

The logo features a large, stylized '50' in a dark blue color with a green-to-blue gradient. The '0' is replaced by a stylized 'A' that also incorporates the gradient. Below the '50A' is the word 'YEARS' in a bold, dark blue, serif font.

50A YEARS

1968 ~ 2018

Alberta Community Arts Club Association





This 50th Anniversary Logo was designed by
Romy Matthiessen : Little Bird Design Studio

Long standing past and current members worth mentioning in this booklet are:

Past Members:

Bev Foxwell – Wainwright
Beth Jantzie – Calgary
Barb Mergaert – Edson
Marion Orden – High River
Eileen Roberts – Oyen
Penny Volk – Rolling Hills
Barbara Rivers – Bowden
Cindy Clark – Drumheller
Lorna Kemp – Spruce Grove
Barbara Carson – St. Albert
Alannah Ronnie – Redwater
Lorna Hamilton-Shafer – Barrhead
Janet Sheen – Lethbridge
Maria Seiben – Barrhead
Jean Warren – Thorhild
Edith Heim – Lethbridge
Betty Dragon – Wetaskiwin
Glenda Lewisch – Radway
Tillie Chapman – Wetaskiwin.

Current Board Members:

Linda LaRochelle-Wilson - President
Jean Warren - Vice-President
Anne McMahon – Treasurer
Penny Lamnek – Secretary
Barbara Carson - Membership Chair
Betty Dean – Communications
Committee Chair & Newsletter
Alannah Ronnie – Exhibit Committee
Chair
Ken L. Wilson – Casino Rep.
Maria Sieben – Director (Juror Selector)
Hans G. Rohner – Northern Zone Rep
& Publicity
Pat Neufeld – Southern Zone Rep.

**And special thanks to all the Board
Members and Volunteers ----- Past and
Present, who contribute countless hours
to the ACACA.**

This History booklet was updated as of 2018 which is the 50th Anniversary of the ACACA, by Linda LaRochelle-Wilson, President, (2014 to present) with the input and help from Board members as well as members of the ACACA. Countless hours were spent picking out important dates in history to try and make this booklet well rounded and informative. We apologize for any information that may have been left out of the booklet. It was a very interesting and wonderful venture and we have come out the other end of it knowing more than going in. This is a great Association to belong to; many friendships are made along the way and I must say, there are a large percentage of professional artists as members of the ACACA. ACACA have come a long ways to attract artists from the 4 corners of Alberta as members.

Enjoy reading
the 50 Year
History of the
ACACA

Introduction

As written in 2004, pertinent today, as it was then.....

What started out as a search to find some biographies for the Permanent Collection Show has turned into a wonderful adventure as I read through the Publicity Records of the ACACA. One would think that as a Board Member for 5 years, I would know the history of our organization, but I guess I never really took the time to do that. Sure I got snippets of it when conversations at our meetings involved past policies, but it never really sparked my interest until I read about the founding years and Professor Harry Wohlfarth covering 30,000 miles annually to teach classes all over rural Alberta. As I read through the different newspaper articles from over the years; I recognized names of members who were award winners in those early beginnings and who are still participating in our Shows. I suddenly felt like a youngster who never really appreciated their “roots”, until they too become involved with being a part of a history in the making. Frankly, I got so inspired that I started to put this booklet together to

share with you our past and perhaps emphasize why you too are a part of the Alberta Community Art Clubs Association.

Barbara Checkryn-Rivers
Publicity, ACACA, 2004

It is with gratitude to those previous ACACA. Board members who spent endless hours gathering and documenting our past, for you have formed the basis for this booklet.

I also sincerely apologize if I have made any oversights,

Barbara

A Brief History

NOTE: Although this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Alberta Wide, this is in fact the 36th year of ACACA hosted shows! [The following is from an article that was published in 1988 when the ACACA had its 20th Anniversary show.](#)

“The beginning of the ACACA can be traced back to 1932 when the Carnegie Foundation granted \$30,000 to the University Of Alberta Department Of Extension to establish a fine art division. In 1937 the Department of Extension, in cooperation with the Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary, set up the first community art schools in Vegreville and Vermilion. The classes were so successful that the experiment was repeated in Lethbridge and Raymond. Demonstrating an ability to provide first class art instruction to rural Alberta at a modest fee, the program continued to grow.

Harry Wohlfarth was hired by the Department of Extension in 1953 as an art specialist. His influence has been felt ever since. Wohlfarth has traveled all over Alberta to teach classes from Lloydminster to Banff, from Yellowknife to the U.S. border, covering some 30,000 miles annually.

By 1962 there were 817 students enrolled in 37 centers. Early instructors included H.G. Glyde, A.C. Leighton, J.B. Taylor, W.J. Phillips, Marion Nicholl, Annora Brown, Illingworth Kerr and W.R. Stevenson. Student work was exhibited throughout Alberta in Montana, the CNE in Toronto and even

in Munich Germany. This experiment in cultural pioneering even became the model for a similar program established by the University of California Berkley.

In February 1968, executive members of 42 community art clubs throughout the province met in Red Deer to discuss the formation of a provincial association. From this meeting was born the Alberta Community Art Club Association with Professor Harry Wohlfarth as its consultant and advisor.

The ACACA was incorporated under the Societies Act on June 4th of the same year, bringing together art clubs throughout the province as a single force working towards common goals, solving common problems and creating incentive through provincial exhibitions and workshops.

The formal purpose of the Association, as described in its constitution was: “to foster and maintain instruction in Art, to develop an interest in the knowledge of Art and Culture in the Communities throughout the province.”

The executive and Board of Directors of ACACA and the hosting clubs carry the weight of organizing the juried shows. Help is provided by the Art Department, Faculty of Extension, U of A and the Art Foundation (The Alberta Foundation for the Arts) and Alberta Culture (Alberta Community Development) in securing qualified jurors.

The first Executive Organization consisted of:

President – Mrs. Cecile Szaszkievicz
(Bonnyville)

Vice Pres. – Mrs. Nancy Appleby
(Athabasca)

Secretary – Sister Florence Gagne
S.N.S.U. (Bonnyville)

Treasurer - Mrs. Marie Johnson
(Lacombe)

In charge of public relations: Robert J.
Graham (Cochrane), Mrs. Bunnie
Barber (Camrose) and Mr. Don Jardine.

In general practice about one third of the pictures at zone shows are selected for sending to the Alberta Wide Show. Beginners Scholarship, Beginners Merit Awards and Purchase Awards were presented at Zone shows. Now, at the three Zone Shows, the following Awards are handed out. They are: Youth, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters, Signature, Digital and Sculpture. There is also an award for Jurors' choice. Recognition is given to the Peoples' Choice as well. The hosting club takes the responsibility for handling any art pieces that are sold at zone shows. The Purchase Awards from the previous year were raffled at zone shows. This raffle provided the money for the scholarships and awards.*

At the Alberta Wide Show, for which the venue varies from year to year, a further jurying takes place. Of all these paintings which were juried to go on to a final jurying at the Alberta Wide Show, approximately 50% of these paintings will stay to hang in this show and the rest will go back to the owner/artist. Scholarships and awards, many named to honor our former members, are presented at the closing of the Alberta Wide show. At this closing, we also hold one more Critique, by a qualified Juror. This is also the time of the year when the Annual General Meeting for all members of the ACACA is held.

A critique of work is a feature of each ACACA juried art show. Each show is a learning experience; not only because artist-members come to know one another's works, but because new friendships are built and maintained. To quote Jean Stephenson, "*One of the marvelous things about the group (ACACA) is meeting people around the province. I'd have quit painting long ago if it wasn't for the people I've met. That's where my friends are*". Through the juried shows the ACACA continues a tradition of bringing art to rural areas.

The ACACA newsletter published four times per year provides the members with information not only about the juried shows, but also about other associations business, workshops and the activities of the different community art clubs.

A permanent collection of pictures purchased by the ACACA is housed in the Alberta Foundation for the Arts in

Edmonton and is available on loan. ** A collection of slides of pictures selected at the Alberta-Wide shows from 1980 to present may be borrowed from the Publicity chairperson.

In addition to the raffles which provide for scholarships, financial support for the association comes from membership dues, silent auctions, donations from individuals and grants from Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and Charity through the volunteering once every two years through the AGLC.

** after 1988 raffles were discontinued. The pictures acquired by ACACA as Purchase Awards in 1988 were added to the Permanent Collection in 1989.*

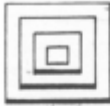
*** ACACA's Permanent Collection was transferred from Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, Beaver House, to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Edmonton for storage and administration in 1989 and where it is stored to this day.*

So in 1980 -

The following members of the ACACA took part in the first Zone Shows and the Alberta Wide-75 show:

Cathryn Brecka- Wetaskiwin
Lillian Carleton – Bon Accord/St. Albert
Tillie Chapman – Wetaskiwin
Jean Chubb – Bon Accord
Lori Connors – Nanton
Leola Forster – Sedgewick *
Donna Maclean – Medicine Hat
Grace McFadyen – Acadia Valley
Alicia Nielson – Hinton
Diane Peers – Acadia Valley
Florence Place – Nanton
Dorothy Ruff – Wetaskiwin
Marjorie Tidsbury - Gibbons

*received the Dorothy Gardner Memorial Award



**Red Deer and District
Museum and
Archives**

August 11th, 1978

Alberta Community Art Clubs Association,
Central Alberta Region,
c/o Mrs. H. Seelye,
P.O. Box 255,
RED DEER, Alberta
T4N 5E8

Dear Mrs. Seelye:

re: A.C.A.C.A. Show

It was indeed a great honour and a pleasure to have had the A.C.A.C.A. juried show and its related activities as part of our opening events.

Surely this type of exhibit of local artists' work should become an annual affair.

I would ask that you take such an idea for an annual exhibit to your membership for their reaction. I would be pleased to co-operate with the group in staging a similar effort for the summer of 1979.

Thank you to your members who helped with the unpacking, jurying, and hosting of the event.

Yours sincerely,

F. Morris Flewwelling,
Director

In 1978 the above letter was sent to the ACACA from
the current Mayor of Red Deer, Honorable Morris
Flewwelling

The Zone Shows

& where they have been

We can never thank the Hosting Art Clubs enough for their dedication and commitment to the ACACA. The various towns and cities across the province benefited a great deal from these Zone Shows.

	NORTHERN	CENTRAL	SOUTHERN
1980	Grande Centre	Wetaskiwin	Oyen
1981	Edson	Wainwright	Bassano
1982	Barrhead	Sedgewick	Calgary
1983	Westlock	Camrose	Brooks
1984	Bon Accord	Wetaskiwin	Nanton
1985	Grand Cache	Red Deer	High River
1986	Morinville	Bowden	Oyen
1987	Edson	Vermillion	Bassano
1988	Barrhead	Wetaskiwin	Hanna
1989	Bon Accord	Edgerton	Pincher Creek
1990	Westlock	Falun	Blairmore
1991	Morinville	Vermillion	Lethbridge
1992	Edson	Bowden	Medicine Hat
1993	Redwater	Leduc	Brooks
1994	Grande Cache	Provost	Lethbridge
1995	Hinton	Wetaskiwin	Nanton
1996	Barrhead	Rky Mountain House	Oyen
1997	Drayton Valley	Drayton Valley	Strathmore
1998	Redwater	Camrose	Blairmore
1999	Whitecourt	Sedgewick	Nanton
2000	Grande Cache	Ponoka	Strathmore
2001	Edson	Olds	Okotoks
2002	Hinton	Wetaskiwin	Calgary
2003	Whitecourt	Sherwood Park	Okotoks
2004	Grande Cache	Spruce Grove	Fort McLeod
2005	Redwater	Donalda	Nanton
2006	Edson	Ponoka	Cardston
2007	Barrhead	Sylvan Lake	Chestermere
2008	Redwater	Edmonton	Lethbridge
2009	Westlock	Olds	-----
2010	Grande Cache	Red Deer	Lethbridge
2011	Hinton	Sherwood Park	Oyen
2012	Grande Prairie	Lacombe	Brooks
2013	Barrhead	Wetaskiwin	-----
2014	Redwater	Lacombe	-----
2015	Barrhead	Red Deer	Brooks
2016	Bonnyville	Lacombe	Brooks
2017	Barrhead	Leduc	Drumheller
2018	-----	Drumheller	Lethbridge (50 th Anniversary Year)



After running a Logo Contest, the ACACA
Logo designed by Eleanor Lohner of Rosalind
was chosen at the 1980 AGM.

History Highlights

of ACACA Exhibitions

1968 – 1973

The best Art produced by ACACA members from all over Alberta was chosen by the instructors and taken by the Art Clubs to Corbett Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, where it was put on display. A critique was given to artists who attended the showing.

1969

The 1st ACACA Exhibition and Competition was held at Red Deer Junior College, October 25, 1969 hosted by the Red Deer Art Club under the direction of Myrtle Ireland. All members of Alberta Community Art Classes submitted work. The fee was \$2.00 for each work to be submitted to Edith MacDonald, Canmore. A painting by Mr. McLennan, which was displayed in the Public Library at Red Deer, was purchased; this was to form the nucleus of a permanent collection.

1970

ACACA Art show, an exhibition of juried works was held at the Armories, near the Memorial Centre in Red Deer as part of the Red Deer Folk Festival (July 1st and 2nd). The Red Deer Art Club was hosts for this, receiving entries, cataloguing and hanging. Sixty-nine original pictures from all areas of Alberta were juried by Dr. Bernard Schwartz (Art Education, Faculty of Education, U of A) and J.B. Taylor

(Associate Professor of Art, U of A). Forty-seven pictures were hung and viewed by hundreds of people. Sweet Bloom by Donna McLean was purchased and is part of the ACACA Permanent collection. The collection was intended to be a teaching tool made up of the best works produced by ACACA members that could be used by instructors to motivate students.

1971

The ACACA held a Joint Exhibition with the Arts and Crafts Division of the Culture Development Branch, Government of Alberta. This exhibition was held to a select group of top amateur paintings as a guideline to amateur groups in the province. Paintings were exhibited in Banff, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Athabasca, St. Paul, Westlock, Fairview and Vegreville.

1974

The first regional ACACA exhibition was held at Westlock in April. Jurors Doug Barry, Harry Savage and Prof. Harry Wohlfarth chose Sixty-two out of 264 entries for display. The Dorothy Gardner Scholarship established in 1972 was awarded to Esther Loree, Westlock for her painting 'Home is the Plumber'.

1975-1979

All exhibitions were handled directly by volunteer art club members and annual

juried regional art exhibitions were held in alternate zones. (1975 – Camrose, 1976 – Medicine Hat, 1977 – St. Paul, 1978 – Red Deer, 1979 – Nanton).

1976

The Hildur Sherbeck Memorial Scholarship was established and presented to Lee Christenson of Bassano.

1977

The Beginner's, President's (initiated by Tillie Chapman during her term in office) and the Purchase Awards were first presented in 1977 at the St. Paul regional ACACA show. The Purchase Award was a fundraiser whereby the ACACA would purchase the painting(s) in that year's show, and then raffled it in the following year, with the proceeds to be used for supporting the organization. In 1977, an acrylic painting "The Pilot" by Pat Greenwell of St. Paul was purchased by the ACACA and was raffled in 1978; the winner was Clarence Coulliard of St. Paul.

1978

The start of the Regional Art Show and it was the Central Zone Show held in the New Red Deer and District Museum (July 1-30th) as one of their inaugural features. Jim Westgaard did the closing Critique on July 30. 15 of those 37

paintings were selected by the Edmonton Art Gallery to be part of a touring exhibition under Elizabeth Brown, Curator.

1979

Harry Wohlfarth was a Special Guest at the ACACA Regional Art Show in Nanton with the first day set aside for 275 children and teachers' viewing. Margaret Seelye became the Newsletter Editor of ACACA.

1980

Martha Houston Memorial Scholarship was established in September and awarded to Florance Place of Nanton, a Past President of ACACA.

1981

The first Martha Houston Award was presented to Florence Place of Nanton. Margaret Seelye, President of ACACA gave the Critique. Hildur Sherbeck Memorial Scholarship was established.

1982

Lillian Violet Nunn passed away on April 4th, at the age of 81. She left her Estate to the University of Alberta, Extension Department for a Scholarship fund for ACACA recipients.

History Highlights of ACACA Exhibitions cont...

1983

The first Lillian Nunn Award was presented to Jim Brager of Camrose.

1984

Senior Advanced Category ACACA Award given to Julta Newman Zaun of High River for “Flowers Texture” and Jim Brager of Camrose for “View from Dried Meat Hill”.

1985

Three Awards that were given out at the Alberta Wide Show included Hildur Sherbeck, Martha Houston and Lillian Nunn.

1986

Purchase Awards were given to Britta Seward of Westlock, “Winter Fruits, Cothele Rauser of Viking, “Morning Shadows” and Florence Place of Nanton “At the End of the Valley”.

1989

The painting of the late Jean Stephenson of High River, “The Art Club” was placed into the Permanent Collection.

1990

Margaret Seelye won the Mixed Media Award for “Where Fairies Play”.

1991

The 12th Annual Juried Exhibition for ACACA was held in Red Deer Museum. Harry Wohlfarth Drawing Scholarship Award is named for the Instructor with the University of Alberta Extension Art Classes, who was instrumental in the founding of the ACACA.

1992

Diane Anderson was Exhibits Coordinator for the Alberta Wide Show. The Jurors said they had a difficult job of selecting from over 60 paintings that came to the Alberta Wide Show in Red Deer.

1993

The Jean Stephenson Scholarship was awarded to Elaine Tweedy of Leduc for “Johnson Lake, Looking West, Banff”. The Presidents Award went to Mary Lee Small, St. Albert for “Conference”.

1994

Recognized the Jurors Choice Award for the three locations of the shows. Fran B. Olynk of St. Albert for “Summer Storm

A-Brewin". Dan Janzie of Calgary for "Horseshoe Canyon". Dorothy Dammann of Killam for "Echoes of Yesterday".

1995

This was the 16th Annual Juried Exhibition of the ACACA. Peggy Shannon of Hinton was given the Harry Wohlfarth Drawiang Award for her Pastel "Suffolks".

1996

Penny Volk of the Newell Art Club, Brooks, organized a Plein Aire paint out workshop at Elkwater, Cypress Hills. The Southern Zone show Jurors were Alfred Schmidt, Nancy Hanson and Betty Kerseman. Their Jurors' Choice was given to Myrtle Varney for "Grandma Zawasky making Perogies".

1997

"A Banquet of Colour" was a Zone Show hosted by Drayton Valley Fine Art Society in Association with Hearts and Hands Quilters Guild.

1998

The Harry Wohlfarth Memorial Award for Drawing was given to Sherri Prodaniuk of Redwater for "Nearly Grown".

1999

Art Instructor Jack Rigeau of Calgary held a Paint Out Workshop in Dinosaur Park.

2000

Jurors' Choice award went to Erik Peterson of Wheatland Society of Artists in Strathmore for "Split Infinitive". Beginners' Award for the Northern Zone was Manuela Felsberg for "Three Onions and Bucket".

2001

Jurors were Gisela Felsberg, Susan Woolgar and Jerry Heine at the Central Zone Show in Olds where 143 Paintings were entered. Dianne Rukavina won Senior Advanced Category for her Oil Pastel "Patchwork Pears".

2002

The Northern Zone show was held in Hinton and Jurors' Choice Award went to JoAnn Naninga for "Sunflowers".

2003

Jurors' Choice of the three Zone Shows went to Carol Carlson of Whitecourt for "Rocky Knolls", Leola Forster of Sedgewick for "Snow Treasure", and Delores Kyle, Okotoks for "Merry Golds".

History Highlights of ACACA Exhibitions cont...

2004

Jurors Robert Benn, Elliot Los and Jean Pederson for the Southern Zone show were impressed with the 88 pieces of art that was displayed in Fort MacLeod. Other Zone Show hosts were Grand Cache Palette Pals Art Club for North and Allied Arts Council of Spruce Grove for Central. This was the Year that ACACA celebrated its 25 year Anniversary. Glenda Lewisch won Peoples' Choice Award and Premier Ralph Klein sent a Congratulatory letter to the ACACA from his office.

2005

Redwater Art Club hosted the Northern Zone Show where Jurors' Choice Award went to Dawn Fenton for "Remember". Barbara Rivers was President of ACACA.

2006

Ponoka Art Club hosted the Central Zone show in early May. The Beginner Award given out at the Northern Zone Show in Edson was awarded to Alannah Ronnie for "Memories". Debbie Hunter of Stettler won the Sterling Award at the Alberta Wide Show for "Cloudy Day".

2007

Digital Art was put into its own separate Category. Marilyn St. Germain won in this category for "Click".

2008

After applying for Charities, ACACA worked their first Casino in Red Deer on January 7th and 8th. Janet Sheen of Lethbridge stepped in as Secretary, after Cindy Clark.

2009

Maria Sieben was recipient of the Individual Workshop Grant in 2009 and took a course at Red Deer College under the instruction of Michael Downs called Impressionistic Realism in Oils. Boxes by Barb instructions were given to the membership. Gail Brown also of Lethbridge was Southern Zone Rep.

2010

Listings of Membership Benefits are: Newsletter 4 times a year, information on the acaca.ab.ca website. Club Workshop grants of \$400 each, Individual workshop grants of \$400 each, Scholarships of no less than \$300 to ACACA members 50 years of age and older (Lillian Nunn Scholarship). Entry into Zone shows, with jurying again at the Alberta Wide Show and winners paintings going on to the Alberta Spirit Show, critiques, workshops, paint outs and a chance of getting your painting into the Permanent Collection. This was the year that the Permanent Collection was added to the ACACA website. Edith Heim became the new Treasurer, Membership Chair & Webmaster.

2011

Lorna Hamilton –Schafer stepped up to be the new Northern Zone Rep and Historian, Secretary was named Ley-Anne Mountain, Jury Selector named Elena Rousseau, Betty Dragon was new Casino Rep and Carol Chapman stepped in to be the Alberta Wide Coordinator. Jim Davies oversaw 15 people who painted the Badlands in Drumheller the last week of August. One of his favorite quotes was “Keep it fresh and spontaneous”. Grace Prospero became President and VAAA Rep, Gloria and David Belcher gave the Digital Art Demonstration at the closing Ceremony of the 2011 Alberta Spirit Show at the VAA Gallery.

2012

Penny Volk was winner in Signature Category for Hay’s Coulee #15 in the Southern Zone show. The Alberta Spirit show was at the VAA in Edmonton. There were 158 pieces of art entered.

2013

The Wetaskiwin Art Club hosted the Central Zone show May 24 – 26. There were 154 pieces of Art entered. The Alberta Spirit was at Red Deer College from Sept. 8 to October 26.

2014

As there was once again no Zone show in the South, Penny Volk took her paintings to Redwater for the Northern Show and she and Lorna Hamilton-Schafer were the only two members displaying in the Signature category there. Edith Heim and Janet Sheen handed out the Awards in the Northern Zone. Lorna Hamilton Schafer won both Signature and Jurors’ Choice Award at this show. The Alberta Spirit Show was held in Lacombe in their Upper Gallery at the Memorial Centre from August 18 to Sept. 27.

2015

This was the year that Sculptures were added to the Categories of Art pieces. The winner of the Sculpture Category was Rita Wildschut for “Little Old Lady”. Linda LaRochelle-Wilson was elected the President in late 2014, and Jean Warren became the Vice President. Anne McMahon came on as Bookkeeper and Acting Treasurer, and Penny Lamnek was elected Secretary.

2016

This was the year that we lost one of our long time members. Penny Volk, Southern Zone Rep, became ill and passed away in September. In June the County of Newell residents gathered together and attended a marvelous show

of her paintings of the Badlands and parts of southern Alberta. She was presented with the Penny Volk Lifetime Achievement Award. Pat Neufeld of Brooks stepped up to be the Southern Zone Rep. Jeremy Kasdorf, Videographer and Website Designer attended all the Zone shows and the Alberta Wide Show to take extensive Video footage of the activities and inner workings of the ACACA to complete this video for the Alberta Spirit show at the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery in Red Deer. Northern Zone Jurors Choice Award was given to Glenda Lewisch for "Winter Freezing Approach", and as well, she was given the Margaret Seelye Award for this painting.

alongside the Best of the Best for the 50th Anniversary.

2017

Copies of the ACACA Video went on sale for \$10 each. Penny Lamnek spearheaded the Art from the Heart program for all those families who lost their homes in the fires at Fort Mac. Robert Franz won Jurors' Choice at the Southern Zone Show for "Boy". Roberta Peirson won Jurors' Choice at the Northern Zone show for "Light in the Forest". Maki Stenger won Jurors' Choice Award for the Central Zone show for "Shades of Horses".

2018

This is the 50th Year of ACACA. Celebration at the Alberta Spirit Show includes the newly finished video, as well as the Permanent Collection showing

History Highlights

of Alberta Wide Shows

1980

In honor of Alberta's 75th Anniversary, the ACACA held 3-juried Zone exhibitions with works chosen from each, juried and shown in Red Deer in an exhibition entitled "Alberta Wide 75". This was to be the first of many Alberta Wide Shows. It was at this time that it was decided to develop 'categories' for Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. The Beginner's Award painting was selected at each of the Zone Shows to automatically hang at the Alberta Wide.

A further 18 works were chosen from the Alberta Wide 75 to be included as a traveling exhibition, called "THIS END UP", which circulated throughout the province. "THIS END UP" was a 75th Anniversary project of Alberta Culture.

1980 – 1983

Memorial Awards and scholarships were established in 1980 and 1981, namely the Martha Houston and Hildur Sherbeck Scholarships.

In 1981, Florence Place of Nanton and past president of the ACACA won the first Martha Houston Scholarship and Lee Christenson of Bassano received the first Hildur Sherbeck Scholarship

In 1983 with donations from friends after her death in 1982, the Lillian Nunn award was presented for the first time to Jim Brager of Camrose for his watercolor, 'The Wright Farm in Winter'.

1984

The Senior Advanced Category was created with Jutta Neuman Zaun of High River receiving the first ACACA Award in Senior Advanced at the Alberta Wide for her etching, Flowers-Texture.

1988

On June 5th the ACACA celebrated its 20th Anniversary in Red Deer. Celebrations include a champagne breakfast at the Legion Hall, the opening of Alberta Wide 88 at the Red Deer Museum and an exhibition of works by Harry Wohlfarth, founding father of the ACACA. The Harry Wohlfarth Drawing Award was created in recognition of this dedicated instructor and founding father of the ACACA. George Walker of Vulcan was presented this award in its premier year for his pencil drawing called 'Cabbages'.

1989

The three Purchase Awards from the Zone Shows were placed into the Permanent Collection and the Purchase Awards became the Juror's Choice in the Zones. The President's Award winner at the Alberta Wide would then be purchased for the Permanent Collection. Peggy Shannon of Hinton was the first recipient of this award for her graphite drawing called 'Fish Lake Flats'.

History Highlights of Alberta Wide Shows cont...

1990

At the Alberta Wide the Jean Stephenson Scholarship was introduced and the first recipient of this award was Karin Ziegler of Brooks for her watercolor, 'Winter's Peace'.

1998

The ACACA Award in the Senior Advanced Category became the Margaret Seelye Memorial Award. It was presented for the first time to Barbara Checkryn-Rivers of Bowden for her watercolor, 'Crash and Burn'.

2002

The Beginners Award was moved from the Zone Shows to the Alberta Wide for jurying and participation in the Alberta Wide.

A division in all categories called Open Media was created to encompass digital and computer art and an award in this division was presented. The Beginners Award went to Christine Thompson of Red Deer for a pencil rendering called 'Dad's Old Tractor'. The Open Media award went to Brenda Jacques of Sylvan Lake for a mixed media piece called 'This Old House'.

Award winners from the Alberta Wide were sent to the VAAA Gallery in Edmonton for the first of the annual Alberta Wide Awards show.

2004

The Alberta Wide 25 commemorated twenty-five years of collaboration between two Alberta establishments; both dedicated to showcasing the visual arts from all communities within this province. The Open Media was removed as a division within the Categories and the award will continue as the Mixed Media Award. In honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Alberta Wide an award was created chosen from all Categories called the Sterling Award. It was presented to Fran Boyce Olynky of St. Albert for her oil called 'Tufa Towers'.

The Permanent Collection was brought down from Beaver House in Edmonton and was on exhibition at the Red Deer Public Library from May 30th to July 25th.

The Awards at the Zone shows were changed from Honorable Mention to Zone Awards in each category.

2005 -2006

In 2005 the Senior Advanced Category was changed to the Masters Category. The Margaret Seelye Award in this category was presented to Dawn Fenton of Edmonton for her mixed media piece called 'Pot Stickers'.

In 2006 all award winners from the Zone Shows including the People's Choice were transported to Edmonton along with the Alberta Wide award pieces for the 5th Annual Awards

exhibition at the VAAA Gallery in Edmonton.

2007

The ACACA went digital and created a separate category for artwork which was composed on and printed by the computer. All levels from Associate to Master could enter this category. The first Digital Award was presented to Marilyn St. Germain of Red Deer for her piece "Click".

2008

This was the 40th Anniversary of the ACACA. The ACACA still had six categories for the entries into their Zone shows. They were Associate Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced, Master and Digital. However, the winning categories for the 2008 Alberta Wide show were The Dorothy Gardner Award, Associate Category, Beginners Award, Lillian Nunn Award, Hildur Sherbeck Award, Jean Stephenson Award, Martha Houston Award for Advanced Category, Margaret Seelye Award for Masters Category, Presidents Award, Mixed Media Award, Harry Wohlfarth Drawing Award, Sterling Award, Digital Award and the three Jurors' Choice Award from the Zone Shows. There were two Zone show hosts this year; Northern hosted by Redwater Art Society, and Southern was hosted by Southern Alberta Artists Association. As the Central Zone did not have a host, the Board of Directors decided to host the Central Zone show at

the VAA Harcourt House in Edmonton, and it was decided that if there is no host for any of the 3 zones, then that particular zone will not have its own hosted art show. The AFA purchased Margreet Beekman's "Railway Crossing".

2009

The Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery hosted the Alberta Wide show where 11 Awards were handed out. Penny Lamnek won the Jean Stephenson Award for Light a Dark Corner and Mixed Media Award was won by Lorna Hamilton Shafer for Between Equinox. There were only two Zone show hosts, being Westlock and Olds Art Clubs. Membership in 2009 was approximately 150 strong, with 4 of those members being Lifetime status. Grace McFadyen of Acadia Valley, Tillie Chapman of Wetaskiwin, Donna MacLean of Medicine Hat, and Marion Ordon of High River. Maria Sieben was recipient of the Individual Workshop Grant in 2009 and took a Course at Red Deer College under the instruction of Michael Downs called Impressionistic Realism in Oils.

2010

The Alberta Wide Show was at the Red Deer Museum and Gallery and the VAA was the host for the Alberta Spirit. The Painting that won for Presidents' Choice was "Fall Patio" Water Color by Dessirrie Plewis, which also won the Central Zone Jurors' Choice Award.

History Highlights of Alberta Wide Shows cont...

2011

The Alberta Wide Show was held at the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery, June 19 to August 7th. The Harry Wohlfarth Drawing Award was given to Cam Wilson for Halong Bay. The Dorothy Gardner Award was given to Nathan Bentson-Demoline for King of the Mountain.

2012

The Alberta Wide show was held at the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery, June 17 to August 12. U of A's 100th Birthday was celebrated with the showing of the Permanent Collection from Oct. 1 – 24th. Susan Barker won the Signature Category Award for “Cherry Delight”.

2013

The Alberta Wide Show was at the U of A Extension Gallery, Edmonton. Betty Peers won the Harry Wohlfarth Drawing award for her Pastel piece “2012 Stampede Ambassadors”. Lana Michelin won the Martha Houston Award as well as the Presidents' Award.

2014

The Alberta Wide show was at the Ottewell Center in Sherwood Park, Edmonton from July 17 to August 16. Susan Barker won Signature Category for her watercolor “Barbara Ann Thackery Neal 1”.

2015

The Alberta Wide Show was held at the Red Deer College from July 3 to August 15. Jurors made comments that they were quite happy to see Sculpting as a new category with the ACACA shows. Jean Warren won the Lillian Nunn Award for “What Lies Beneath”.

2016

The Alberta Wide Show was held at the Ottewell Centre in Sherwood Park. The Sculpture “The Great Spirit” carved by Hans G. Rohner won Presidents' Choice Award and he has donated it to the Permanent Collection.

2017

The Alberta Wide Show was held at the Ottewell Centre from July 19 to Aug. 13. The President's Choice Award went to Sharon Vanderwolf for “Seascape 1”. Martha Houston Award was won by Cindy Clark for “Totum Hoodoo”. The Kiwanis Gallery in Red Deer hosted the Alberta Spirit Show, where Linda LaRochelle-Wilson, President handed out Lifetime Achievement Awards to Barbara Rivers, Glenda Lewisch, and Tillie Chapman, long time members who volunteered many hours for the ACACA.

2018

We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ACACA. The Alberta Wide Show will be at the Drumheller GM Gallery for the month of July. The new ACACA website was completed by Jeremy Kasdorf, President, Chewie Media Inc and launched early 2018. The finished Video of the ACACA will be on Display at the Alberta Wide Show, Drumheller and the Alberta Spirit Show, which is at the VAA in Edmonton. Coupled together with the Alberta Spirit show will be the showing of the complete Permanent Collection.

Presidents of ACACA

1968 ~ 2018

The President of the ACACA holds this position for a period of two years. After their term is served, they remain on the Board as a Director for another two years to provide continuity. The key positions on the Executive alternate between the 3 zones for a two-year term.

February-1968

Cecile Szaezkiewicz – Bonnyville

May-1969

Len Glatiotis – Banff

April-1970

Dorothy Gardner - Ponoka

April-1971

Emily Charlton (nee Drysdale) – Westlock

April-1973

Mary Jane Brown – Bon Accord

April-1975

Clary Nelson – Wetaskiwin, later declined

Sept-1975

Tillie Chapman – Wetaskiwin

April-1977

Marian Lyon

June-1977

Florence Place

1979

Majorie Kerklywich – Edson

1981

Margaret Seelye – Red Deer

1983

Grace McFadyen – Acadia Valley

1985

Jean Chubb – Bon Accord

1987

John Beaver – Camrose

1989

George Walker – Lethbridge

1991

Esson Gale – Grande Cache

1993

Maryanne Styner - Bowden

1995

Marion Ordon – High River

1997

Heather Brown – Barrhead

1999

Gloria Belcher – Drayton Valley

2001

Barb Weatherington - Calgary

2003

Monika Dery – Hinton

2005

Barbara Checkryn-Rivers - Bowden

2007

Cindy Brown – Calgary

2008

Barbara Carson – St. Albert

2011

Grace Prospero – Red Deer

2014

Linda LaRochelle-Wilson - Duchess

50
YEARS

1968 ~ 2018

Memorial Awards

(**note: up to 1997 most of the Memorial Awards were called Scholarships)

Dorothy Gardner Award

Dorothy Gardner of Ponoka was elected President of the ACACA in 1970 and died while still in office January of 1972. She cared deeply about people and about art. Her words quoted in minutes of her term in office, reveal a sharp, practical wit. Upon her death, community art clubs began spontaneously to donate money to be set aside for a memorial scholarship. The scholarship has been presented each year since then.

The President's Award

Tillie Chapman initiated the President's Award during her term in office with the statement, "why should it be necessary for the President of the ACACA to die in order that an award is presented in her name?" The funds for the President's Award were raised by raffling a donated painting of Tillie's, and in 1977 the first recipient of this award was Margot Kindt of Athabasca for her acrylic painting called Lothar.

The Martha Houston Award

Martha I. Houston was a retired high school teacher of English, French and Art. Born in New Jersey, U.S.A. of Scotch background, she remained in High River when she retired, because she found the area so delightful for

painting. She was the organizer of the High River Sketch Club, which stimulated an interest in art for many years in that area. Martha trained for many summers at the Banff School of Fine Arts under Dr. Walter J. Phillips. She also attended evening classes at the Alberta College of Art. She painted mostly in watercolors and on four different occasions won honors at the Banff School. She produced many linoleum prints in black and white, some of which have been exhibited with the Canadian Society of Painter-Etchers in the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Some were also reproduced in the Canadian Forum Magazine. Her pictures were in traveling Alberta exhibits, and had a one-woman exhibit in the Bowman Art Centre in Lethbridge. In 1965 she was one of four artists invited to exhibit in the art salon at the Calgary Stampede. A retrospective exhibit of her work was shown in High River in 1975. Miss Houston continued to enjoy her painting during her retirement, preferring landscape and painting on location. She was a member of the Calgary Artist Society and the Calgary Sketch Club.

Hildur Sherbeck Award

Hildur Sherbeck of Wetaskiwin was one of the artists that painted with the earliest Department of Extension classes to come to her area and won a scholarship to Banff. She taught classes for the Arts and Crafts Centre and died in 1980 at the age of 85.

Lillian Nunn Award

Lillian Violet Nunn, born 1900 and graduated from the Camrose Normal School. Her earlier years were spent working hard on the farm near Lacombe, so Lillian did not become involved in art until after age 50. When she retired to the town of Lacombe, she faithfully attended Department of Extension classes and passed on her knowledge of the egg-tempera technique using acrylics to interested beginners.

Lillian also bequeathed in her will that scholarships be awarded to members of the ACACA who are over fifty years old. The University of Alberta, Extension Department continues to administer the Lillian Nunn Scholarships to this day.

Harry Wohlfarth Drawing Award

Harry Wohlfarth studied at the Art Academy of Dresden, completed postgraduate studies under Oscar Kokoschka in Salzburg and graduated with a Master's degree in Fine Arts from the State University of Guanajuato, Mexico. He received the distinction of Doctoria Academiae from the Roman Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1962 in recognition of his artistic work. His works are represented in many public and private collections in Germany, Italy, India, Mexico, England, Russia and Canada and had exhibitions in Paris, Switzerland and Moscow.

To quote from an 1988 article:

"Throughout the years as community art clubs came into existence and the Alberta Community Art Club Association came into being, Professor Harry Wohlfarth has been instructor, friend, guide and consultant".

Jean Stephenson Award

Jean Olive Stephenson (1902-1988) was born and educated in High River, Alberta. After graduating from the Calgary Normal School she taught school in the Rocky Mountain House area. Following her marriage in 1926, her interests were centered on community affairs, sports, family and various aspects of farm life. Jean took up painting in the 40's, attending her first art class in High River in 1950 with Annora Brown as instructor. She was a member of ACACA until her death in 1988. She served on the executive as treasurer and director (1977-80) and was chairperson of the Southern Zone Show at High River in 1985. Her oil painting 'The Nanton Art Class in Action' is part of the ACACA's Permanent Collection.

Margaret Seelye Memorial Award

(Excerpts from Tribute by Beth Jantzie)
Margaret Blades was born in Masset on the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1915. It was said that a Haida Indian Chief was most impressed by this beautiful baby and her lovely mother and proceeded to try to buy them both! When Margaret was a young girl her family moved to Great Bend District by the Red Deer River, where they homesteaded and operated a coal mine. As a young child interested in art she was encouraged and supported by her mother. Margaret painted and drew on brown wrapping paper, on wallpaper and on walls. Her mother finally papered over an area of wall in their home for young Margaret to draw on. In 1934 Margaret began her teaching career. It was in a small country school at Carroll near Alix, Alberta. She married William Harold Seelye, and moved back to the Queen Charlotte Islands. They returned after two years to the Red Deer area. In 1951 Margaret's husband died. Margaret was left to raise a baby boy, and two small girls. So, in 1952, Margaret moved to Red Deer to teach school. Through the facilities provided by McGill University, Queens University and the University of Alberta she earned a Masters of Education, specializing in Art Education. Margaret always felt a strong sense of obligation to serve her community and belonged and worked for many organizations in Alberta and was president of the ACACA. in 1981 and 1982. She had a strong commitment to promoting art and

culture in the province. The Province of Alberta presented Margaret with an award for her work with the Alberta Historical Society in preserving the old Red Deer Court House. A plaque was presented to her by the City of Red Deer as appreciation for her contribution to cultural life in the city. In 1981 Margaret moved to Calgary to be close to her family and passed away in 1997.

Beginners Award

It was decided that the Beginners Award which was also a Category in the Zone Show Level, should be an Award winning Category at the Alberta Wide Show. This would be a new Award, separate and apart from the already Beginners Award winner in the Zone shows. The 2011 Alberta Wide Beginner Award winner was Julie Taylor for "Minding the Marsh".

Signature Award

This category was added to the Alberta Wide Juried show in the mid 2000's. It was designated for qualified members from the Master's Category voted on by the Board of Directors and/or by the Jurors recommendation at the Zone Show level. This is the winner of all Zone Show Signature Award winning paintings.

Digital Award

Digital Art is a piece of Art that is solely created on the Computer and allows for digital pieces to be in their own section for Members from all levels. The artwork is solely composed and created on a computer using only software tools or a scanned image which is manipulated to significantly change the original. (Scanned original must be available to jury if requested.) The print must be unique and not an edition.

Sculpture Award

Sculpting and Sculptors (additive and subtractive) which include many forms ranging from Stone, Wood, Bronze, Jade, Clay, Bone, Antlers, and/or precious metals was added to the variety of art, with weight constraints of no more than 25 pounds.

Permanent Collection

Artist, Town / City	Title
1. Donna MacLean, Medicine Hat	Sweet Bloom
2. Margaret Seelye, Red Deer	Still Life
3. Martha Houston, High River	Pattern of the Land
4. Dorothy Gardner, Ponoka	The Scream
5. Pearl Brunner, Westeros	Portrait of Lillian Nunn
6. Lillian Nunn, Lacombe	Flowers
7. Beth Jantzie, Calgary	Vista SW of Pincher Creek
8. Jutta Zaun, High River	Flowers Texture
9. Jean Chubb, Bon Accord	Gulf Islands '84
10. Esther Dahms, Wetaskiwin	Market in Vancouver
11. Jeannette Osborne, Hinton	Hillside Farm
12. Don Jantzie, Calgary	Jacuzzi (au Matisse)
13. Pearl Brunner, Westeros	Professor Wohlfarth
14. Hildur Sherbeck, Wetaskiwin	Struggle
15. Annie Pearson, Red Deer	Lunch Time
16. Connie McFarland, Vulcan	The Dancers
17. Walter J. Phillipe	Rundle in Winter
18. Dorothy Ruff, Wetaskiwin	Badlands Cave, Donalda
19. Peggy Shannon, Hinton	Fish Lake Flats
20. Jean Stephenson, High River	The Art Club
21. George Walker, Vulcan	Garden Trash
22. Joanne Emery, Camp Creek	A Little Creek
23. Kaye Duncanson, Calgary	Evening Shadows
24. Mary Lee Small, St. Albert	Conference
25. Doreen Stachniak, Redwater	Hauzenburgers Haven
26. Judy Zynk, Redwater	Old Strathcona
27. Linda Wadley, Hinton	Dunvegan
28. Peter Jacobs, Drayton Valley	Rocky Rapids Store
29. S. Vera Morgan, Calgary	\$1.99 a Bunch
30. Diane Rukavina, Edson	Hatchery Chicks
31. Marjorie Tidsbury, Gibbons	Fleeting Image
32. Margaret Metcalf, Sylvan Lake	Snowpatch Peak at the Bugaboos
33. Pat Trudeau, St. Albert	The Traveler
34. Susan Barker, Red Deer	Repose
35. Marcia Schmidt, Lacombe	Yellow Bearded Iris
36. Susan Barker, Red Deer	Vantage Point
37. Dessirrie Plewis, Sherwood Park	Fall Patio
38. Heather Dodd, Pincher Creek	Peony after the Bloom
39. Christel Langan	Crystal's Choice
40. Hans G. Rohner (donated)	The Great Spirit

Medium

Date Acquired

Acrylic	1970
Acrylic	1977
Watercolor	1980
Collage	1981
Pencil & Ink	1982
Oil	1983
Oil	1984
Etching	1984
Mixed Media	1985
Oil	1986
Acrylic	1987
Oil	1987
Acrylic	1987
Oil	1987
Acrylic	1988
Oil	1988
Woodcut	1989
Acrylic	1989
Pencil Drawing	1989
Oil	1989
Watercolor	1989
Acrylic	1990
Oil	1991
Oil	1993
Watercolor	1994
Oil	1995
Oil	1996
Watercolor	1997
Watercolor	1999
Pastel	2000
Acrylic	2001
Acrylic	2002
Acrylic	2004
Watercolor	2006
Oil	2007
Watercolor	2009
Watercolor	2010
Watercolor	2011
Mixed	2014
Sculpture (wood)	2016



Alberta Community Art Clubs Association



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