

In Attendance:

Sandra Bromley, Catherine Burgess, Isla Burns, Douglas Carlyle, James Dow, Liz Ingram, Barry Johns

Seven Edmonton area RCA members gathered together on Wednesday November 21, 2012 at home of Catherine Burgess. As with the previous Edmonton social, the energy was strong and positive and lively discussion took place on the topics of prepared agenda. It's obvious that RCA members need opportunities to connect in order to feel engaged and that the benefits of the organizing events that bring them together are well worth the effort.

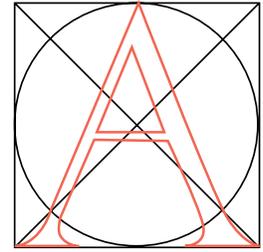
Our Discussion Topics included:

- The 2014 General Annual Assembly that will take place in Edmonton: We talked about possible exhibition venues, accommodation, sponsorships, and excursion destinations.
- We suggested possible Alberta candidates for nomination to the RCA, in particular senior artists who have been overlooked.
- Advocacy role in the RCA: The varied economic situations of the RCA members

present appeared to influence opinions on the importance of advocacy in the activities of the RCA. Academicians present included artists who had struggled all their lives to maintain a studio practice while juggling low paying sessional lecturer positions in university art departments with job security, benefits, or pensions. Their situations contrasted notably with the tenured professors and architects who held well paying secure jobs with both benefits and pensions. I thought it would be interesting to do a survey of the financial situation of the RCA. Such an on-line survey could provide some useful statistics that could inform us better of the need for advocacy by the RCA. No on though advocacy was a waste of time but one member though it should not use up scarce RCA resources.

- The topic of the RCA relevancy and usefulness involved informing the groups of newly developing mentorship programs, increasing scholarship opportunities for emerging artists, and the idea of website interviews with academicians. All of these endeavours were positively endorsed by those present.

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- Also discussed were financial issues, including fundraising, sponsorships and RCA members' legacies. Much of this was information session since the working of the RCA were unfamiliar to those present. A further session could result in a greater exchange of idea.

Catherine Burgess

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EDMONTON RCA SOCIAL AT THE HOME OF CATHERINE BURGESS NOV. 21TH 2012