



**Creating a vibrant community
that celebrates the *Arts***

*Catch the Hang-ups and Insights in the 6th Annual
High School Show in the Kiwanis Gallery*

May 27 to June 21 Hang-ups and Insights: The 6th Annual IB and AP Art Show with Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School and Hunting Hills High School

Featuring the work of the 2014 graduating students of the Advanced Placement and the International Baccalaureate Art Programs, this exhibit showcases the young people who will be the next generation of talented artists. This exhibit will show their hard work in these programs and at an advanced stage of a high school student's art career! Explore their work with them.

First Friday Red Deer Opening: June 6 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm with Students and Instructors; everyone is welcome to attend and help us celebrate these fine young artists!



Liam, Conté
Bailey Gorman
Hunting Hills High School



Les Montagnes
Chalk Pastel/Ink
Callan Kitteringham
LTCHS



Life and Death, Light and Dark
Woodblock Print
Tessa Wilson, LTCHS



Wildflower,
Spray Paint/Ink
Bada Griffiths,
Hunting Hills High School

RDAC's First Friday Red Deer is sponsored by the Red Deer Downtown Business Association



Red Deer Arts Council hosts a site at the very popular Public Market. Come down any Saturday throughout the season and visit with some of our individual artists or our arts organizations at Stall 81., (3rd aisle from the east entrance). This is a wonderful benefit for members! We will be letting you know who is there each month starting in June - sorry you missed visiting with Tree House Youth Theatre May 17, Wendy Meeres May 24 and the Red Deer Public Library May 31. Watch for Centrefest on June 7, Artwalk Festival Society with an Artist-About-Town demonstrating on June 14, and the Red Deer Heritage Society on June 28. Our June 21st date is still available for members! Call Diana at the office to book.

Best Summer Ever kicks off June 6 at the Ross Street Patio and joins the galleries in a First Friday Red Deer event! Marla Torgerson starts the party, playing from 11:30 am to 1:15 pm. Soulful Noize goes from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Make sure you hit the galleries in the early evening before you hit the free live music on the patio! Sure to make a great evening out. Summer Sundays at Bower Ponds presents Norman Foote on July 6 and Booming Tree on August 10.

Artwalk Week is coming! The 26th Red Deer Artwalk Festival is running from June 14 to 21, 2014. The grand event, Artwalk Festival Day, will be in Rotary Park East on Saturday, June 21 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Enjoy art demonstrations, interactive activities and live music in a beautiful park setting at this free community all-ages event. Jeremy Mayne, a Red Deer-born artist, living in Calgary, is our Feature Artist; Shannon Woolgar will be doing an activity for kids of all ages. The Amble Gallery Tour on Thursday, June 19 will take you to a tour of local galleries and studios including the Kiwanis Gallery (operated by Red Deer Arts Council) and Gallery IS. The tour starts and ends at the Red Deer Museum & Art Gallery with a delightful wine and cheese reception. Tickets are available at Sunworks and the MAG - all this for only \$25.00! Be on the lookout for Artists-About-Town throughout the week.

See the Red Deer Artwalk Festival website for more details: www.reddeerartwalk.ca Come "Put Yourself in the Picture"!



Janice Williams at home surrounded by her artwork, 2014

Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to host Janice Williams in our Office Art Program, where six of Janice's works can be seen from May 12 to July 13, 2014.

Artist Statement:

Using the landscape and quality of light, I am working from an emotional reaction to light as opposed to shadow. Light cannot exist without shadow (yin and yang), and as we naturally gravitate towards the light, the shadows provide a foreboding or a quietness, while the light provides contrast to it with renewal, life and joy.

Red Deer artist's commemorative pieces caught fire

Janice Williams always had a fiery passion for painting, but it has turned into a passion for painting fires.

The Red Deer artist painted her first fire scene on firefighting equipment about 15 years ago, and she now has a successful business painting firefighter helmets, axes and even air tanks. The pieces are frequently given as service awards or retirement gifts from departments or families.

"It's become such a good niche for me that I don't work outside the home anymore," she says.

Janice started selling the themed artwork locally on a small scale, but word of mouth fanned the flames. After she put up a website, word spread across Canada and the United States, and even jumped the Atlantic Ocean to Switzerland, where she has a marketer.

One of her helmets, commissioned by the Calgary Fire Department, was given to the NHL's Calgary Flames, and was awarded after each game to the hardest-working player throughout the 2013-14 hockey season.

Many of the pieces include a portrait of the recipient, or images such as a memorable fire or the department's firetruck. Some of the helmets she has painted were worn by veteran firefighters – and came complete with holes and dents.

"They find (the pieces) quite meaningful," Janice says. That creates a high level of appreciation for her artwork, which always makes an artist feel good. "I really enjoy it; they're a great bunch of people."

As prominent as the firefighting pieces have become in her work, they do represent just a small niche of her artistic interests and skills, though.

"I don't remember ever not drawing," she says.

Janice grew up in a family that appreciated arts and crafts. There were no art classes in her school in Lashburn, Sask., but her mom enrolled the 12-year-old in the community art club's classes. She was the only child in a group of mostly mothers.

"They all took me under their wing, praised me and made me feel good."

She studied art for a year at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon before marriage and children took priority. Community outreach courses from Lloydminster had to satisfy her thirst for learning for several years, along with lessons from family members in textiles and other crafts. After her divorce, she moved to Red Deer in the late 1980s to continue her art education at Red Deer College. She went into it studying painting, but switched to sculptural ceramics.

Ceramics have since taken a back seat to painting, though. She refers any requests for pottery to people who she says are better at it. The fire equipment commissions keep her busy, and she still likes to paint traditional media as well – although most of those pieces are simply for her own satisfaction.

"If they sell, they sell."

While she has exhibited works in several locations around Central Alberta in the past, Janice has stopped pursuing gallery shows. She focuses some energy on Red Deer's Artwalk every year, but doesn't need to push sales anymore.

Life once again has other priorities.

"I have five granddaughters," she beams. "I'm really active with the kids."

I am the Arts



Janice Williams in her garden with her dog Molly.
Photo by Carl Hahn

I am a mother and a grandmother.

I am a homeowner, pet owner, and an alumna of Red Deer College.

I am visual artist and a photographer.

I am Janice Williams.

I am proud to call Red Deer home.

Join me in discovering the best our City has to offer.

Upcoming Exhibits in the Kiwanis Gallery:

June 23 to August 24

Sea Creatures and Other Forms: Glass by Larissa Blokhuis.

This Vancouver artist creates unique creatures of the deep out of glass and other materials, which shows their seeming fragility and fluidity of form.

Become a member of our board or committees and get involved! Give back to the community that you are a part of and find a rewarding volunteer position with the Arts Council.

**The Canadian Revenue Agency recognizes our CHARITY Status and enables us to give tax receipts for your donations.
Give a little, give a lot!**

Red Deer Arts Council

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Thanks to the City of Red Deer for all their support through Culture Services!