

A NEW IMAGE -- at last!



Finally, I have time to let you know what I've been doing! The above image "Stampede on Ice" is what has been taking up my time for the past month! I can't believe how long it took. Anyway as promised, you are the first to see it.

In this email, I am going to:

show the process of creating the image.

show the poster of my exhibition at the Calgary Public Library

show another image I created in December

THE PROCESS



I decided that I wanted to make a Calgary Stampede image. The Stampede is holding a photo competition, so I thought I could enter it into the competition. The photo above is of the Vermilion Lakes near Banff, Alberta. I have always loved this photo and this is the perfect opportunity to show it off. I have already done some work on it too make it look like a painting.



So the process begins. I have selected the background first. This would be where everything is happening. I don't want it to be too busy because then it's difficult to see the story. I want to name the image "Stampede on Ice" so this is a great location.

A while ago I started an image with penguins on scooters on the Salar (salt lake in Bolivia). I wasn't happy with it so I put it aside. I thought I would try again, but this time make it more "Canadian". Gophers were going to be sliding around on the ice instead....sliding and maybe falling. This could be the story.



Gophers fooling around on scooters. I'm planning to have them wearing cowboy hats. I have to include most of the iconic symbols of the Stampede in the image so I've started with a ride and a lineup to get tickets to the evening show. I will need to brighten them up a bit. They're a bit dull now.



One of the sights one sees first on the grounds is the skyride! And we always hear about the rodeo! So those are non-brainers.



The Stampede band is probably one of most famous in the world. I don't have many photos of that but these 2 drummers (bottom right) should do the trick. As the Stampede is being held on ice, I wonder if I should have some people slipping and falling? Note the cowboy on the horse (left), the horse is supposed to be sliding. The gophers are having accidents. Poor things! And I'm trying to get the drummers to slide too not too successful with that yet! Another icon of the Stampede are the teepees and the First Nations, so I found some teepee shots. I've been moving the pieces around a bit to figure out the best way to fit them in the image. I have to be careful not to overcrowd the image.



Okay, now it's time to to move things around some more. It's getting rather busy. I am having trouble this. I found a great photo of a chief riding his horse, but he should just cross the image (because of the way he is facing), but I have the drummers and the Clydesdales crossing the image already. I have the chucks coming towards the front. Where should they be coming from ? the left in front of the big ride or from the right, coming from behind the lineup of people? I've included the clown to advertise the "Super Gophers on Scooters" sort of like the "Super Dogs". (The dogs are very popular.) I don't know about the colours of the skyride, the cowboy hats and the scooters. Let's try some different colours. I don't think I like the red Sky Ride. Are you getting confused?? I sure am!



Maybe I should start again with all the pieces I have...well, nearly all! See the cowboy boot, table of cowboy hats, the First Nations chief on his horse and the Chinese acrobats? And the Yahoo sign? Where should they all go not enough room for all of them...and I still have the gophers! Which should I choose?



I'm beginning to feel overwhelmed with this. I've been working on the image for 3 weeks...not just a couple of hours a day either ...lots of hours per day! Let's get rid of the gophers. I'm too focused on them, but they're just not working. Now, I can get rid of the clown with the sign and the gopher leaning on the warning sign. I need to put something in the middle of the image. How about instead of the "Super Gophers" I use the real "Super Dogs"? Every day there are huge lineups of people wanting to watch the dog shows. The First Nations chief could go near the teepees. Fiddlers are also required and more rides could be included. Of course, we need spectators. Why not kids on scooters?



This is looking so much better! I think I can finish it now. Just add the rodeo cowboys and the hardest job, the shadows. Where is the sun going to be? I'm changing the horses so they are not sliding any more. I figured that the Stampede would not be on ice if there was any danger of anyone getting hurt! The image is still a bit busy, but the grounds are always crowded during the Stampede. Hmmmm! This is pretty good I think! Now I have to tidy everything up ... no mistakes, no pixels to be seen. So after that, I'm think I will be satisfied. What do you think?

Calgary Central Public Library - Children's Library Exhibit

I thrilled to be having an exhibit in the library for the month of February. I chose images that would be suitable for children and only hung 7. It's a simple display, but looks rather nice. I decided to use the image I created for my email that I sent before. It looks great as a poster. I'm going to be in the library for a few hours several times so people can ask questions.

Fantastical Tales

**An exhibit by
Cathie Alders-Taylor**

Central Library

**Calgary Public Library
800 3 St SE, Calgary, AB**

Feb 1 - Feb 28, 2023

Meet the Artist

Saturday 4, 1 pm - 3pm

Friday 10, 11 am - 1pm

Wednesday 15, 11 pm - 1 pm

Monday 20, 1 pm - 4 pm



Now for the image I created around Christmas. I don't have a title for it yet. Any ideas?



That's it for now. I need to take a bit of a break creating images for the Fantastical Tales collection. The work is so intense. I'm going to work on something different. You'll have to wait until my next email!