



Professional Artist Award

Nominee **Lia Golemba**
Artist Type Visual Arts
Organization/Business Pink Spot Studios



Photo

Nomination(s)

Lia Golemba has been one of Creative Airdrie's greatest assets. A hidden gem of unbelievable and unconventional talent, she has always been eager to lend her creative genius to any of our events or programs. She works as a graphic designer, helping other companies with their rebranding and marketing messages. In addition to this demanding job, she paints and fabricates stunning pieces of art that are unlike anything we've ever seen before. Intensely passionate about her craft and the artistic community she is like the shield maiden of Arts & Culture for Airdrie. Lia was one of the primary contributors in the rebranding of ARTember last year (Airdrie's month long, city wide celebration of arts & culture). She was recently asked to exhibit her artwork at the Stampede Western Showcase and was the haute couture designer for fascinators at this past Packwood Grand show. From magazine editorials to artisan markets there is nothing she can't do. Always pushing herself, she recently finished a course on classic painting with Martinho Isidro Corriera, and is working on a correspondence project with several other artists from all over the world. Having previously taught at ACAD, we recruited her as one of the key note speakers for Creative Airdrie's Youth Mentorship seminar put on last October. Her connection to the arts world is almost tangible, and she is a wealth of knowledge that she is always, selflessly willing to share. A natural born teacher, and ardent supporter, she knows that helping others to reach their full potential is a win for everyone. If we had a category for artistic superstar, Lia would break the mold.

D Hunter



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Lia Golemba has been involved with APL through exhibiting and sharing her talents and passion during our Teen Artists, Junior Artists, and Adult Artists programs. Lia's energy and creativity is evident to all who meet her, as she is passionate about the importance of the arts in our community. Students at APL's programs share stories about how she inspires them. Lia graciously shares stories from her time studying at ACAD as well as her life as a professional artist and designer. Her work focuses on process, dedication, and experimentation, which excites her students and allows them to work creatively, without fear or limits.

Her work is recognizable in its agricultural roots and prairie themes. This makes her artwork especially relevant to Airdrie's heritage. This summer Lia was selected to be a featured artist at the Calgary Stampede. Lia has also shown her work throughout Airdrie, including her popular exhibit at the library and at Good Earth Café.

Lia's talents don't stop at visual art; she is also a talented designer in many areas: fashion, graphics, and visual communications design. Lia works with many businesses and individuals in the Airdrie community, and is always willing to share her time and expertise with other creatives and emerging artists who may not yet be able to afford her developed skills. Lia's fashion hats have exploded over social media and have become a necessity to contemporary wedding and elegant party photo-shoots in Calgary and beyond.

Lia has created connections throughout the arts community through her caring nature and goodwill, individually and through her roles volunteering at Creative Airdrie and with the Airdrie Public Library. We are thrilled to nominate her!

J Benoit

Questions

Start

How long have you been a professional artist and what prompted you to enter the field that you are in?

I officially graduated from the Alberta College of Art and Design in 2001 and have worked professionally since then but I was involved in the Arts previously, having worked as an Arts Instructor for the Kelowna Art Gallery and volunteering in many other creative capacities. I was always interested in the aesthetic of Art, but my time at The Kelowna Art Gallery forever changed the trajectory of my life. I saw the transformative power of Art, the sense of community and conversation that is built through a participation in the arts, no matter the medium. They bring to focus our shared human condition.

Enhancement

How do you feel (or can you give examples) of how you've personally enhanced arts & culture in your chosen field and within our city?

I have volunteered locally for Arts organizations such as Creative Airdrie and The Arts Society. I also contribute in any way I can to help support local artists individually, whether that is helping with costumes, designing promotional materials/websites, teaching classes. This year, I have also had the wonderful opportunity to teach a few of the teen classes at Airdrie Public Library. I am on the committee for the Airdrie 150 Mosaic Project, part of the Canada 150 Project. My work can also be seen on the Fortis Switching cubicles around town and on the cover for Sherry Shaw-Frogatt's Airdriehlife Magazine.



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Sphere of Influence

Do you currently belong to any programs, groups or organizations that encourage the growth and development of arts & culture? Ex) Through mentoring, volunteering, critiquing, etc... If so please list them and give a brief description of what they do.

I dedicate time every year to help support local organizations, this year I am volunteering time for Creative Airdrie, specifically the Canada 150 project. I am teaching teen classes for the Airdrie Public library, focusing on public art installation and self image/portrait. I am also in the planning stages to be involved with workshops for The Airdrie Arts Society in 2018.

Magnum Opus

To date, what has been your greatest achievement in your field and why do you feel it is the magnum opus of your body of work?

My Magnum Opus is being able to live a creative and artistic life full time. I get to live and breathe Art, Design and Fashion. It is a gift to be able to pursue my painting and be involved with local shows, to work as an Art Director on high-stakes projects, to make crazy couture hats and be a part of the energy of fashion shoots and runways. I like that I don't have to choose one thing.

Professional Development

Do you have any plans to develop your skills further or set challenges for yourself? If so can you please tell us what your future plans are and how they will affect your portfolio.

I have just enrolled in an online millinery school, Hat Academy. Much of my Fine Art work has become very sculptural over the past year and coupled with my previous work as an Art Director for Luxe magazine, hat-making feels like a perfect integration of my previous bodies of work. I regularly enroll in courses/workshops at the Alberta College of Art and Design, and recently had a sculptural hat piece chosen to show in their Spotlight: Continuing Education exhibit.

Additional Links

<https://pinkspotstudios.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/pinkspots/>