration event and kick off our next 50 years with a bang! 18+ **Tickets \$40 at** <https://www.showpass.com/RDAC50anniv/>

Updates from our 2024 Emerging Artist Award Winner

"I'm grateful to have won the Red Deer Arts Council's 2024 Emerging Artist Award. I used the award funds to purchase the tools necessary to further my visual arts practise in both 2D and 3D works. I create many sculptures from metal, and this prize allowed

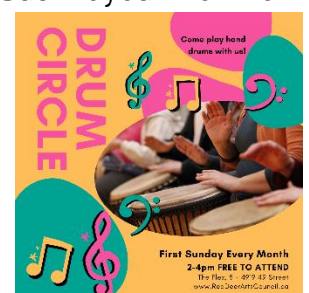
me to purchase my own welding machine and tools to work with metal so I can work in my home studio, rather than spending hundreds of dollars to rent time with these tools at a shop. This gives me more time to complete my desired vision, as I don't have to fit a third-party studio's deadline. For my painting practice, I now have the necessary tools to construct any size canvas that I want, something which was limited after leaving the Polytechnic's Visual Arts program. Being able to start any creation from scratch, including making your own stretcher and canvas, gives me a sense of accomplishment that I can say "I did that all from beginning to end." I can choose how I want to present each of my works exactly as I envisioned it. I'm excited continue developing my craft with the freedom I've received to me through earning this award. I was also able to present a new body of work at the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery in exhibition, following my win. I highly encourage fellow developing artists to consider building on their own futures through this fantastic opportunity to be supported by your local community." Applications open January 6th! Submit your work for consideration and potentially win up to \$1000!

DRUM CIRCLES! Join us at our Community Drum Circle on the First Sunday of each month at The Flex, next door to our office (5 – 4919 49 Street) from 2 – 4pm as we get a little rhythm in our bones! Free to attend and fun for all ages! (Dec. 1 & Jan 5)

Brave New Words

Join us December 10 for our last Brave New Words of the year! Share your new stories with a supporting and engaged group. 7pm at the Office! 6 – 4919 49 Street

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



U.S. Expat Embraces Central Alberta's Arts and Culture Scene



Designing gothic sets and period costumes for a recent vampire play fell well within Lacey Oleson-Rinehart's wheelhouse.

The multi-talented Seattle native actually managed to pull off a theatrical triple threat in October by also directing Central Alberta Theatre's production of *Dracula: Mina's Quest*.

The Red Deer-based designer explained she learned everything you need to run a theatre while studying at Western Washington University. From contract law (for hiring people) to hands-on technical skills— Oleson-Rinehart said all aspects of working both on-stage and behind the scenes were part of the curriculum.

Over the last two decades, she's put her diverse talents to work on stage productions and indie films in Vancouver, B.C. — and in China, where she lived for eight years. Oleson-Rinehart recalled following a friend to the far East in 2008, after a TV series she was working in Los Angeles went into hiatus. With few English speakers in Shanghai and Nanjing, China, she focused on learning Chinese — and become conversational in two years. "It's challenging to speak it. But it's a tonal language, much like singing," recalled Oleson-Rinehart, who had stretched her crooning chops in musicals staged around Washington State early in her career.

Although she really enjoyed working with Shanghai Repertory Theatre and on other projects, Oleson-Rinehart saw the writing on the wall once Donald Trump became U.S. president in 2016.

Trump's anti-Chinese rhetoric would lead to Americans being expelled from China. And Oleson-Rinehart said she decided to pre-empt this by relocating to Vancouver B.C. to once again work in the North American film industry. Although she contributed to all sorts of different projects, she's mainly been drawn to stories with complex, philosophical themes that can spark after-show conversations.

"I like small-scale indie films that are female or child-centred, and that have LGBTQ-inclusive stories," Oleson-Rinehart reflected. Among dozens of films she's worked on are the psychological horror flick *The Beehive*, action movie *American Badger* and the sci-fi rom-com *115* — which was recently picked as the best experimental film award at a Swedish film festival.

Oleson-Rinehart said she feels lucky to have reached a level in her career where she can now decide which projects she wants to work on. As it happens, theatre has been more of a focus since she moved to Central Alberta three years ago.

This big life change came about after she married a film industry worker who originally hails from Delburne. The couple opted to be closer to his parents once they had their daughter, who's now four.

Oleson-Rinehart admitted she didn't know what to expect before arriving in Red Deer. But she was pleasantly surprised by the strength of the local arts community.

"You have some extremely talented, creative people here, and it's been fun getting to know them." Besides working on Prime Stock Theatre's Bard on Bower Shakespearean plays last summer, Oleson-Rinehart has been involved with several Central Alberta Theatre and Red Deer Players productions.

Oleson-Rinehart is also a swing dance enthusiast who, with her husband, attends Red Deer Aces dances at the Scott Block whenever they can.



Actors Sarain Soonias and Elisa Collard as Dracula and Mine Murray in October 2024.