



## Featured Artist Walter Keller

For this month, Winnipeg River Arts Council updates the profile of chainsaw carver Walter Keller. Born in Switzerland, he came to Canada in 1967 and now lives in Elma. After years of forestry work and log building, he discovered chainsaw carving. And, since 2009, he has been teaching others how to carve with a chainsaw.

Totally self-taught, Keller has become well-known as an accomplished artist. But he admits his intention to stick to strictly freelance pieces has failed. Among recent commissions, two stand out: a corporate client asked him to carve a giant Western Red cedar log into a totem (the largest work he had ever done), and the Winnipeg Art Gallery's board chairman asked him to create a



group of six bear sculptures for his office. Keller said, "Over the last decade, I've worked for an ever-widening circle of clients. And challenging commissions came my way and I could not refuse."

It is the special interactions with his clients that fuel his dedication. Clients have handed him cash through the half-opened window of a vehicle at a highway rest stop, but he has also been invited to unveiling parties with a lot of pomp and honor. Recently, Keller has focused on refining his carving techniques, by reducing power tool use in favor of hand tool application, to highlight growth forms provided by

Continued on page 2

Mother Nature. Largely due to his clients' wishes, he also overcame his dislike of applying colours. He still does large pieces, but climbing scaffolds, working from ladders or crawling on hands and knees often cause pain and fatigue. Also, his long-standing annual three day carving courses ended when his co-host could no longer help. However, he still attends about three regional shows every year and takes pleasure in displaying his art with the close-knit group formerly known as Agassiz Chainsaw Sculptors. In more predictable times, the members have exhibited at Fire 'n Water Festival, Beausejour Rodeo, Festival du Voyageur, and 4P event in Powerview. He said, "This year, I plan to do some charitable work in the public domain; where this will take me remains to be seen." Given his reluctance to compete against friends and his belief that performing for crowds downgrades the actual art making, regular carving competitions do not work for him. He especially detests the speed carve, limited by the clock and blaring horns.

Keller feels thankful for the opportunities to learn and grow. But he believes all is not well in this world and he hopes that his pieces of art will raise awareness of the real value of wood and trees. He said, "Mankind reduces forest environments through clearing and converting land. In our own back yards, trees get discarded without even an attempt for any kind of utilization. "In response, he has proclaimed himself as "Patrona Sylvatica," the patron saint of the boreal forest. In the accompanying photo, he poses with a sculpture which represents the nurturing properties of our forests and his hope that an intact boreal forest may see us through the uncertain future. He said, "It is through carving that I can find my peace and maintain a positive outlook. Whenever possible, my life partner and I venture into the wilderness to recharge our bond with Mother Nature, our source of inspiration and creativity."





**TD  
Summer  
Reading  
Club**

**Lac du Bonnet Library's  
Summer Reading Club**

**July 7 - August 25, 2020**

**The program will be available online!**

**Please visit [www.lacdubonnetlibrary.com](http://www.lacdubonnetlibrary.com) for  
more information**

**TD  
Summer  
Reading  
Club**



**TD SUMMER  
READING  
PROGRAM  
2020  
@LIBRARY  
ALLARD**

**TD  
Summer  
Reading  
Club  
2020**

**Program runs  
July 7 to August 25, 2020  
on a weekly basis ONLINE!  
ages 5 - 10 yrs. old**

**Sign up at  
[www.allardlibrary.com](http://www.allardlibrary.com)**

**The Theme is  
"Game Time!"**



**Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library**  
(204) 367-8443 [www.allardlibrary.com](http://www.allardlibrary.com)

connect with us and  
**Discover the Possibilities**





# PADRE X

**Sunday, March 7, 202**

**Venue: Great Falls Hal**



**ALLARD LIBRARY**

Bibliothèque Allard Regional Library

*Discover the Possibilities!*

Sign Making Fundraiser!



Cost is \$60.00/ sign and includes all supplies, and non-alcoholic beverages.

You customize by picking your sign, your saying, your sign color, and your font color! What a great way to decorate your house, porch, office, garage or make a gift for someone else.

If your interested and/or need more information please contact Jen at 204-367-8443 or email me at [asstlib@allardlibrary.com](mailto:asstlib@allardlibrary.com). If you want to sign up just let me know!

# 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/](https://artscouncil.mb.ca/grants/artists-in-schools/)



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](mailto: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.



# WATER

FUNDRAISING ART AUCTION FOR



Brenda McKenzie  
Mary Louise Chown  
Shirley Kurian  
Donna Besel



**Venice by  
Shirley Kurian**



**Waterlilies by  
Mary Louise Chown**

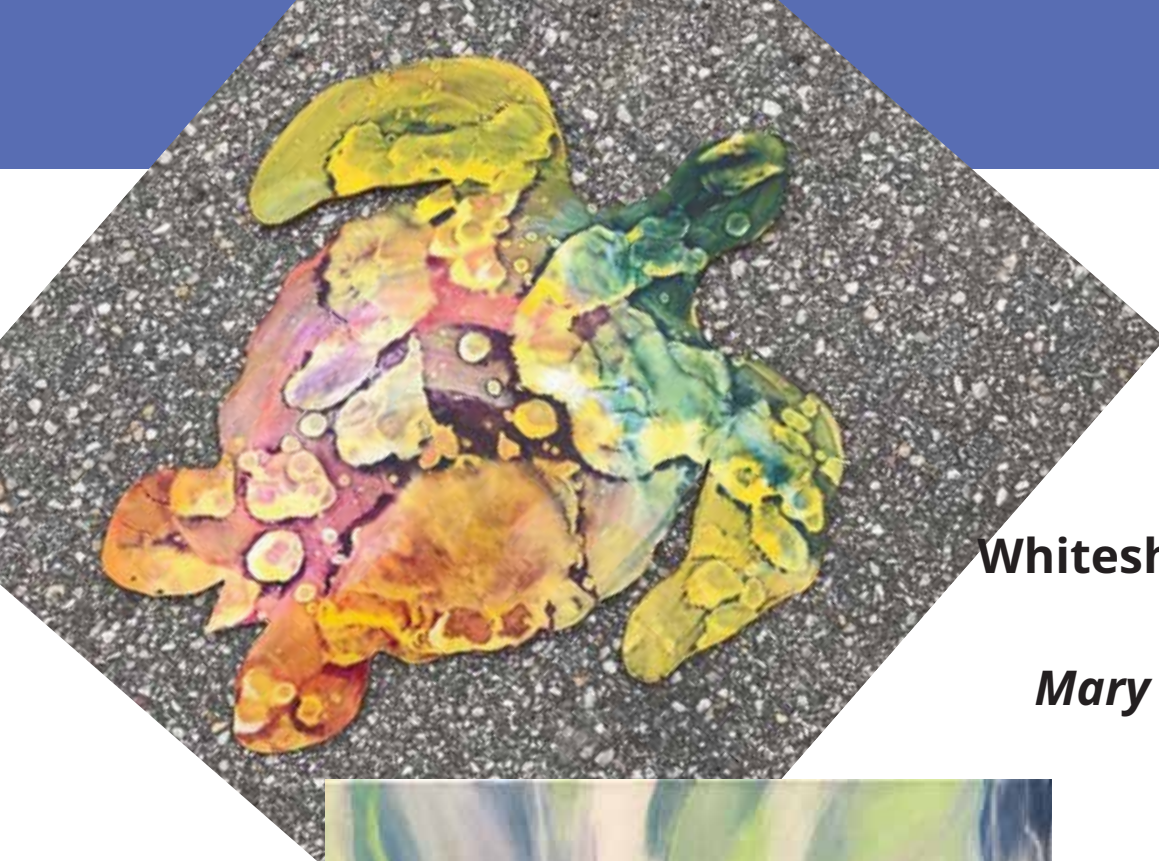
Opening bid on all pieces, \$100.

Bids accepted

September 1, 12 pm CST - October 8, 8 pm  
CST.

Bids can be submitted via  
Facebook messages, email  
[winnipegriverarts@gmail.com](mailto:winnipegriverarts@gmail.com)  
Call/Text 204 340 0889.

Please include name, phone number &  
email with bid. See individual pictures for  
starting bids. Current bids will be updated  
on pictures as soon as possible.



**Whiteshell Spirit Turtle**  
by  
*Mary Louise Chown*



**Aurora** by  
*Brenda McKenzie*

**Moonlight in the Boreal**  
by  
*Donna Besel*

