



Jake Vanderwerf: Wire master



My name is Jake Vanderwerf, and I am a full-time mixed media artist living and creating in Edmonton. My primary medium is copper, but I also work with cement, stone, and other metal. I have been bending wire since 2008, and started a business of it as Rooted Romantic in 2017. Since 2020 I have been experimenting with kinetic sculpture or automata - sculptures that move! This has been a fun challenge, and I look forward to seeing how my practice expands in the years to come.

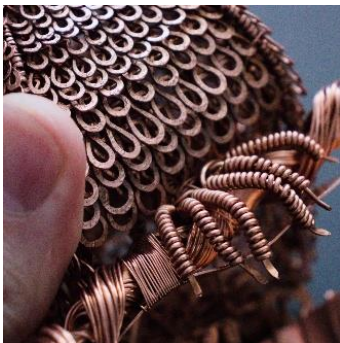
Have you always wanted to be a sculptor?

I grew up in a creative family where experimentation and creative expression was encouraged. I am super project-driven, and get somewhat hyper-focused on the project until its completion. I spent a lot of my childhood making sculptures out of popsicle sticks and glue, paper and tape, or air-dry clay.



What is the best advice you have ever been given?

The best advice I have been ever been given is best summed up by the songwriter Tim Barry in his song, 'Wait at Milano': "Can't make everything right now. And there's sense in slowing down" As a perfectionist living life between burnouts, this phrase helped me to encourage myself to just take life as it comes; to do what I can with what I have; and to let go of what I cannot get done - and take the time to rest.

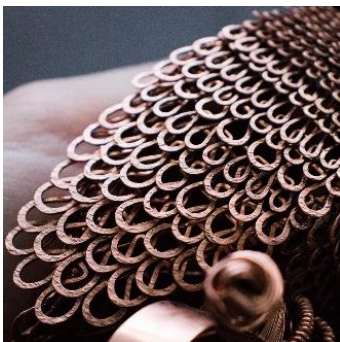


Why art?

Art is the manifestation of the life force all around us. When I practice art, I feel as though I tap into that force; as if I am the vessel that the Muse has chosen to express itself to the physical world around us all. And it's fun.

What mediums do you work in?

I mainly work in copper, but have been branching out to more mixed-media work with cement, semi-precious stones, and wood.



What inspires you?

I am inspired by the flora and fauna in the natural world. I love attempting to capture the feeling of connection I get walking barefoot through the mossy woodland, interacting with a majestic beast or when that whimsical critter lands on your finger - or the discovery of your favourite plant or fungus friend in unexpected spaces. My goal in my creative process is to capture that sense of wonder from the natural world, and to encourage engagement with each piece and what it represents.

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President's message

I can't remember a winter/spring as full as this one for SAA!

We have just concluded an excellent Night of Artists (NOA) - with 14 sculptors in a prominent location at Bonnie Doon Mall (in Edmonton) - and are launching into "It's a Tactile World" at the Allied Arts Council (AAC) gallery in Spruce Grove for April. Then off to VASA in St. Albert for June. Whew!

And if things pan out as we hope this summer, July will be exciting too... but more about that as plans develop. Stay tuned!

At the end of March, we will experience some change in our gallery at the Edmonton

Downtown Farmer's Market, with the departure of Shawn Olander and Bryan Jackson, and new member Shelly Leroux and another prospective member or two joining us. I can't name them until next month, but I am very excited to have new offerings - and from newer members - for our shoppers.

There is still room for more artists if you are considering joining us! The market will be picking up steam as the warm weather approaches. If you are interested, please contact me.

Our email list is growing. We did a cross promotion at NOA for gift certificates at our Market Gallery and there was lots of interest. The winners were excited too! It is great to have the ability to promote our shows and our sculptors to art lovers and tourists in and around the city.

Lastly... and most importantly... my thanks. A huge shout-out to our Exhibition Chair Carroll Charest for the incredible work she does on behalf of our members. She organizes the displays, determines our schedules, curates with an acute eye for colour and size, directs the team, schleps, laughs and "herds the cats". NOA was an enormous job - and one expertly done! AAC and VASA will be easy in comparison...!?

And I would be remiss if I didn't thank Keith Kobyłka for his wonderful graphics. We keep him busy with posters and art for social media for all our shows and the market. He makes us look intriguing and professional in all our communications.

In March we welcomed several new members - some of whom are already participating in shows and our gallery. I'm grateful to all of you for opening the doors to new members and for your participation in growing our community. See you at the City Arts Centre for our April meeting!

- Ellie Shuster

Next SAA meeting

Tuesday, April 4
7:30 pm

Our April 4 meeting will be held at **City Arts Centre 10943-83 Ave**, and will include a tour of the venue.

6:30 pm - Board Meeting

7:30 pm - All members meeting

Program: Tour of the City Arts Centre 10943 83 Ave

The minutes and agenda for this meeting were attached to an email from sculptorsab@gmail.com sent on Mar. 28.

Exhibitions



WOW! What a show at Night of Artists! Some were worried about the new venue, but everyone I talked to seemed to think it was as good if not better. Kudos to Phil Alain for another wonderful organized event! We had many comments from people in the community who were so happy to see the art and so impressed with how many people it brought in. A win-win for all. And it brought many a smile to the seniors who walk the mall early in the morning. We were in a great location within Bonnie Doon mall with a lot of traffic, near the main stage for live music and the "beer gardens" and we had lots of comments on our space and artwork from both the general public and other artists. Great to hear good feedback from our peers.



I would like to thank all the participating artists and their expertise in help setting up the show. It went quick and smoothly. I was concerned about unloading works from 14 artists plus all our plinths and supplies in just 30 minutes, but you did not disappoint! I think we were done all the heavy lifting well within our timeslot. SAA not only has great artists, but they make a great team. I also want to congratulate all those who sold works at NOA. It was great to see my teammates/friends sell their work and make this event a success.



SAA's next show, "It's a Tactile World", will be in Spruce Grove at the Allied Art Council Gallery (located in the public library). By the time you read this, the deadline to enter will have passed, but I hope you will come to the opening April 15, from 1-3, and see our works alongside the other sculptors from their society. The show runs from April 11 to May 5, with April 29 being International Sculpture Day, so I hope you can make it out at some point.



Now that we are finished NOA, we are taking artists for the June show at VASA Art Gallery and Studios in St. Albert. It's also called "It's a Tactile World". There is no entry fee but VASA has a variable commission: 25% for members and 40% for non-members. They have lots of wall space as well, so they are accepting hanging pieces. Please let me know by April 15 if you would like to participate. Send an email to me at SAAexhibitions@gmail.com along with one image of a piece you will be showing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

- Carroll Charest, Exhibitions Director

Thank you to Carroll Charest for organizing an amazing weekend.

Ellie Shuster, Keith Turnbull, Laura Ouimet, Herman Poulin, Deb Laninga, Bhumi Vagasiya, Eric Spoeth, Ruby Serben, Wanda Resek, Sharon Moore-Foster, Kay McCormack, Jennifer Lang, Shawn Olander and Carroll Charest took part in the event. Members Bev Oliwa, Vicki Myers, and Ritchie Velthuis were also there with their own booths. See if you can find them in this picture of all the artists!



Jake Vanderwerf – con't from p.1

What other work have you done besides sculpting?

I dabble in website design and coding. To me this has the same satisfaction as working on a puzzle, or any creative project: as I figure out what it is I want to accomplish and break it down into the smallest tasks in order to get it done. I also have been experimenting with graphic design and photography.

What makes you smile?

When someone speaks passionately about something important to them. When my partner makes their pose face when looking in the mirror or taking a photo.

What is your dream project?

Dream projects don't stay dream projects very often. When I have a dream project, I tend to obsess over it in my head: going over details of how I would make connections or capture certain movement. Eventually a feeling builds up inside me: a feeling of excitement, a recognition of potential, and a rush of anticipation; an inability to wait for my hands to do what needs to be done in order to get to the next step of the project. I have been loving exploring automata and kinetic sculpture. I am currently working on a Humpback Whale that has been on the back-burner for quite some time - but I am excited to complete it!

What is your outlook on life?

My outlook on life is a delicate balance between aiming for perfection, and that good enough is good ...enough. I seek to nurture a safe, welcoming space for all. To tell those I care for that I care for them. To encourage, uplift, and support those around me, but also my self.

How has your work evolved over time?

My wire sculptures started out very structural; a series of hoops with slots for cross wires to pass through. Since 2020 I started playing around with the negative space as well as the wire itself to create more freeform structures. Also, since exploring kinetic sculpture, my work has started to capture literal movement as well, which adds a whole other level to the piece.

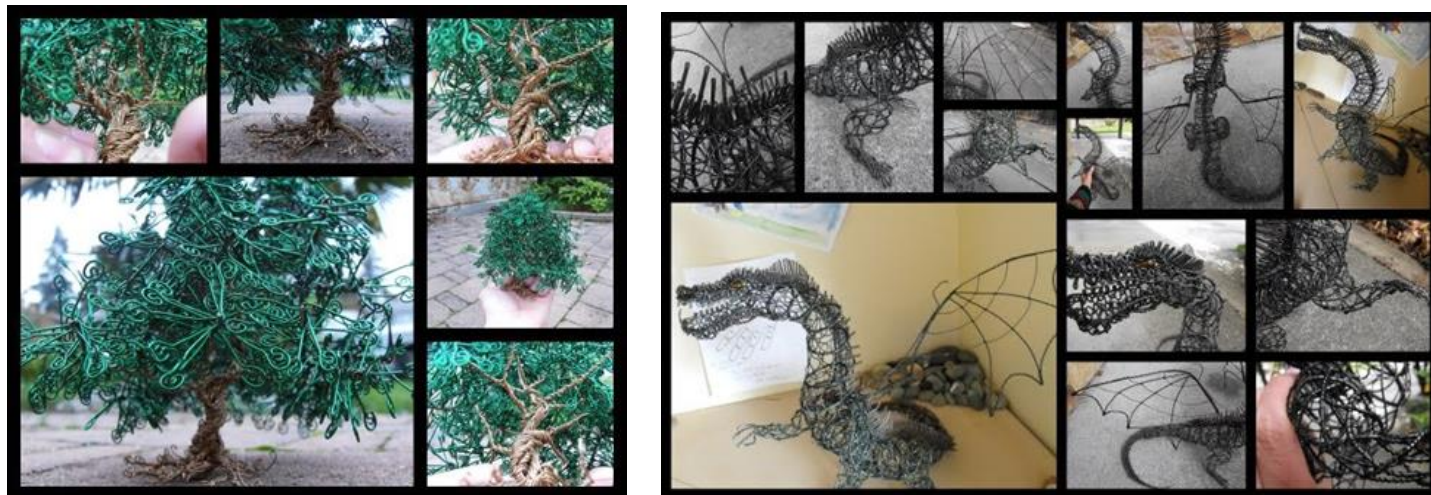
Do you have a favourite work of art or artist?

My favourite kinetic sculptor is Syl Gautier, a French wood carving artist who makes stunning pieces of moving art. His Wooden Migaloo #06 heavily inspired my first kinetic sculpture.

Continued next page



Jake Vanderwerf – con't from p.4



What is the best thing about being an artist?

The more you create, the more you are able to create. It's fun to give yourself permission to play: to explore mediums or methods that you hadn't previously considered, and to accept the result whether it 'works' or not. Each attempt is a stepping stone towards further creative expression.

What is the worst?

There're so many ideas! Once the mind gets going, it can sometimes be hard to narrow your focus or to keep from being overwhelmed by all that could be done.

What advice would you give your younger self?

Take the time to play around. Don't lose sight of yourself and your own needs when helping others. You matter. Your needs matter. Take the time to rest!

Where can we see your art?

On my website, <https://rootedromantic.ca>. On Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tumblr (and occasionally TikTok) @rootedromantic

Gordon Pengilly

I've joined a Calgary artist collective which shows its work out of Apik Gallery in the old Eau Claire Market. Check out apikfineart.ca. It's a very nice space built for other activities like workshops, readings and classes with live jazz on Saturday afternoons.

Ritchie Velthuis - Show

Harcourt House: Incubator Gallery
Exhibit Title: Day at the Beach
Date: April 28 to June 10, 2023
Opening: April 28, 7 to 10 pm

Edmonton artist, Ritchie Velthuis' current work is entitled "Day at the Beach" and is inspired by visits to a friend's cabin at Slave Lake. It is a time spent unplugging and settling into natural rhythms provided by pristine nature. The work presented documents his impressions and observations of this environment.

In the centre of the gallery, a series of small ceramic figures are carefully placed on a beach of Alberta sand. A beer can here, a bag there, along with sundry objects complete the beach to further inform the viewer. Paintings of Alberta skies, the magical boreal forests and majestic Slave Lake surround the figures and interact with the central installation to expand the story being told by the individual pieces or collectively. The figures and props will be moved periodically to discover whether the placement will change the viewer perceptions.

Recent work by Ritchie Velthuis



Berny and his Bean



Cat Lady



Afternoon at the Farmer's Market

The newsletter needs YOU

It has been an amazing few years, but the time has come for me to focus my energy in other directions. I am pleading to our membership for one or two members to step forward and take on this incredible opportunity. I don't know if any of you remember me in 2019 when I joined. I was painfully shy and not very confident. I had zero computer skills. But the newsletter needed someone and I stepped up. The newsletter has opened up my world. Thanks to the opportunity, I now know most sculptors and artists in Edmonton and call many of them my friends. I have a network of fellow artists that I can and do call on for a variety of reasons and they always step up to help. I know what's happening and often find out interesting tidbits passed on by art lovers. I have the ability now to walk up to strangers and introduce myself and feel confident doing so. I could go on about how volunteering has helped me but it would last for days. Please consider helping out. It's fun and rewarding. My computer skills have improved, not immensely but I can thank the newsletter for that as well. Thank you to Barb Marcinkoski for her help each month and thank you to Maria Koulouris for managing submissions. It's a team effort. Please keep the submissions coming. The newsletter is nothing without them.

- Shawn Olander, Outgoing Armature Editor



Chicken wire workshop with Laura Ouimet

May 13, 2023 - 9-4 pm

At Laura's South Edmonton studio

Dragonfly, bee, gecko or hen; all supplies included

SAA members \$150, Non-members \$160

wemetwirework@gmail.com



SPRING EDITION

HAND2HAND
EDMONTON'S PREMIUM HANDMADE MARKET

April 29, 2023 · 10am - 4pm

Terwillegar Community Church
1751 Towne Centre Blvd, Edmonton

60+ Local Artisans · Free Admission · Free Parking · more info at hand2hand.ca

Scott van de Sande at 'Ornament & Crime' exhibition

Ornament and Crime is an essay written in 1908 by Adolf Loos, an Austrian architect active in the early 1900s in Vienna, whose fierce opinions about ornamentation influenced the work of architects, designers and makers of his era as well as the development of Modernism. He believed that ornamentation on objects and buildings belied degenerate criminal tendencies. In the context of a contemporary perspective, his essay, full of opinions and assertions, is absurd, melodramatic and offensive, offering our artists a prompt with many points of departure for the expressive works in this exhibition.

The Alberta Craft Council exhibition, Ornament & Crime celebrates adorned, decorated, patterned and ornamented excess. Forty-six artists from across Canada are featured in this hyperbolic spectacle of exaggerated adornment with all the delightful trimmings they can muster. SAA member Scott van de Sande has this piece in the exhibition (see photo on the right).

The public reception for the exhibit will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 2-4 pm. The exhibit runs April 8-July 22, 2023, at Alberta Craft Council, 10186- 106 Street, Edmonton.



'Field & Dreams' by Leila Bjerland and Dan Wiebe



From engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, Maker Faire is a venue for "makers" to show hobbies, experiments, and projects.

July 21 - 23, 2023 (K-Days)
Edmonton Expo Centre
Market hours: Noon - 10:00 pm.

The cost is free or \$200 if you are selling something. To submit an application, click on this link: [Call for Makers 2023](#)

The first round of approvals is April 15 and they will only be accepting applications until space is filled.

More shows

SAA member Heinz Zadler is part of this association:



A poster for the 37th Annual Woodcarving Show. The top half features a close-up photograph of a hand using a gouge to carve a piece of wood. A circular logo in the top right corner of the photo reads "NORTHERN ALBERTA WOOD CARVERS ASSOCIATION". Below the photo, the text reads: "37th ANNUAL WOODCARVING SHOW", "APRIL 22 & 23, 2023", "SAT 10 - 5 SUN 10 - 2", "Free Admission (Donations Appreciated) ~ 150+ Entries ~ Vendors ~ Demonstrations ~ Carvers Garage Sale ~ Displays ~ Concession", "WOOD CARVING REGISTRATION: FRIDAY APRIL 21 @ 4 - 8 PM", and "DUGGAN COMMUNITY HALL @ 3728 - 106 ST NW EDMONTON". At the bottom, there are icons for a website (www.nawca.ca), a thumbs up (Northern Alberta Wood Carvers Association), and a camera (NAWCA_Carves).



A poster for the Beaumont Art Walk. The background is a dark blue, textured surface. In the top left is a stylized geometric logo. The text reads: "ARTISTS ASSOCIATION OF BEAUMONT", "Invites You to the Second Annual:", "Beaumont Art Walk", "Jun 3rd 2023 11 - 5 pm", "Ken Nichols Rec Centre (South Parking Lot)", and a list of activities: "Local Eclectic Selection of Art", "Music and Beer Gardens Organized by Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival", and "Food Trucks". A QR code is in the top right corner. The website "ArtinBeaumont.com" is at the bottom.

Lost wax bronze casting summer course

The Red Deer Polytechnic (formerly college) the Bronze Casting and the Lost Wax Process course again this summer:

Experience the art of lost wax bronze casting using the Red Deer Polytechnic Foundry. This is a hands-on course where you take your ideas from sketch to wax to bronze in two weeks. You will experience all stages of the casting process up to and including pouring bronze. After the bronze is poured, you will finish and patina your work to take home. No previous casting experience is required.

Instructor: Robin Lambert
Course Dates: July 10, 2023 to July 21, 2023
Course Cost: \$1200.00 (Bronze by weight is additional)
Additional course info can be found [here](#)

Newsletter submissions

We are always looking for submissions to the newsletter. If you are showing your work, teaching a workshop, working on something special, have an update you'd like to share, or any story ideas, please contact me. Also, please keep the photos coming, they are greatly appreciated.

Submit your items to Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com by the 25th of the month.



Misericordia Hospital art acquisition

Covenant Health, Covenant Foundation, and the [Friends of University Hospitals](#) invite Alberta artists to submit artworks for consideration for the Misericordia Community Hospital (Edmonton) art collection and permanent placement in public and patient areas of the new Misericordia emergency department (ED). The selected artworks will be placed within the corridors, waiting rooms, and units throughout the new ED for the benefit of patients, families, and staff.

The artworks selected will include work that impacts individuals in various positive ways, such as humour, messaging, history, interactivity, highlighting cultures, inspiring calm and hope, or by engaging a community in an artwork's creation.

They are looking for pieces in the \$500-\$6,000 range per artwork/series (Note: the total value must include shipping/delivery.) Deadline for submission: April 14, 2023. More information [here](#).

Custom stands by Wes

SAA member Wes Leonard is offering custom steel stands to SAA members for \$20 each for most sizes. Contact Wes at wmleonard@hotmail.com or 780-984-6703.

The Armature is published by the Sculptors' Association of Alberta. Images have been supplied by artist members and may not be reused without permission of the artist(s). For more information contact Maria Koulouris, SAA Administrator at sculptorsab@gmail.com.

This newsletter was prepared by Shawn Olander and edited/formatted by Barb Marcinkoski. If you have anything for the newsletter, please contact Maria at sculptorsab@gmail.com.

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