

# Out of the Box

January 2007 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](http://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**. Members participating in the Journal Quilt Project will meet at 6:45 p.m., prior to the regular meeting.

## Name Tags

The January 2007 meeting is the target date for everyone to have a name tag completed. This will help us get to know each other better, and help us remember names if we are having a memory lapse. You have complete creative freedom in designing your name tag, but we ask that your name be clear and legible. Recommended size of name tags is 3" x 5". Let's see what we can all come up with.

**Submission Deadline for the February newsletter is February 5, 2007.**

## Contacts

Convenor	Neera Huckvale	<a href="mailto:huckvale@istar.ca">huckvale@istar.ca</a>
Programs	Joanne Batchelor	<a href="mailto:joanne.batchelor@sympatico.ca">joanne.batchelor@sympatico.ca</a> <a href="mailto:programs@out-of-the-box.org">programs@out-of-the-box.org</a>
Secretary	Pat Caffery	<a href="mailto:caffery@magma.ca">caffery@magma.ca</a>
Membership	Mary Pal	<a href="mailto:marybpal@gmail.com">marybpal@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Meridith Filshie	<a href="mailto:mfilshie@rogers.com">mfilshie@rogers.com</a>
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Newsletter	Elaine Quehl	<a href="mailto:EQuehl@hotmail.com">EQuehl@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:newsletter@out-of-the-box.org">newsletter@out-of-the-box.org</a>
Library	Joan Harrison	<a href="mailto:celloquilter@sympatico.ca">celloquilter@sympatico.ca</a>
Publicity/Marketing	Karen Goetzing	<a href="mailto:quiltopia@sympatico.ca">quiltopia@sympatico.ca</a>

## Dates of Meetings with Program Topics

2007	
January 15	Travel with Fortunée Shugar
February 19	Margaret Vant Erve – Trunk Show
March 19	TBA
April 16	TBA
May 21	TBA
June 18	TBA
July 16	Open Meeting
August 20	Open Meeting

### Volunteer Required

The Out of the Box group will be exhibiting their work at the Ottawa Valley Quilt Guild show in May 2007. A volunteer is required to organize this exhibit. Please contact Meredith Filshie if you are interested.

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## January's Program

Members participating in the Quilt Journal program will meet at 6:45 p.m. The regular meeting commences at 7:15.

### Agenda:

1. Show and Tell by members
2. Program: Travel with Fortunée Shugar
3. Business
  - a) Library (Joan Harrison)
  - b) Other Business

## Quilt Journal #3

Organized by Lynne Morin

Source: Quilting Arts Magazine, Winter '03  
Issue 12 Pg 71

Quilt Journal 3 started last month and continues with Part II this month. The project is to use paper collages as a means of sketching, planning and designing a fabric piece. The fabric piece will include appliqué and thread painting. This month's portion is to prepare the final piece using thread painting.

### Thread Painting

#### Supplies

Scissors  
Drawing pencil  
Tracing paper  
Variety of fabric to match colours of your design  
Embroidery hoop  
Variety of threads, including metallics  
Batting for stuffing (optional)

Using your preferred sketch as the basis for your design, stitch in all the areas of colour on a background piece of fabric (using a hoop) to completely fill the background.

Stitches can be long and/or short, random cross hatching, or chain stitches. You can layer the types of stitches using several colours.

Once the background is complete you can start on the focal figures of your design. Make a clear pattern on tracing paper from your sketch, showing where the individual

pieces will overlap. Then make individual patterns on the tracing paper for the specific elements. Select fabrics for each element – even though there will be threadwork on the top, some of the fabric will show through. Place your tracing paper, leaving a good amount of margin around each, on the fabrics and pin in place. Cut fabric large enough to handle easily or to fit in an embroidery hoop.

Do a basting stitch through the tissue to outline the shape of the element in a colour close to the fabric colour, but with enough contrast that you will be able to see the line once you tear away the tissue. Then remove the tissue.

Referring to your sketch, embellish the individual pieces using the design details of your sketch to guide your threadwork; i.e., facial lines, patterns in the element.

When the threadwork is complete, outline over the basting stitch with a chain stitch to reinforce the edges for turning under. Any edges you would like to remain free, that will not be attached to the background, can be finished with a buttonhole stitch either in a colour close to the fabric or a contrasting colour for added detail.

Pin, and then stitch all the elements of the design along the edge of the chain stitch to the background, turning under the raw edges. However, you can leave sections open if you want to push stuffing in on some elements.

Add any further embellishment, which can extend onto the stitched background.

## Out of the Box Group Shows

### “Fibre Expressions: Elements”

Submitted by Elena Keene

This is the last month for the Elements show, and I would like to remind all those who are exhibiting that the show closes on January 28th, at 4:00 p.m. Take down is immediate, and I would be most grateful for all those who can pick up their work at that time, to do so. I will take home all other works

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and you can call me at (613) 523-2633 to make arrangements for pickup.

## Library Report

Submitted by Joan Harrison

Most of us purchase our own copies of Quilting Arts and Fibre Arts magazines. At the January meeting I will take a vote and ask members if we should continue subscribing to these magazines or if we should pool the money and purchase an expensive European magazine instead. Please come with your suggestions. I only want to spend a few minutes on this decision but I want the library to be helpful to as many as possible!

## News from our Members

### Meredith Filshie

Red Flag at the National Art Gallery

If you are at the National Gallery any time soon, you might be interested in the huge fibre art piece, constructed of found red garments, including hats. It is very striking against the white walls of the gallery. To find the Red Flag, pass through the Contemporary Art doors (you will see the Giant Baby's head), and go straight down the corridor to the right of the head. The Red Flag is situated one or two rooms down to the left.

### Wendy Foster

I was lucky enough to take a trip to New York City at the beginning of December, and I have to tell you there is a heaven...and it's called the garment district! I spent a day just going fabric shopping! I've included a web site that really helped me out.

<http://www.paulanadelstern.com/fabric/guides/index.html>

Although this was not my first trip to New York, the information on this site gave me a good game plan. The fabric district can be found on 38th-40th streets between 7th and 8th Avenues. I found that 39th was the best. A store not to be missed is NY Elegant Fabrics on 40th and B&J fabrics 525 7<sup>th</sup>, between 37th and 38th. What can be found in the garment district? Everything! So much silk, lacy fabric...and the most embellished fabric you could ever imagine. There is a house of Spandex where every fabric in the store stretches. And you can find the finest cashmere, denim, upholstery...whatever! Then there are the notions. M&J Trimmings isn't a store, it's an event. The content is mind-boggling: ribbons and sequins and appliques, oh my! Then there is the bead district...another full day of shopping is required! The stores are located between 35th-39th between 5th and 6th Avenues. What can I say...I found a store that had 160 different colours of Swarovski crystals!!! If only I had a money tree! And of

course there is the food. Can't go wrong in Manhattan when it comes to food. I hope some of you get to enjoy this experience. Just remember to bring your walking shoes and a comfortable bag to carry around.

### Karen Goetzinger

Mayor's Annual Art Festival  
City Hall, Ottawa, Ontario  
April 21-27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

### Karen Goetzinger, Carmella Karijo Rother, Wendy Feldberg

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum  
Almonte, Ontario  
July 31-October 28, 2007

### Fortunée Shugar

Solo Exhibit  
Green Door Vegetarian Restaurant  
198 Main St., Ottawa  
December 17, 2006 – January 14, 2007

### Kit Vincent

Teaching at Art Quilt Tahoe 2007  
<http://www.artquilttaho.com/>

## Book Review

Thanks to Heather Dubreuil for this month's book review.

### "Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking"

by David Bayles and Ted Orland, 1993, 122 pages published by The Image Continuum Press

This is a slim, dense, insightful volume that I have read and re-read many times. It was recommended to me by Dianne S. Hire, author of "Quilter's Playtime". The authors are practicing artists and teachers who deal with the self-doubts that happen to each of us in the making (and especially in the not-making) of our art.

Among their observations:

- Artmaking involves skills that can be learned, that are not bestowed by the gods.
- Art is made by ordinary (flawed) people.
- Your humanity is the ultimate source of your work. Perfectionism denies you the very thing you need to get your work done.

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- You learn how to make your work by making your work.
- The difference between an artist and a failed artist is that the failed artist quits.
- Making art is about exposing yourself to the world. How could you *not* take criticism personally?
- In the real artist, fears exist alongside the desires that complement them.
- Not all your art will soar.
- There will always be a dissonance between the art that you imagine making and the art that you actually make.

Almost every page has a nugget that calls out to be highlighted, and on each re-reading, I have been struck by some different observation. The authors embed their text with examples from different media, and enliven the book with pithy examples ranging from cave artists to Mozart to the Plains Indians.

Topics include a discussion of art vs. craft; the values and pitfalls of university art education for both teachers and students; and the artist's need for community vs. the essential solitariness of making art.

"Art & Fear" is a good complement to "The Artist's Way," by Julia Cameron.

## Calls for Entry

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Juried Quilt Show

The Ontario Juried Quilt Show Committee invites individual quilters, quilting guilds and groups to participate in our 12<sup>th</sup> 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/>

### Canadian Quilters Association National Juried Quilt Show

This year's show will take place in Kamloops, BC.

The deadline to submit slides or digital photos is January 27, 2007.

For more information and an entry form:

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

### Sacred Threads

Columbus, Ohio

This biennial exhibition was established to provide a venue for quilters of all faiths who see their work as a connection to the sacred and/or as an expression of their spiritual

journey. The first exhibit was held in 2001 and the exhibit is held in June of odd numbered years.

Quilts submitted

should explore themes of joy, spirituality, peace/brotherhood, inspiration, grief, or healing.

Entry deadline: February 1, 2007

For more information:

<http://home.att.net/~sacredthreads/index.html>

### Secrets to Dream On

Talisman Fibre Arts Studio Inc., in partnership with Rustic Cosmos Cafe and Gallery, Toronto, invites submissions from Textile/Fibre Artists and Mixed Media Artists using textile or fibre in their artwork.

Based on a 1920's photograph of 4 women, a best friends story has been written. They shared everything, but kept a few secrets for themselves.

Your work will depict one of Beth's, Eleanor's, Marjorie's, or Blanche's secrets.

[www.SecretsToDreamOn.cachelan.com](http://www.SecretsToDreamOn.cachelan.com)

Deadline for proposals: January 31, 2007

*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](http://www.grandnationalquiltshow.ca)

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## Wearable Art Fashion Show

Elliot Lake Arts Club

Entries are being sought for the Wearable Arts Fashion Show, to be exhibited June 22 – 24, 2007 as part of the Hand and Spirit Conference and Juried Exhibition.

<http://www.elliottlakeartsclub.com/events.html>

## Events

### The Country and the Capital

Snapdragon Gallery

January 11 – 30, 2007

Vernissage: Thursday, January 11, 2007, 6-8 pm

The Country and the Capital represents the diversity of six artists who live in Prince Edward County.

<http://www.boldbright.com/snapdragon/january11.html>

Snapdragon is also celebrating the first joint venture between Covent Garden Fine Art Gallery and Snapdragon Gallery.

<http://www.coventgarden.ca/index2.htm>

## Workshops

### Workshops with Local Artists

#### Ottawa School of Art- Winter 2007

##### Quilted Textiles - Instructor Karen Goetzinger

This course will lay the foundation for precision hand and machine sewing skills that support exploration and construction of textiles as an art medium. Techniques will include hand and machine piecing and applique, finishing procedures, as well as basic design principles. Each student will design and construct small works using these skills.

8 sessions Saturday Jan 13 - March 3, 1:30 pm to 4:30 p.m.

##### Textile Surface Embellishment - Instructor Karen Goetzinger

Each week of this course will explore different media and techniques for adding depth, texture, and interest to the surface of textile pieces. Embellishments will include beading, hand and machine embroidery, repeat mono-prints and the use of found objects.

3 sessions, Saturday March 17 - March 31, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact the Ottawa School of Art to register 613-241-7471 or [www.artottawa.ca](http://www.artottawa.ca)

## FibreArt in the Islands

### A Creative Retreat for Fibre Artists

Find Inspiration and enjoy a relaxing weekend with quilters and fibre artists at Glen House Resort in Gananoque, Ontario, April 20 – 22, 2007 at the Seven Threads Studios Spring Retreat. Our experienced instructors will demonstrate new and exciting products and techniques geared to the fibre artist. For more information and to register:

[http://www.seventhreadsstudios.com/aii\\_retreat.html](http://www.seventhreadsstudios.com/aii_retreat.html)

### St. Lawrence College Summer School of the Arts

#### Exploring Fibre with Catharina Breedyk Law

July 23 – 27, 2007

Explore fibre and create a wonderful stretched art piece. We will be using a tree and leaf theme to make a textured contemporary sample. Techniques covered are: a corded tree, a knit leaf, trapunto, echo and channel quilting, weaving with ribbon, some crewel embroidery stitches, 3-D leaves, curved piecing, couched fibre, bobbin work, free motion, beading, paper piecing, and making colours pop.

The sample will be on my website after Feb. 1st.

[www.catharinabreedyklaw.com](http://www.catharinabreedyklaw.com)

### 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

Laura Cater-Woods

Tempting the Muse: Beyond the Surface

January 26 – 28, 2007

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

To register, please contact Jody Taylor at  
[bravoshow@sympatico.ca](mailto:bravoshow@sympatico.ca)

## Websites

Speaking in Cloth: 6 Quilters, 6 Voices  
Ann Johnston and Jeannette DeNicolis Meyer  
<http://www.annjohnston.net/>

This book offers you the opportunity to visually and intellectually enter the worlds of six Northwest US quilt artists, inviting you to respond to their use of cloth and thread as they tell their stories and record their explorations. A review of the accompanying show can be read at  
<http://artquiltreviews.wordpress.com/>

Australia's Network for Art Quilters  
<http://www.ozquiltnetwork.org.au/>

If you join Visual Arts Ontario ([www.vao.org](http://www.vao.org)), you will receive updates on many calls for submission in Ontario.

Information on marketing your art at:  
<http://www.artbizblog.com/>

On finding your own style:  
<http://www.artbizcoach.com/articles/style.html>

Steps to finding your style:  
[http://www.artbizblog.com/2006/07/7\\_steps\\_to\\_find.html](http://www.artbizblog.com/2006/07/7_steps_to_find.html)

View the site of Kate Kretz for some really unusual fibre art, including hair embroideries and a vagina-inspired purse.  
<http://www.katekretz.com/>

## Minutes of the December 18, 2006 Out of the Box Meeting

Meeting facilitated by Neera Huckvale  
Minutes by Pat Caffery

1. One guest was welcomed
2. Neera highlighted the various OOTB milestones of 2006 – CQA, 3 shows (Westin, Ottawa School of Art, Elements), the idiom quilt, the planning committee, various spin off groups
3. Shawna mentioned the Humm article – Pat has a copy that will be put in the archive file with Meredith.
4. Idiom Quilt – suggestion that an article and pictures be submitted to Quilting Arts. The costs associated with the quilt i.e. backing fabric and cost of quilting was

discussed and the members present agreed to have the Planning Committee arrange to reimburse those expenses. The quilt is to be donated to The Citizen but first it was agreed to have it re-entered at Waterloo this year.

5. Once again there was a wonderful Show and Tell which included items made by participants of the Journal Quilts group.

6. Beth Cameron had the opportunity of volunteering at the Kreinik booth at the Houston Quilt Show. She shared her experience with us as well as samples of the iron-on threads made by Kreinik. Beth advised these threads are available at The Cross Stitch Cupboard.

7. OOTB will be participating in the OVQG show in May 2007. An individual is required to organize the OOTB show, and volunteers are needed.

8. Wendy Feldberg advised that Visual Arts Ontario has a web site and lists various calls for submissions. There is also a call for a wearable art show in Elliott Lake. Ottawa Mixed Media (OMMA) is another group that mounts exhibitions in various locations in Ottawa.

9. Congratulations and many thanks for all who brought such scrumptious goodies for the potluck.

## Minutes of the January 9, 2007 Out of the Box Planning Committee Meeting

OOTB members are welcome to attend any meeting of the Planning Committee. Please advise Meredith ([mfilshie@rogers.com](mailto:mfilshie@rogers.com)) as there are some space limitations.

1. Elena gave an overview and made a number of recommendations based on her experience with the Almonte exhibit. Magda is preparing guidelines for future organisers in order to capture their wisdom and experience and will build Elena's recommendations into that document. Magda's document will be available for all OOTB members.

For OOTB members, it appears that a number of organisers have felt "left hanging" by a number of participants who live by "the last minute rule". Let's make a resolution to abide by deadlines and the organiser's statement of requirements. It respects the efforts of those individuals who are doing the extra work and it is good practice for each of us

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when looking forward to exhibiting in galleries or other exhibitions.

Joanne advised the next exhibit will be at the OVQG show in May. This event provides wide exposure for OOTB. There may be an opportunity to provide demos as well.

We should take this opportunity to applaud Elena and all those who worked with her to make the exhibit in Almonte a reality! There were a lot of positive comments in the "Comment Book" at the Museum. Three cheers for Elena's team!

2. Committee position descriptions have been prepared by each member of the Planning Committee to make it easier for the next group of committee members.

3. Idiom Quilt:

At the Dec. OOTB meeting, there was discussion about next steps for the Idiom Quilt and a request for reimbursement of some costs. Jennifer has contacted Quilting Arts to determine their interest in having a companion article featuring the Idiom Quilt for the challenge described in the December issue. Their response may require us to make some choices about next steps. For instance, if they choose to do the article, rather than having one done on behalf of OOTB, they might want to photograph the quilt themselves. Timing might interfere with submitting the quilt to the Ontario Juried Quilt Show in Waterloo. Also we need more information on the timing of the Citizen's literacy effort.

Clarification will be sought concerning the request for reimbursement of expenses associated with the completion of the quilt for hanging in Lowell, Mass. The policy of OOTB has always been to reimburse for materials, if requested, and approved in advance with receipts. The committee affirmed the longstanding OOTB tradition of reimbursing volunteers for costs of materials and out-of-pocket expenses incurred for activities approved by the

membership and carried out on behalf of the group. The committee is preparing a few written guidelines which members may consult and to which the Treasurer can refer. The guidelines will be published in the newsletter

The collective memory of Planning Committee members led to the conclusion that we did not express a public appreciation to Jennifer, Kit and Pat for their inspiration and stimulating challenge. Thanks so much for all the effort made! The project is not yet complete given the opportunities above. Who knows where they will take us?

4. The Planning Committee looked at a proposed budget and a longer term vision of programs. Joanne has a great number of ideas and sought some guidance. More discussion is required but the Committee decided that some funds could be committed to bringing in some persons who could provide inspiration or technical advice that is not available from members.