



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

*Open and Closed: Mixed Media by Wendy Meeres
in the Kiwanis Gallery*

March 5 to April 27

***Open and Closed: Mixed Media by
Wendy Meeres***

Keys and doors – they can open, close, be inviting or hindering. Add a lock and they can keep us out, keep a secret or protect the precious. Throughout history, doors have been a strong architectural component, often making a statement.

This exhibit of recent work is based on antique keys and years of travel for Wendy, a Red Deer artist. Join her as her mixed media work explores the association of doors, doorways and keys. What words, stories and images will they inspire? What will they unlock?

First Friday Red Deer, March 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Refreshments served. Come unlock Wendy’s secret love of doors with her and join the fun!

First Friday Red Deer, April 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 - details to be announced.

First Friday Red Deer is sponsored by the Red Deer Downtown Business Association for RDAC.



Cultural Influences
Mixed Media, 2014
Wendy Meeres

Intrigues of China (Town)
Mixed Media, 2014
Wendy Meeres



History of Secrets
Mixed Media, 2014
Wendy Meeres



Red Deer Arts Council Yearly Report to Members Part One

This yearly report gives the statistics and data of our involvement in the community through our participation in various events, workshops, gallery news and the like. We hope you find it informative.

RDAC is pleased that we had 56 volunteers for various events, juries, committees, board involvement and an audit committee who together gave over 1750 man hours to our council. We also downsized the office to Suite 110 in February which helped our funds go further. At the end of 2013, we had 103 members which included 29 organizational members from performing, visual, literary, businesses, and cultural groups who helped populate our weekly listings to members, with their events and news.

Workshops/Events - We hosted a Public Art 101 Lecture with Pat Matheson, Trent Leach, Dawn Detarando and Brian McArthur. 15 people attended this event on January 30, 2013. "Where's My Tribe?" with Liz Taylor (Tourism RD) and Janice Shimek (DBA) were the guest speakers at this mix and mingle member event held February 22, with 14 people in attendance. Our AGM and "Where's My Tribe?" event with guests Elvin Berthiaume and Nick Partridge playing, on a very stormy and very cold March 21st evening had 17 people in attendance.

We offered our members a table at the Red Deer Public Market. 15 members both individual artists and groups participated in this member benefit program. A great way to get the word out about your events and to showcase your works.

Social media impact: 689 likes on Facebook and 246 followers on Twitter. We see many hits on our website and try to keep it up to date with news and events. Please like us and follow us and join the Arts Council via social media. The Communications Committee instigated hiring a young student through a bursary program with SCIP to help us with our social media. Michael Burland from Lethbridge was the successful candidate in this endeavour.

We are active partners with Red Deer Schools, both Public and Catholic, for Alberta Culture Days, and with over 31 partners for the main events held over the course of the last weekend in September. Tree House Youth Theatre put on a production for 927 elementary school children at Red Deer College Arts Centre (thanks to RDC for its ongoing partnership); we had seven artists in the high schools and middle schools whose workshops were attended by 360 students. The Visual Arts Committee hosted a Pop-Up Gallery with seven members visited by over 300 community members. Included in their event was both a children's activity led by local artist, Shannon Woolgar, and a felt artist, Monica Robinson, who demonstrated her work, on behalf of the City of Red Deer. We are a full partner in planning and implementing the events for Alberta Culture Days and applied for grant funds to enable us to present this province-wide event to the citizens of Red Deer and area.

We continued with our Office Art Program for 2013 with the following member artists participating: Jeri Lynn Ing, Carol Nault, Marj Vetter, Bob Alspach, and Susan Barker.

Part II includes the Scholarship, Visual Arts and the Communications updates. These reports will also be in our AGM package. We will bring you up-to-date with their reports in the April Newsletter.

Wendy Meeres By Michael Lupul

Wendy Meeres was born and raised in Red Deer. After moving away following a year of college, she returned to Red Deer ten years ago. Wendy has been involved with the arts since she was a child. She received a diploma in graphic design from Grant MacEwan University. However, she discovered that graphic design was not something she wished to pursue. She proceeded to obtain a degree in recreation, administration, and community development. As an artist, Wendy was primarily a professional potter, although she also painted frequently. Her pottery was featured in numerous shows and exhibitions, and was sold in various specialty stores across Western Canada, and her paintings were exhibited through two art groups while living in Calgary. Eventually, Wendy reached a point in her career as an artist, where she no longer felt the passion she once found in production pottery, so she made the decision to give up pottery and focus solely on painting and her new interest, lampworking. Through lampworking, Wendy makes glass beads and often incorporates antique keys into her beadwork.

As a result of her renewed focus, her paintings became more creative. Wendy has spent the past few years painting in mixed media, working primarily on canvas. She had the opportunity to work on large pieces, as well as to participate in a few shows. Her upcoming solo show, "Open and Closed," will be the largest she has ever participated in. It will be held at the Kiwanis Gallery in Red Deer. The show opens on March 5th and runs until April 27th. Up to twenty-seven of Wendy's paintings will be on display at the show, with doors and keys being the primary theme. Working with acrylics, she paints on canvas or paper and then transfers photographs onto the respective medium using rice paper. Following this, pastels, oils, and other substances are used to add to the piece, and eventually it becomes impossible to tell where the photograph begins and ends.

On March 7th, Wendy will be at the Gallery from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. to commemorate the opening of the show. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Wendy Meeres has been the City of Red Deer's liaison to the Board from Culture Services. Her expertise and advice has been invaluable to our board. As an individual member, she sits on the Scholarship & Awards committee. As a member, she participated in the RDAC Members Juried Exhibition in December of 2013. This artwork was her submission to the exhibit:

Moving Too Fast,
Acrylic, 2013
Wendy Meeres

I am the Arts



Wendy Meeres , exploring the Japanese Gardens and Hatley Park, in Victoria, BC, 2012

I am a mother, daughter and friend.

I enjoy travel, the mountains in summertime and spending time with friends.

I am a visual artist. I am Wendy Meeres

I am proud to call Red Deer home.

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

Upcoming Events:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of The Red Deer Arts Council will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2014, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Centennial Stage at the Scott Block, located at 4818 – 50th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta. (Entry from the alley behind the building.)

Tree House Youth Theatre will present a little something special as part of a "Where's My Tribe?" event following the AGM. Refreshments and a mix and mingle will help you get to know your fellow RDAC members!

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 monetary 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!