

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

About Us (Mission Statement)

The Out of the Box group of artists is passionate about creating innovative and thought-provoking works of art with fibre, our preferred medium.

Our membership includes machine and/or hand embroiderers, art quilters, weavers, felters, doll makers, silk painters, appraisers, dyers as well as other needle workers and mixed media and fine artists. We are a co-op organisation and so we place strong emphasis on activities that share expertise for the continuing artistic development of all. Our focus in meetings is on sharing art techniques, design ideas, artistic processes and inspiration, as well as our thoughts on the business and critiquing of our art. We come from all walks of life, but are drawn together by our love for texture, colour, and creation in an atmosphere of mutual support and camaraderie.

We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings, and from time to time hold open fibre art workshops.

Membership

Membership requires active participation. Our yearly membership fee is \$20.00. Please contact Mary Pal for more information about joining our group. For more details, visit us at www.out-of-the-box.org

Meetings

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. at the **Ottawa Citizen Main Floor Board Room, Baxter Road, Ottawa.**

Name Tags

At the September meeting it was suggested that each member create a name tag to wear to meetings. This will help us all get to know each other better, and will be especially helpful for our new members and guests. You have complete creative freedom here, but we ask that your name be clear and legible. Recommended size of name tag is 3" x 5". Let's see what we can all come up with.

Submission Deadline for the November newsletter is November 5, 2006.

Contacts

| | | |
|------------|------------------|--|
| Convenor | Neera Huckvale | huckvale@istar.ca |
| Programs | Joanne Batchelor | joanne.batchelor@sympatico.ca programs@out-of-the-box.org |
| Secretary | Pat Caffery | caffery@magma.ca |
| Membership | Mary Pal | marybpal@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Meridith Filshie | mfilshie@rogers.com |
| Web | Cynthia Sanoy | csanoy@rogers.com |
| Newsletter | Elaine Quehl | EQuehl@hotmail.com newsletter@out-of-the-box.org |
| Library | Joan Harrison | celloquilter@sympatico.ca |

Dates of Meetings with Program Topics 2006

| | |
|--------------|--|
| August 21 | Fibre Postcards - Beth Cunningham & Pat Lamaire |
| September 18 | Pricing Your Art - Karen Goetzinger Super Show & Tell UFO Challenge |
| October 16 | Critiquing - Led by Margaret D. and Kit |
| November 20 | How to make a Coroplast Box - Jennifer Hodge Tips on Shipping your Work - Kit and Joan H. |
| December 18 | Natural Dyeing - Joan H. |

Art strives to express; craft strives for excellence. Good art has good craft, good craft is artistic. Within every craft there exist artists. Within every artist there is craft."

Ralph Reichenbach & Doug Madill

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

October's Program

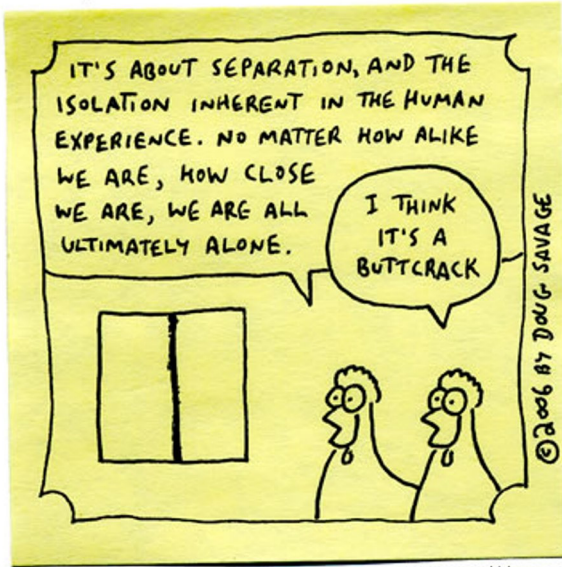
1. Show and Tell by members
2. Elements and Principles of Design with Kit Vincent and Margaret Dunsmore.

The October meeting will feature a follow up on critiquing, moving from the process, to the content. As requested by several members, Kit Vincent and Margaret Dunsmore will provide a presentation on the Elements and Principles of Design, in the hope of establishing a common language for critiquing purposes. Please refer to the "Elements and Principles of Design" document that Margaret Dunsmore forwarded to members by email on October 9, 2006.

I couldn't resist including this little cartoon that reminds us to never take our art too seriously.

Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



4. Business:

- a) Membership (Mary Pal)
- b) Mississippi Valley Textile Museum Show (Elena Keen)
- c) Quilt Journaling (Lynne Morin)
- d) Other business.

Out of the Box Group Shows

"Fiber Expressions: Elements"

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
Almonte, Ontario

November 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007

Submitted by Elena Keen

Things are looking up for the show. Thank you to all who responded so positively. Special thanks go to Meredith Filshie and Judith Kerridge who have agreed to help me.

A few things to remember:

If you have not sent us your bio, we need it NOW. The bio binder has gone awol and we have to re-create. This is especially important to those of you who are taking part in the show. Judith Kerridge has agreed to look after this, and your bios should be emailed to her.

We will not be able to put nails in the walls of the museum because they are made of stone. All art will either be hung on chains with S hooks or on the metal grids that we used for our previous shows. If your piece is very small, it will go on the grids, but otherwise make sure that you have a dowel with eyehooks large enough to accommodate the S hooks.

If you wish to have your piece(s) returned in the same the wrapping that it came in, please identify it, so that we do not misplace it.

Due date: You can bring your piece(s) to the October meeting or you can drop it (them) off at my home. Please call ahead to make sure I am here. (208 -- 3590 Rivergate Way, Ottawa K1V 1V6; (613) 523-2633).

Make sure that you fill out a submission form for each of your pieces. I will have the forms available at the October meeting.

We will hang the show on Monday October 30th, and if necessary, Tuesday October 31st. The museum will look after the labels.

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

And, finally, the cards will be ready on October 10th. Those of you who can't wait until the meeting can give me a call and we can arrange for pick-up so that we can distribute them as widely as possible.

You can contact me at keen1@sympatico.ca or at (613) 523-2633.

News from our Members

Meredith Filshie

Staff at Canada Beading Supply have volunteered to supply a decorated Christmas tree for the annual May Court Club's Fantasy Trees and Treasures. Proceeds go to many local charitable organisations. If you are interested in making a beaded ornament for the tree, we would like to have them by Nov.11. We will provide a \$25.00 gift certificate for the ornament that is judged "the best" by customers between Nov. 13th and 18th. If contributors wish to be identified, we will provide a list along with the tree. Contributions should be brought to Canada Beading Supply, 190 Colonnade rd. S., Unit 1A. Tel # 613 727-3886.

Karen Goetzinger

Participating in the following shows:

Surface Tension

James Howe Gallery

Kean University, New Jersey, USA

November 1-22, 2006

You can view the pieces that will be in the show at www.sandrasider.com. (Click on "Curatorial" then on "Surface Tension")

Mayor's Annual Art Festival

City Hall, Ottawa, Ontario

April 21-27th, 2007

Karen Goetzinger and Carmella Karijo Rother

Waterloo County Quilt Gallery

St. Jacobs, Ontario

October 4 - December 31, 2006

http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com/quilt_gallery_main.asp

Karen Goetzinger, Carmella Karijo Rother, Wendy Feldberg

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

Almonte, Ontario

July 31-October 28, 2007

Heidi Pivnick

Accepted into the Juried Show Textile/Art

It's Not a Deli Gallery

Queen St., Toronto

October 5 – 21, 2006

Elaine Quehl

"Soleil II" juried into the International Quilters Association

fall Judged Show "Quilts: A World of Beauty", Houston, Texas, November 2 – 5, 2006

Book Reviews

Thanks to Karen Goetzinger for providing the following review.

TAKING THE LEAP - Building a Career as a Visual Artist by Cay Lang

It will be two years in January that I decided to make my art a priority. I knew that in order for me to grow, as an artist, I needed to get serious and "punch in" on a regular basis. A friend and fellow artist recommended that I read this book. She was right! Although it is written by an artist whose medium is photography it has much that is relevant for us as fibre artists.

This is a must read for anyone who is serious about their art work. It is a must read if you would like to exhibit your work in places other than the Out-of-The Box group exhibits, whether on your own or with a group of artists. I must say though that it helped me immensely as I made the proposals that brought about the "Planting Joy" show at the Westin Hotel (after a number of rejections from other venues) and the Ottawa School of Art Gallery.

Before reading this book, I was aware that in order to get your work into galleries, both retail and exhibition, you needed to put together packets that would include photos of your work, but I was not quite sure what a professional portfolio should look like. I had no idea that most exhibition galleries are booked two years (or more) in advance. I had no idea how to write a proposal and the lines were pretty blurred in my mind as to what an artist's

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

statement, a biography and a CV are. I wasn't sure what constituted a body of work. Should it be a variety of pieces with a variety of styles, showing my diversity, or should it be a series on the same subject? Even though I have some marketing skills acquired throughout my career this task was daunting.

Cay Lang's book takes you step by step, putting into clear, concise, no nonsense words all she has experienced in regard to the business of art. It is sub-titled on the front cover as "The Insider's Guide to Exhibiting and Selling Your Art." Indeed it is!

Cay explains how to understand the business and the politics of the art world, how to choose the right moment to start exhibiting, how to prepare top-notch presentation packets, and how to find and work with galleries. She gives guidelines for hanging a show and includes samples of letters and forms that she uses and that work well for her.

She writes with humour and enthusiasm that makes for easy reading and as an added bonus, the margins are filled with quotes from artists of all mediums. Make sure you keep a highlighter handy!

Calls for Entry

City of Ottawa Call to Artists: Community Galleries Selection 2006

Entry Deadline:

Friday, November 17, 2006 at 4:30 p.m.

For more information:

http://ottawa.ca/city_services/culture/arts/calls/galleries_2006/index_en.html

12th Annual Ontario Juried Quilt Show

The Ontario Juried Quilt Show Committee invites individual quilters, quilting guilds and groups to participate in our 12th annual juried competition. Submission deadline: March 20, 2007

NEW: Open to all residents of Canada.

For more information and an entry form visit

<http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com/>

Threadworks 2007

Passions!

Call for Entry

The Ontario Network of Needleworkers and Wellington County Museum & Archives invites you to enter this juried show of creative needlework. What stirs your emotions? What do you love? Perhaps "Passions" makes you think of luscious colours, favourite hobbies, a special mission of some kind, a profoundly held belief, maybe it's your work, or a part of the world, or your partner, or your family, chocolate even.

Shipped entries: Arrange for delivery to Wellington County Museum & Archives (WCM) between April 16 and April 18.

Hand-delivered entries: Will be received on April 19 and 20, between 10:00am and 4:00pm at WCM, #0536 County Rd 18, between Fergus and Elora, (519) 846-0916.

For more information and an entry form visit:

<http://guelparts.ca/threadworks/>

The Grand National 2007: Fantasy

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW/AG) and the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum invite quilt artists from across Canada to explore the idea of Fantasy and participate in a thematic exhibition of quilts which celebrates imaginary worlds and dream-like visions.

May 12 – July 1, 2007

www.grandnationalquiltshow.ca

Upcoming Events

Textile Society of America 10th Biennial Symposium

Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

October 11 – 14, 2006

<http://www.textilesociety.org/downloads/2006symbolfinal.pdf>

Fabric Flea Market

Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Glebe Community Centre

175 Third Ave

Admission: \$2.00

In support of Cambridge Street Public School

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

- fabrics, patterns, needlework supplies, knitting/weaving yarns etc..
- donations welcome
contact Jane 819.595.0886 or mcyoung@magma.ca

Workshops

Workshops with out of town artists

Designing from Nature – Ruth McDowell (USA)

Level: Beginner to Advanced

Date: September 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2007

Cost: \$400.00 for 4 days

Location: to be determined

Course description:

After an initial slide presentation focusing on the translation of images from nature into quilts, Ruth will discuss her machine piecing methods and techniques. Each student will be encouraged to begin their own pieced design, using subjects and techniques attractive to them. Suggested reading: Piecing – Expanding the Basics, C&T Publishing.

Bravo Studios Art Quilt Lecture and Workshop Series

Ellen Anne Eddy
Thread Magic I and II
December 1 – 3, 2006

Melody Johnson – CANCELLED

Laura Cater-Woods
Tempting the Muse: Beyond the Surface
January 26 – 28, 2007

Barbara Olson
Responding to the Surface, 'Nature's Language'
March 23 – 25, 2006

Registration for these workshops begins September 15, 2006. Please contact Jody Taylor at bravoshow@sympatico.ca

Additional workshops are also planned with Karen Eckmeier (February 2007) and Phil Beaver (December 2007).

Out of Town Workshops

Fibreworks Kingston: Weekend Workshops

Penny Berens
Sheer Delight
October 13 – 15, 2006

Elaine Quehl
Beyond Stippling
November 17 – 19, 2006

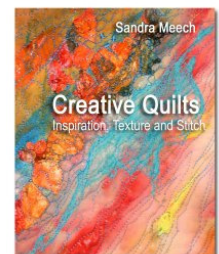
Valerie Hearder
Small Scale Landscapes
March 9 – 11, 2007

Sandra Meech
Creative Sketch and Stitch Books
April 13 – 15, 2007

To register please contact Beth Garner, Fibreworks Kingston Registrar, at garner@kingston.net, 613-376-6150.

Threadworks Workshops

Threadworks Committee sponsors a two-day session each fall led by exceptional needle artists who share their special techniques with other serious stitchers. One-day workshops are held in the spring and these may be refresher for experienced artist or an introduction to a technique of general interest. We are pleased to announce the following for 2006.



CREATIVE SKETCH and STITCH BOOKS, A TWO-DAY WORKSHOP WITH SANDRA MEECH,

Nov. 13 - 14, 2006 between 9:30am and 4:00pm, at Dublin St. United Church, Guelph, ON.

Explore creative ways to collect and display ideas on a personal theme using collage, with painted surface and stitch. This mixed media approach will focus on design, composition and colour with some sketching, providing the starting point for a new stitched textile piece or series of work.

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

Sandra Meech is an artist, teacher from England and author of Contemporary Quilts, Design, Surface and Stitch, an excellent reference and inspiration for any textile artist both novice and experienced. The workshop theme, Creative Sketch and Stitch Books is based on a chapter in Sandra's new book, to be released in the summer of 2006. Intermediate level. For more information visit: <http://guelpharts.ca/threadworks/section.php?sid=271>

Websites

Contemporary Fibre Artists in Southern Ontario. (includes work by former OOTB member Linda Rawson Stewart).

<http://www.fibreartstudios.com/>

Interested in seeing how another fibrearts guild organizes and presents itself? Check out the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh.

<http://www.fiberartspgh.org/>

Did you know that Greenwood Quiltery in Guelph has an upstairs gallery? Visit this link to see whose work will be showing.

<http://www.greenwoodquiltery.com/gallery.html>

Andrée Fredette of Saturna Island, BC was the featured artist in September. View her work at

<http://www.studioandree.com/>

Anna Hergert is a mixed media/textile artist from Calgary, Alberta.

<http://www.nucleus.com/~hergertfamily/Anna/AnnaM.htm>

If you've ever been rejected from a show you've entered (and who among us hasn't?), you might find solace in David Walker's article on rejection.

<http://davidwalker.us/Pages/QRejectionArticle.html>

Waterloo county and Area Quilt Festival has re-branded as Waterloo County International Quilt Festival. The Ontario Juried Show will now accept entries from all residents of Canada.

<http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com/whatsnew.asp>

"It's a wrong idea that a master is a finished person. Masters are very faulty, they haven't learned everything and they know it."

Robert Henri

Resources

The Prairie Fibers Company
Natural Dyed & Eco-Dyed Fabrics & Fibers
On-line classes available
<http://www.prairiefibers.com/>

Minutes of the September 18, 2006 Out of the Box Meeting

Meeting facilitated by Wendy Foster
Minutes by Pat Caffery

1. Super Show and Tell

The meeting began with an extensive show and tell. Lots of work completed over the summer! Shawna Jason reported that she had been in Lowell, Mass. this summer and took the opportunity to see our Idiom Quilt which was on display. It was well received by those visiting the show.

Beth Cunningham distributed invitations for the Tiny Textile Treasures show at City Hall on October 5. She is continuing to accept post cards. This will be an ongoing fundraiser. Those unable to complete cards for October 5th can donate them for later shows.

2. UFO Challenge

Cynthia Sanoy had issued a challenge to complete UFOs over the summer. A number of members brought their completed projects.

3. Pricing your Art by Karen Goetzinger

Due to the late hour, it was decided to have Karen present her talk at a later date.

Elena reported that she had received only 14 entries for the Elements show at the Mississippi Textile Museum. She needs more – up to 65 in total! She must have information on all pieces for the show by the 25th of September, including the name of the member participating, along with postal address, size of the piece, title, etc. She must also have the value of the piece for insurance purposes by October 5th. Unless more entries are received, the show will have to be cancelled.

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

Minutes of the remainder of the meeting were recorded by Elaine Quehl:

4. Business

a) Membership Renewal

Mary Pal drew attention to the Mission Statement, which states that membership requires active participation. There are many ways that members can make a contribution. To date, Mary has received approximately 32 membership renewals.

b) Mississippi Valley Textile Museum Show

Elena Keen reported that she has received 14 entries for the Elements show. We had 65 pieces in our last show, so we will require more entries. Please email Elena with entries by the end of this week.

c) Discussion and Vote re Leadership Positions

Joanne Batchelor advised that there have been no additional volunteers for leadership positions. Beth Cameron and Elena Keen will act as backup for Programs.

d) Proposal that members in leadership positions form an official governing body with a chair selected from this group. These members may also form a planning committee.

Moved by Wendy Feldberg, and seconded by Wendy Foster, that members in leadership positions form an organizing committee that can help our group reach its goals. The majority voted to support this idea.

e) Other business.

Meredith Filshie reminded members that we have funds to reimburse members who incur expenses on behalf of the group. They should forward receipts to Meredith for reimbursement. Elena advised that the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will pay up to \$200 for publicity cards. At the moment we do not have enough pictures to complete the design. It was agreed that a couple hundred dollars can be used from OOTB funds for publicity cards.

Lianne Thiry Smith volunteered to be responsible for the OOTB guest book.

Rita Rottman, reporting on behalf of Joan Harrison for Library, advised that Joan is willing to instruct a group who would like to work through the exercises in Katie Pasquini-

Masopust's book "Colour and Design". Dates suggested are October 8, 22 and November 5, covering 3 chapters at

each session. A minimum of 6 people are required. A location still needs to be found. Interested members should email Joanne to work out the dates. Joanne advised that Linda Palaisy has also offered to give classes.

Notes of the October 3, 2006 Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes recorded by Pat Caffrey

At the first meeting of the Planning Committee, Meredith Filshie was chosen leader. The leader's responsibilities include calling Planning Committee meetings, being the voice of the Committee to the Membership and acting as the recipient of information, requests and questions when members do not know who to contact. We propose to provide information, to the greatest extent possible, through the Newsletter. Planning Committee members all view our task as providing "light" organisation so that OOTB meetings can concentrate on creative "things". We hope that the following suggestions improve the OOTB experience.

1. OOTB Meetings:

We are recommending the following time allocation:

Show and Tell: 45 minutes

Program: 1 hour

Business: 15 minutes.

2. Program ideas should be forwarded to Joanne Batchelor who will recommend a program plan. This information will continue to be provided in the Newsletter.

3. Announcements, to the extent possible, should be put in the Newsletter. If something comes up between the Newsletter and the meeting, please inform the meeting convener before the meeting so that she can manage the time allocation.

Out of the Box

October 2006 Newsletter

4. For "Show and Tell", we are suggesting that we have a facilitator (on a rotational basis) and a sign-in sheet. This idea was prompted by the feeling that we do not always benefit from the artist's experience when items are shown. Sometimes we run out of time or members are reluctant to ask questions. With a sign-in sheet, the facilitator would be better able to plan the 45 minutes for Show and Tell.

5. OOTB Shows

We suggest that we commit to 2 shows a year. The Committee will develop general documentation to help future show organizers, including a check list of things to do. We also thought it would be useful to develop some guidelines for contributors: for instance, only exhibiting items that had not been on exhibit before. We will look at developing guidelines for working with charities to ensure that members and OOTB get appropriate recognition. You will hear more about this in a subsequent newsletter.

6. Position Descriptions

Each member of the Planning Committee will develop a "position description" so that when responsibilities are taken on by another member, there is something with which to begin.

7. E-mail Communication

An irritant to many has been the volume of e-mails with ideas growing on ideas as many members respond to the original, and frequently no-one bringing everything together. We suggest that ideas be addressed to the appropriate planning committee member, as listed in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of every newsletter or to Meredith so that the Planning Committee can discuss what action to take to move the idea forward. This proposal is not meant to discourage emails such as recent ones sent by Jennifer and Beth with reminders to members.

8. Membership

We are recommending that persons wanting to be members should present an original piece to the group, discuss the creative process used, have a desire to grow as an artist, be prepared to contribute to OOTB and be willing to take part in the critiquing process. This is not meant to exclude those who consider themselves to be in the early development stage as we assume that if they are interested in joining OOTB, they want to expand their horizons.

9. Document Storage:

Meredith has volunteered space at her business for storage of documentation such as members' biographies, show information, position descriptions etc.

If any member has comments or questions about any of the above, please send them to Meredith at mfilshie@rogers.com before the next meeting.