



EMERGING ARTISTS

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO ATTEND ARTS WEST 2025 ARTISTS' RETREAT

June 15—20, 2025

Clear Lake, Manitoba

This is a chance for one emerging artist to attend the Arts West 2025 Artists' Retreat.

This annual five-day event provides you with an opportunity to concentrate on developing your artistic skills and goals under the direction of experienced professional instructors. All courses are 6 hours/day for 5 days.

Emerging artists interested in participating in this retreat, but are unable to attend due to financial constraints, are invited to apply for the Darren Gusdal Memorial Bursary. The successful candidate will have their full registration of \$700 covered. This includes accommodation, standard meals, instruction and GST. They will also receive \$75 for the purchasing of art supplies.

For details about eligibility and guidelines on how to apply, visit our website at <https://www.artswestcouncil.ca>

THE DARREN GUSDAL MEMORIAL BURSARY FUND



Arts West Artist's Retreat

Riding Mountain Conference
Centre (Camp Wannakumbac)

Clear Lake, Manitoba

The Darren Gusdal Memorial Bursary Fund was created in honour of Darren Gusdal (1961-2014) who, together with his wife Janet, managed the Riding Mountain Conference Centre (Camp Wannakumbac) for more than 2 decades. Darren was a much loved, vibrant, people person, athlete, teacher and "jack of all trades". He was taken from us far too soon at age 53. The Arts West Council has formed a long-lasting relationship with the camp and the Gusdal family. Each June, the council offers an annual retreat for artists from rural and urban Manitoba, but people from other provinces are welcome and encouraged to attend. The purpose of the art retreat is to provide high quality instruction for all levels - from beginners to those with years of experience. The Darren Gusdal Memorial Bursary Fund was created specifically to provide financial assistance for emerging artists in need of support.

The DGMB covers the following costs associated with the 5 day retreat:

- accommodation
- meals
- \$75 for purchase of supplies
- professional instruction 6 hours/day in one of 4 classes: (for details and current instructors, go to artswestcouncil.ca)



Camp Life

Classes run from 9am to noon, and 1pm to 4pm. Evenings are free and there are plenty of options; Instructor talks, art supply and book exchanges, swimming, life drawing, an evening excursion to Poor Michael's Artist

Emporium Cafe and the annual art camp party are just some of the activities available.

The following comments were taken from evaluation forms participants are asked to fill out at the end of the retreat:

"Learned new techniques. Had lots of time to paint. Great instruction, good friends, great food, great everything!"

"Spent 5 days living, breathing, talking, making, thinking about art in a communal setting. Enjoyed the instructor's willingness to take us to places we didn't know we could go... I had a great time."

"After many years in hibernation, my goal was just to have fun and produce some work. I was thrilled with the fast pace and learning... my hilarious and encouraging classmates were a highlight and the gouache ink resist was a blast... I had such a wonderful first experience at the retreat, and can't imagine how to improve on it."

"Enjoyed the work itself, and being part of a group of artists facing the same challenges, sharing ideas, participating in critiques. The instruction was thorough, but not intrusive. We had lots of time to experiment, learn, investigate, discover, but our instructor was always there to ask for advice."

"Instruction was phenomenal! I learned so much this week. I don't think I have ever worked so hard and loved it."

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Guidelines:

- must be 18 years or older, consider yourself to be an emerging artist and in need of financial assistance
- Must indicate if you are an emerging rural or urban artist
- Must submit 10 still images, jpg files only. Maximum size of each jpg: 1200 x 800 pixels
- Include an accompanying image list stating title, year, medium, and dimensions (example: 01. Winter on the River, 2016, watercolour, 23x30")
- Submit a short paragraph on why you want to attend the retreat and another paragraph describing your history as a practicing artist
- Submissions must be emailed to **info@artswestcouncil.ca** with Darren Gusdal Memorial Bursary as the subject.
- Deadline for submissions is **April 1, 2025** and notification will take place by **April 15, 2025**

For more information on the bursary and the artists' retreat, please visit our website <https://www.artswestcouncil.ca>

Arts West Council ~ fostering art with cultural integrity in the Westman Region