

Featured Artist Jim Niedermayer

For this month, Winnipeg River Arts Council updates the profile of chainsaw carver, Jim Niedermayer. Born and raised in Powerview-Pine Falls, he's spent plenty of time in the boreal forest, especially when he's harvesting wild rice on his assigned lakes. From a young age, Nature intrigued him and he learned early to have the utmost respect for all living things. When he's creating his art, his main goal is to repurpose dead trees. He often goes to people's yards and carves the stumps left behind after their beloved mature spruce, pine or oak is removed. He said, "I enjoy putting life back into them, carving animals and birds that had once depended on the trees."



Niedermayer's skills with a chain saw are self-taught. In 2009, when the paper mill in Pine Falls shut down, he decided to start carving. People responded positively to his first efforts and their reactions made him determined to improve. His persistence paid off.

He began to take part in competitions, where he met lots of amazing carvers, in places ranging from Peterborough to Moosejaw to Winnipeg, and many other communities. He said, "They push me to do my best and exceed expectations. It's challenging and gratifying getting together and competing with so many talented artists."

Niedermayer enjoys competitions because the participants give each other a helping hand when needed. He said, "It's a small world. We've become a carver family." He also values the support and work of his wife, Joanne. "She serves as my assistant at most events and is a big part of my carving career."

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Niedermayer notes that chainsaw carving is a fast-growing pastime, combining sport, entertainment, and art. It involves great physical effort, such as moving logs and equipment, controlling the various saws, and standing for as long as it takes to complete a carving. The act of carving also offers unlimited opportunities to explore creative concepts and keeps crowds enthralled for hours.

As a carver, Niedermayer has won many awards and met many interesting people. He notes two of the most memorable. When Sean Penn visited Manitoba to film the movie, "Flag Day," he purchased a carving and took it back to the United States.

Another time, Niedermayer was working on a spruce tree at a city golf course. The course was closed to the public and the Winnipeg Jets were participating in a fundraising event. The players became so fascinated by his project that Niedermayer ended up hanging out with them. He said, "Mark Scheifele signed my saw. We joked how it was the first time for him, signing a chainsaw. I think he'll remember me."

As will many other people who have seen Niedermayer doing what he loves, making beautiful art out of a log or a stump.





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**Program runs
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If your interested and/or need more information please contact Jen at 204-367-8443 or email me at asstlib@allardlibrary.com. If you want to sign up just let me know!

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Congratulations to Donna Besel on her first place win in *Prairie Fire* Magazine's Annual Creative Nonfiction Contest. Donna's essay, "The Bay Filly", tells the story of a trip to pick up her new horse when she was twelve.

Read Donna's interview with Prairie Fire Magazine
<https://creativenonfictioncollective.ca/an-interview-with-donna-besel/>



PADRE X

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Venue: Great Falls Hall

ROYAL
MTC



ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS



The Artists in Schools program supports arts-enriched learning experiences through Manitoban artists working in the classroom with students from Nursery to Grade 12 in Manitoba schools. The intent of the program is to motivate and excite students to realize their full potential, acknowledge their role in the community, and value the importance of the arts.

Through the Learn – Artists in Schools program, Manitoba Arts Council funds projects that immerse students in the arts and engage them in creative exploration of meaningful issues. Two types of projects can be funded:

Short-term projects, which must be completed in a single school year

Three-year projects, intended to be long-term collaborative projects between teachers and artists with a track record in arts-based inquiry. Schools that host three-year projects are required to provide opportunities for participating teachers to attend planning sessions.

NEXT DEADLINE: October 5, 2020: for projects January to the end of June (2020/2021 school year)

For more information visit: artscouncil.mb.ca/grants/artists-in-schools/



#CanadaPerforms continues to present artists, workshops and events throughout the month of June, focusing on support for festivals that have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions through the #RoadtoCanadaDay series. The complete lineup of festivals joining #RoadToCanadaDay is announced today.

The #RoadToCanadaDay series will feature performing artists scheduled to perform at festival venues across Canada.

For the complete schedule ➡ <https://nac-cna.ca/en/canadaperforms>

"Festivals and presenters of year-round concert series as the Winnipeg Folk Festival have been deeply impacted by COVID-19. The entire ecosystem around us – including artists, venues, agents, managers and technical staff – has been struggling ever since the pandemic began as we were first hit and will be some of the last to recover." - Lynne Skromeda, Executive Director of the Winnipeg Folk Festival.



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The Rural Art Mentorship Program (RAMP) is a ten-month mentorship for up to five emerging professional visual artists from the Eastman Region. Led by professional painter Brenna George.

RAMP is a four-weekend intensive with studio visits is designed specifically to meet the needs of rural visual artists in Manitoba. The four in-person meetings will be hosted by the Winnipeg River Arts Council. The program will culminate in a final exhibition at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba's community gallery.

Please email Jenn at winnipegriverarts@gmail.com for a copy of the application form.

OJCE ONLINE

(OJCE EDITION #88)

The Manitoba Society of Artists has opened registration submissions for the OJCE 2020 competition as an online and virtual exhibit, September 30 to December 31, 2020.

There will not be a physical location show in 2020.

The finalized rules and registration process is now posted on

<https://www.manitobaartists.com/ojce-online-show/>

Online registration for the competition has begun, and will continue until September 18th, 2020.

Read the rules carefully, there are changes from last year.

If you have difficulty with online submission consult the helpline email provided on the application. All submitted images will be displayed online September / October. These are the works to be juried. Selected works and awards will extend the November 2nd until December 31, 2020. Lecture (live or recorded) and promotion of the awards approximately November 6th, exact date to be confirmed in September.

Summary: All events are virtual i.e. entirety of the show online including online submission of the artwork, long-distance / e-jurying, Jurors lecture via Live on Youtube and/or Facebook, Q&A session on Zoom, and the curated show only online. The show will run September 30 to December 31, 2020.

MSA very much appreciates the opportunity to provide this show online; this would not be possible without the financial support to hire a web developer for the show. We are grateful for the sponsorship of our gracious sponsors: One of our MSA long time volunteers has applied for a grant for OJCE from his employer, Canada Life Co, through their community volunteer grant program. Our other sponsor is the Hilton Lee Foundation. Without this financial support, it would have been a great hardship for MSA to provide the 88th annual Manitoba OJCE this year. To All Manitoba Artists, keep working on your submissions, if you have difficulty posting, you can access our helpline on a first come first served basis.

Don't leave it to last minute, deadline is September 18th, all posting must be completed by then.