

Table of Contents

<i>Words of Wisdom</i>	1
<i>OOTB Program Lineup 2015:</i>	1
<i>SAQA Art Quilts show at February meeting</i>	1
<i>Meeting on March 16</i>	1
<i>Playdates</i>	1
<i>Mounting Your Work on a Wooden Frame</i>	3
<i>Learning To Stamp Playdate</i>	3
<i>Learning about Gelli Arts printing</i>	3
<i>Embroidery and Fashion</i>	4
<i>Call for Artists and Artisans</i>	5
<i>Meetings</i>	5
<i>Planning Committee</i>	5
<i>Piece on a Wooden Frame</i>	6

Words of Wisdom

Weekends are my favourite time to sew, but any day ending in 'y' will do!

OOTB Program Lineup 2015:

February – OOTB members' show at Shenkman Centre, Orleans

February 16, 7:00pm – SAQA trunk display, Show Committee: prep for Fibre Fling 4, plus artwork due for hand stitching challenge and 12x12 Colour Challenge (deadline Feb.28)

February 23, 9:30-3:30pm Member Playdate: hand stitching with MaryAnne Toonders and Helen Gordon

March - 12x12 Colour Challenge display at Wabi Sabi

March 16, 7:00pm - Margaret Dunsmore and Pat Hardie share their African experience with visual presentation and display items

April - 12x12 Colour Challenge display at Wabi Sabi (2nd colour)

April 10-11 - Fibre Fling 4, Kitchissippi United Church hall

April 20, 7:00pm – Post FF4 discussion, member Show & Tell

April 27, 9:30am-3:30pm Member Playdate (design elements & principles with Lynn Ruff)

May 18, 7:00pm – Guest: Calligrapher Richard Draffin

June 8, 9:30am-3:30pm Member Playdate: landscapes on post cards with Juanita Sauve

SAQA Art Quilts show at February meeting

February's meeting is your opportunity to see a display of more than 50 art pieces created by members of Studio Art Quilt Associates. Earlier SAQA 'trunks' have been in the Ottawa area and all who saw them found them inspirational.

This SAQA trunk show is the third and was put together in 2014. It is a wonderful array of styles, techniques and fibers interpreting the 'What is a quilt?' theme. Each piece is 7"x10" in size and has the artist's location, artwork title, and a statement with information about techniques and materials on the back.

The trunk shows were formed from 407 contributions into eight shows of 51 pieces each and will be travelling until 2017. The 'trunks' are part of SAQA's mission to "promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development, documentation and publication."

SAQA has more than 3400 members worldwide. The group's website (www.saqa.com) has a wide variety of information including a resources section with various articles on everything from design and self-assessment to pricing and shipping artwork.

Meeting on March 16

A video presentation and trunk show from Pat Hardie and Margaret Dunsmore's experiences on Valerie Hearder's 2014 tour of South Africa. It will focus on the arts and crafts in contemporary South Africa, with an emphasis on the embroideries, ceramics and beadwork of Ndebele and Zulu women. A special highlight will be images of the 11 sensational tapestries at the Origins Centre in Johannesburg, depicting the history of the San people.

Margaret

Playdates

What is a Playdate?

A Playdate is a date with your artistic self. It is an opportunity for our members to gather, practice art and share ideas. Each Playdate starts with a practice

exercise led by an OOTB member. The exercise consist of design, creativity and techniques that the Playdate leader uses in his or her art. Playdate participants can choose to participate in the exercises, or work on their own projects.

Where, How Many, Time and Cost

Playdates take place at the Kitchissippi United Church Hall, located at 630 Island Park Drive in Ottawa. There is free parking in designated areas and members can bring a lunch to eat in a communal kitchen. Coffee and tea are provided throughout the day.

There are two sessions of three Playdates with a total of 6 Playdates per year. Playdate days start at 9:30 am and finish at 3:30pm. The cost of each session is \$10.00 per Playdate or \$25.00 for all three.

You can register for Playdates at OOTB meetings or by e-mailing Lynn Ruff at lynnandjack@hotmail.ca

The Next Three Playdates

Dates for the next Playdates are February 23, April 27 and June 8 2015.

All the Playdates are on Mondays but not the same date as the OOTB meeting nights

February 23 Leaders are MaryAnne Toonders and Helen Gordon. The topic and exercise consists of hand stitching.

April 27 Leaders is Lynn Ruff. The discussion topic is Elements of Design Principals.

June 8 Leader is Juanita Sauve. The techniques and design of landscape postcards.

RESULT OF OUT OF THE BOX PLAYDATE SURVEY

14 members responded with the following results.

Question 1

We schedule playdates on Mondays because the church hall is always available. Members attending Playdates have stated that they find it a long tiring day with Playdates on the same Monday we have our members meetings.

Would you like to change the Monday?

Yes **9** No **4** Either **1**

If yes, which Monday works best for you?

2nd Monday **2** 4th Monday **3** Either **6** (3 did not want the Monday changed)

If the church hall is available for one or two Saturdays a year, would you attend a Playdate on a Saturday?

Yes **9** No **3** Maybe **2**

Question 2

Our Playdates are to be cost recovery. In the past, some of our Playdate leaders have used their supplies without being reimbursed. We have received approval from the planning committee to reimburse Playdate leaders up to \$50.00 for supplies. This decision will be reviewed in June, once all Playdate expenses are submitted. The reimbursement fee increases our cost from \$310.00 to \$610.00 for 6 Playdates.

Presently, the Playdate fees are \$10.00 per Playdate or \$25.00 for three.

If this added \$50.00 reimbursement fee per Playdate increases the cost of the Playdate to the point that we do not break even, would you be willing to pay an additional fee of \$15.00 per Playdate and \$40.00 for three.

Yes **11** No **2** Either **1** Comment **1**

The comment: Happy to pay the extra \$5.00/playdate if all or most of the supplies are brought by leader. Also okay to pay a material fee if the cost of the playdates stay at the current fee.

Thank you to all the members who took the time to answer the survey.

Show News

Shenkman show. Thank you to Anne Warburton for organizing this display. Do try to get to Orleans and see your fellow members work.

Fibre Fling 4. One of the big questions is **'How do I price my work?'**. Well at the February 16, meeting some members of the FF4 committee will provide various answers. There is no one way but we will give you some guidelines. If you have work that you want feedback on pricing, bring it along. You can ask the group or if you want a one-on-one, that too can be arranged. In addition to pricing, **various ways of how to get fibre art on the wall will be explored.** We will also look at 3-dimensional work. Again, if you have specific questions about a piece, bring it along. We are here to help.

By February 18, I need an idea of how many pieces we can expect for the show.

Please send me (ritarottman@sympatico.ca) an email with your forecast of what you intend to put in the show. For now, limit number of items for the show to six (6) and whether you intend to place items at the sales table. The 6 do not include any colour challenge pieces or stitch challenge pieces. This limit of six may increase after the 18th if the response is too low. I need an idea of size; small, medium, large, 3-d and whether it is soft or hard mounted. Your intention is not cast in stone.

You may change your mind. If the work is for sale, OOTB takes a reasonable commission on the sale to help fund future shows. If you help with the show, the commission is 15%. If you are unable to help with the show, the commission is 25%.

The rack cards and posters have arrived and Juanita will be handing them out at the February meeting on the 16th. She will be sending around an email to see what geographical areas you can cover.

Karen Samanski is looking after volunteers for FF4 and she will be in touch about times and duties.

If you have any questions about the Fibre Fling 4 show and sale, contact Rita at ritarottman@sympatico.ca

Mounting Your Work on a Wooden Frame

Cathy Breedyk-Law has a useful technique for stretching your fabric art on wooden stretcher bars. It has been attached at the end of the newsletter.

Learning To Stamp Playdate

Submitted by Lynn Ruff

Twelve OOTB members participated in the Learning to Stamp Playdate on January 26, 2015. Connie ten Bruggenkate was our leader and did an excellent job in teaching us how to make our own unique stamps and how to use paint to stamp our creations onto fabric and paper.

To make our stamps we used:

- leaves and plants preserved with glycerin, water and frozen;
- cut fruit and vegetables (many liked the pear);
- Styrofoam etched with ballpoint pens and skewers;
- found objects i.e. bubble wrap, combs, old spoons;
- adhesive fun foam cut out with scissors and mounted onto floor mat foam;
- magic foam heated to make impressions of objects (buttons were used);
- erasers carved with Speedball tools and pieces cut out with Xacto knife.

Once our stamps were made, Connie taught us how to apply paint with the flat side of a household sponge. Then we stamped our fabric and paper.

To inspire us, Connie had many examples on display of stamps she had made and of fabric she had stamped.

Thank you Connie for a fun, productive and inspiring day.



Connie teaching



Leaves used for Stamping



Magic Foam Stamps



Cheryl's Fruit Stamps



Leaves used for stamping



Sample of a number of Stamps

Learning about Gelli Arts printing

By Doreen Meyer



Thanks to a heads up from Anne Warburton, I was able to join her at a daylong workshop on using Gelli Arts plates at a scrapbooking shop called Scrap en masse in Alfred, 20 minutes east of my home in Rockland.

While I had bought the plate at the same shop some time ago, I'd only seen the YouTube

videos on its use. The workshop provided a great opportunity for hands-on learning plus the benefit of having another OOTB member to share the experience.

While the instruction was primarily in French, we were able to understand most of what was said and shown. The francophone instructor switched to English to explain any details or answer our questions. She had used the Gelli Arts printing plate for years and was generous in sharing techniques and tips on achieving designs and caring for the plate.



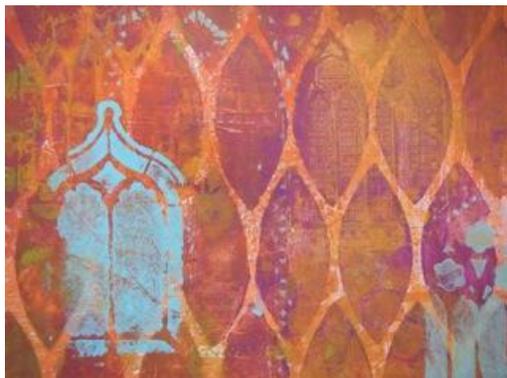
Papers printed using Gelli Arts plates



The plate is used to create layers using stencils and stamps.

Once I set about using my plate, I was glad that I had waited for a hands-on workshop. The acrylic paints that I had brought to use were mostly Golden fluid acrylics. While providing rich pigment colour, the paints dried too quickly on the plate to produce decent prints. Luckily, my cheap craft paints yielded much better results though their colours were much more subdued due to low pigment content. The instructor told us that she had experimented with a variety of acrylics, settling on Liquitex brand acrylics because they provided good pigment quality and open time balanced with cost.

One of my other big issues was the rubber brayer that I'd brought to use. Paint adhered to the roller making it difficult to roll out onto the plate. The instructor suggested an acrylic brayer, which the shop carries, and it solved the problem. Rubber brayers degrade over time and I find them more difficult to clean than the hard acrylic type brayer.



While my examples were on paper, the process works well with

fabrics.

The instructor spent a lot of time showing us how to apply paint and work in layers, thinking from background to foreground. The shop provided a wide variety of stencils and masks for us to use throughout the day. We had an opportunity to make our own magic stamp (heating and imprinting a design from a rubber stamp) and try a variety of effects with textured items such as burlap netting and special textured rollers. My experiments were all done printing on paper, which the shop supplied. Anne had brought some fabric and was happy with the results.

The instructor was detailed in her comments about cleaning and caring for our plates. She cautioned us about using photo or similar papers, which would stick to the plate and be impossible to remove. We learned that magic stamps were better to use than hard rubber stamps or any sharp items, which might permanently scar the surface of the gel plate. We used baby wipes to efficiently and easily clean our screens and tools. Though they would become stained over time, the instructor's screen had lasted her for many years. As for clean up, she said she never cleaned her stencils and sometimes left paint to accumulate on her plate, which provided interesting design and texture when next used.

It was a great day of play and another opportunity to browse through the shop and pick up a few new items. Though a small shop in an old house, Scrap en masse is packed with a wide variety of paints, sprays, stencils, stamps, punches, glues, papers and tools for everything scrapbooking including Gelli Arts plates. Take a look at their website (www.scrapenmasse.com) for details on products, hours and courses on scrapbooking and card making.

Embroidery and Fashion



Enjoy the jaw dropping Spring/Summer 2015 haute couture collection from Valentino. **French Vogue** described the detail as *Poetic Embroidery* in this collection that is fittingly named "**Amor**". **Valentino designers' Grazia Chiuri and Pierpaolo Piccioli** wanted to enhance and embellish love itself; translating the strongest of human sentiments into a language of

dresses through embroidery. The couture masterpieces required up to two months of work and 2,500 hours of embroidery by the house's master craftsmen.

Watch the video of the Spring/Summer 2015 to see the breathtaking pieces <http://www.valentino.com/ca>

Call for Artists and Artisans

Arts Carleton Place Art Show & Sale as part of Arts & Heritage on Edmund Street, **Saturday, May 23, 2015**, 10AM-4PM.

St James Hall, 225 Edmund Street, Carleton Place. Entry fee is \$55 – grids provided (8'wide by 4' deep booth).

A limited number of outside spots are available for \$45 (responsible for you own booth).

Membership in Arts Carleton Place is \$20 (required). Central cash with 10% commission to go to Arts Carleton Place.

The Art Show and Sale will be held in conjunction with 'Window Art at the Museum' and opening day for the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum; the unveiling of local artists' murals depicting the building in its uses as the 1st Town Hall, the Victoria School and as a Museum.

Further details and application form at www.artscarletonplace.com

Also, a reminder that early registration for the Spring into Art conference ends on Feb 15. It is being held on April 11th from 8:45AM to 4PM with 5 speakers and the fee includes lunch.

<http://www.westcarletonartsociety.ca/spring-into-art-conference-2015.html>

Meetings

Meetings are normally held the third Monday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Ottawa Citizen Main Floor Board Room, Baxter Road, Ottawa.

Submission deadline for the March Newsletter is March 8, at 5:00 pm.

Really Bad Weather & Meetings

If there is any weather condition that makes travel risky, members will be notified by e-mail by 4:00 pm the afternoon of the meeting. If you do not have email or cannot access email at work, please partner with someone who has access. Members should NOT call the Citizen for this information as nobody there would have it. (They lend the facility to organizations for a nominal fee and do not want any involvement in administrative matters).

Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sally Rutherford & Nancy Garrard
Programs	Doreen Meyer, Suzanne Caron-Richer, Lynn Ruff, Connie ten Bruggenkate
Secretary	Meredith Filshie
Membership	MaryAnne Toonders
Treasurer	Sandy Goldsmith
Web-coordinator	Sally Rutherford
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity/Marketing	Open
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Contacts: info@outofthebox.org	

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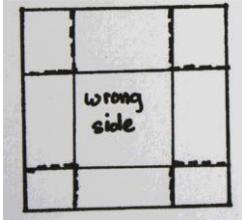
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Piece on a Wooden Frame

Cathy Breedyk-Law

1. Press and trim piece (quilt) including the extra inches needed to wrap around the sides of the wood (the depth of the wood plus ½ inch).
2. Lay frame on top of right side of the piece and mark the four corners with pins.

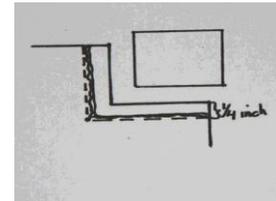


3. Flip piece to wrong side, mark where the pins came through on the wrong side of the piece with a fabric marker or a pencil.

4. Draw a line from left to right going through the dots at the top.

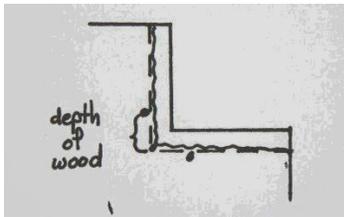
5. Repeat this step for the other dots.

6. Stitch the corner line with a very small stitch for strength.

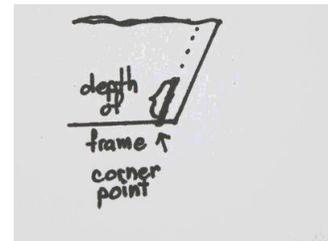


7. Mark a ¼ inch seam inside each corner and cut it away. Also cut away the batting and the backing fabric to the stitching line to eliminate the bulk.

8. Mark the depth of the wood or frame from each dot at the corners



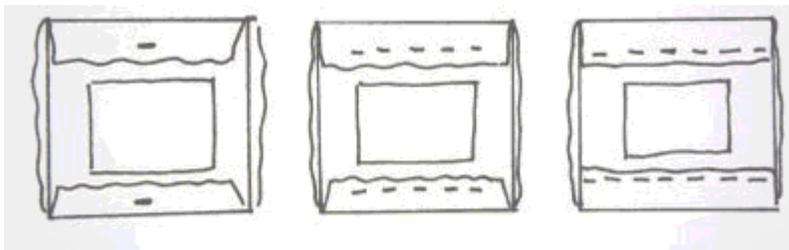
9. Fold diagonally and match the “depth of wood” marks from the seam line with the corner point being the end of the seam. Stitch from the “depth of wood” mark to the corner point 3 times for strength.



10. Turn the corners right side out and slip onto frame. It should be a snug fit. If not, sew the small seam again just inside the stitching line. Put onto frame making sure that the corners are aligned.

11. Starting in the center of opposite sides, staple it down, pulling it tight each time. Follow diagrams for stapling order. Staple down to the very end. Trim away any extra fabric.

12. On the opposite side start in the center and staple the same way until you get within an inch of the corner. Fold like a miter and staple down.



13. Fold the corners neatly and staple.

14. You can customize your piece by adding a label to the back.

