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Words of Wisdom

"Say yes before saying no. Include rather than ignore and exclude. Always carry a pencil, paper and camera."

Sheila Hicks

Program Lineup 2021

NOTE to members: Monthly meetings in the first months of 2021 will be VIRTUAL and will continue via Zoom.

Monday, June 21- Robin Whitford, from Hooking Outside the Lines, will be our guest speaker. Her presentation will talk about finding your creativity, using rug hooking as the basis of her discussion.

Monday, July 19

No meeting.

Monday, August 16th - "TENTATIVE" tailgate gathering at City View United Church parking lot - a chance to reconnect in person with your OOTB artist friends! Bring your lawn chair and the latest fibre art projects you have completed or are working on. We can sit socially distanced, but don't forget your mask! This meeting will depend fully on Covid limitations for group sizes for the date in August, and will be confirmed by email a week ahead based on the status of Ontario's [re-opening](#).

Yarn Painting Workshop on Zoom

The Education Committee has confirmed the above zoom workshop for early November 2021. More details to follow.

Fibre Café

Thank-you to all those members who submitted responses to our Fibre Café survey. Your feedback will be very helpful as we determine the future of these cafes, possible playdates and workshops.

Please consider joining us for our next Fibre Café on **Tuesday July 6** from 1:30-3:00 pm. Registration will

NOT be limited and we will use break out rooms as needed. To get the conversation started we will begin with the topic of *Summer Projects: Does your summer art differ from winter? Which projects present themselves during the long lazy days of summer?*

Please send your RSVP to crystal.angers1@gmail.com. Look forward to seeing you!

Fibre Fling 2021 Report

Out of the Box's Planning Committee and the Fibre Fling Planning Group reinvented our annual show as an online exhibit this year in accordance with the ongoing public health requirements. Our hope was that the show would:

- bring some colour, light, and hope to group members and to our community.
- let each other, our friends, and our families see the results of our creativity.
- raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and the Ottawa Food Bank
- give us all something to look forward to in the Spring.

Although this was a different experience from our normal annual exhibits, Out of the Box's virtual Fibre Fling show was another fantastic event. Holding the show online allowed guests from the Ottawa region and even from around the world could enjoy seeing our group's creative, diverse, and unique fibre art pieces. OOTB members were instrumental in promoting this year's show by contacting their friends and family, and by creating and sharing posts on their Instagram and Facebook pages. We were also able to continue to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and, as requested by the members this year, also for the Ottawa Food Bank.

During this year's virtual show, 31 group members displayed 90 fibre art pieces and 14 of these sold. 1,811 people visited the Fibre Fling 2021 web site during the four weeks, with 90% of visitors coming from Canada, 6% from the United States, 2.3% from the United Kingdom and 1.8% from Australia, Europe, and Asia. As always, our visitors were very complimentary about the dazzling variety, colours, textures, and techniques used in the fiber artist pieces. Several of them specifically commented that they attend Fibre Fling every year and will be back when we can hold it in person again!

A big "thank you" to everyone who helped with and participated in this year's virtual show. I applaud OOTB's Planning Committee and the Fibre Fling Planning Group

for being willing to reimagine the show with me and for their ongoing advice and support. I thank Janet and Pat for leading the fantastic virtual photography tutorials. Last, but not least, I am particularly grateful to Rob, our amazing FF2021 web site designer, for making the virtual Fibre Fling a reality.

During this year's show we raised funds for the Ottawa Food Bank as well as for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We estimate that over \$3,000 was given to these worthy charities because of our show. Once again, well done everyone!

We look forward to next year's Fibre Fling Show and Sale -- whatever format it will take. Here's hoping that we will see each other in person soon!

Stay safe and keep on supporting each other,
Debbie Boyd-Chisholm
Fiber Fling Convenor



OOTB Website Focus on Fibre Links

25 Million Stitches Project

25 million people across the globe have been forced to flee their homelands as a consequence of genocide, war, poverty, natural disasters, targeted violence, and other grave threats. They leave behind everything they've known and possessed in order to live; they face immense struggles, misfortunes, and perils on their journey; and, through it all, survival, much less successful resettlement, remains but the slimmest hope.

Jennifer Kim Sohn felt something needed to be done. She founded the project "25 Million Stitches" as a way to engage with this global crisis instead of ignoring it. Even though no single stitch can fully represent an individual, the act of stitching and the resulting work will

help bring attention to the scale of the crisis. Two objectives of the project are:

- To engage as many people as possible to raise awareness of the global refugee crisis.
- To amass 25 million stitches to visually represent the sheer volume of this astronomical figure of refugees.

The website and Facebook pages include images of the individual panels and stories from the many participating stitchers. The website includes a link to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on the about page near the bottom where the statistics about refugees. The numbers are staggering!

The YouTube video is an interview hosted by the Surface Design Association President Astrid Bennett with Jennifer and two others involved in the organization of the project. The discussion includes the processes developed to encourage participation, materials, counting the stitches along with challenges along the way.

The project has reached its goal of 25 Million Stitches and is currently being exhibited at the Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento, CA - June 12 to August 22, 2021. Following this exhibit, they will be looking for other venues to display part or all of the panels.

The links can be found on the OOTB Resource page - <https://www.out-of-the-box.org/resources.html>
MaryAnne

Stittsville Library Show 2021

Every year for the past several years we've had a show at the Stittsville Library. There's a wall space and a glass cabinet. This year it's planned for November 1-30th. The theme this year is "Guess the Idiom". I would like you to make a piece of fibre art depicting an idiom. Preferably one that's not too obvious so it's fun to guess but not too obscure either. Examples of an idiom in English would be: Quick as a flash, Run like the Wind, Strong as an ox etc. In French an example of an idiom would be Faire la grasse matinee, Avoir un coup de foudre, Avoir la gueule de bois etc. If you have a look online you will find lots of websites with idioms. Here are some examples of links:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/common-english-idioms-3211646>

<https://fr.babbel.com/fr/magazine/expressions-idiomatiques-francaises-courantes/>

The instructions will be the same as in other years. For the wall space pieces can be any size as long as no side is longer than 24 inches. And you can use any technique

as long as there is some fibre included. Please have your piece ready to hang with wire if it is hard mounted or a rod if it is soft mounted. No alligator clips please because they don't hang well at the library. The artwork on the wall will be hanging by nylon cords so very heavy pieces are not suitable to hang but a regular weight large canvas is fine. Three dimensional pieces are also a possibility because we have a glass display case.

Start thinking about what idiom you would like to depict and how you will depict it in fibre art. I do encourage you to make a new piece if possible. That way you will have some new work and you can enter it into Fibre Fling or another exhibit later this year. I look forward to seeing what we can put together again this year!

If you have any questions email me at: connietb10@gmail.com

World's oldest yarn

hints that Neanderthals had basic math skills

A tiny scrap of thread stuck to the lower side of a stone flake offers a huge insight into Neanderthal life. The 6.2mm (0.24 inch) long bit of thread, spun from plant fibers, is the oldest example of the material ever found. According to uranium-series dating, the thread came from a layer of sediment between 52,000 and 41,000 years old at a Neanderthal site called Abri du Maras, in France. Its nearest rival for the "oldest string ever" title is a fragment of fiber from a 19,000-year-old site in Israel.



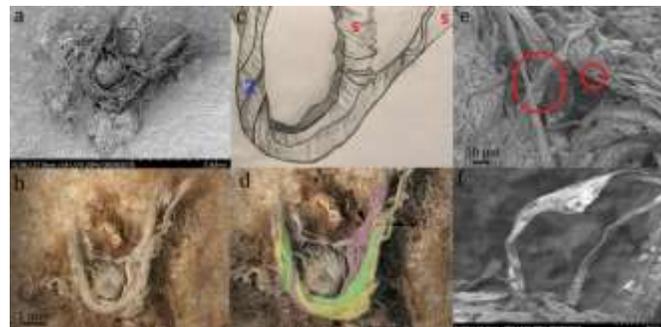
This is what Abri du Maras looks like today, with archaeologists digging into its ancient past.

When Kenyon College archaeologist Bruce Hardy and his colleagues looked at the thread under a microscope, the fibers turned out to be from bast: a fibrous layer of tissue just beneath the bark of a tree. These particular fibers had probably come from a conifer like pine, which would have been available nearby, according to pollen

and charcoal traces from the site. An ancient craftsman had twisted fibers together clockwise to make twisted bundles and then twisted three bundles together counterclockwise to make a three-ply cord. The cord was about 0.5mm thick (lace weight, if you're a modern knitter or crocheter).

Approximately 46,000 years ago, the thread may have been wrapped around the end of the 60mm (2.4 inch) long stone tool as a grip, or it may have been part of a net or woven bag that held the tool. It may even have been completely unrelated—just a bit of domestic jetsam dropped on the same patch of cave floor where the stone flake later wound up.

The fiber find suggests that Neanderthal life included a lot more than stone and bone tools. Once you can twist or spin fibers into thread, you can make all sorts of things: clothes, nets, cord for fishing or hafting stone tools, and rope for all sorts of purposes. Those kinds of objects are, if you'll excuse the pun, woven into the fabric of daily life, but the materials they're made from decay quickly, so they're almost invisible at Paleolithic sites like Abri du Maras. Archaeologists sometimes call wood and fiber artifacts "the missing majority," and their absence can skew our ideas how about Neanderthals (and their eventual Homo sapiens neighbors) actually lived.



a) SEM photo of ancient thread fragment from Abri du Maras; (b) 3D Hirox photo of the thread fragment; (c) schematic drawing of the thread fragment; s-twist sections are the clockwise-twisted bundles of individual bast fibers, and z-twist sections are the counterclockwise-twisted plies, made up of several bundles twisted together; (d) enlarged Hirox photo with cord structure highlighted.

Neanderthal number sense

The find also proves, yet again, how much Neanderthals were capable of. Just getting the bast fibers and preparing them to start making cord was a complex process that required quite a bit of knowledge:

"The best times for harvesting bast fibers would be from early spring to early summer. Once bark is removed from the tree, beating can help separate the bast fibers from the bark," wrote Hardy and his colleagues. "Soaking [the fibers] in water aids in their separation and can soften

and improve the quality of the bast. The bast must then be separated into strands and can be twisted into cordage.”

Bundling fibers and then plying bundles into cord, Hardy and his colleagues argue, also meant that Neanderthals could think about and work with numbers, and with numerical concepts like pairs and sets, which they combined to make a structure (the thread). And as any modern fiber artist knows, most of what you can do with the fiber afterward also requires at least a basic understanding of counting, sets, and patterns. And hands-on work with numbers, like counting fibers and bundles, may have been the first step in the evolution of the cognitive ability to do more advanced, abstract math. That’s the argument advanced in 2010 by Oxford University archaeologist Lambros Malafouris.

Once they had made the thread, working with the fiber required—and probably encouraged—even more complex thinking. “As the structure becomes more complex (multiple cords twisted to form a rope, ropes interlaced to form knots), it demonstrates ‘an infinite use of finite means’ and requires a cognitive complexity similar to that required by human language,” wrote Hardy and his colleagues.

In other words, Neanderthals were a long way from inventing algebra, but they obviously had a great grasp of string theory.

Scientific Reports, 2020 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-020-61839-w (About DOIs).

https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/04/neanderthals-made-the-worlds-oldest-thread/?fbclid=IwAR3GtO2QcDTVxdHrM7-cX1C-T4o8trakTDyeXUTDLU5BvXoBZhUkcle08IU&mc_cid=82045ea0b6&mc_eid=a4ecad5ea1

Kemptville Guild looking for info

For BOM our guild is doing a different block from the 'underground railroad' and we thought we would like to have a speaker to start this off...

BUT, I am having difficulty trying to find someone. I have tried to search the web and get some from the USA but not necessarily re quilts.

Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.
Cheers

Nancy Grundy
Kemptville Quilters Guild - program
patssottawa@gmail.com

Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sharon Johnson & Nancy Garrard (Anne Warburton, Loree Tannett)
Education	Kathy Lajeunesse, Nancy Scott, Nancy Davies, Pam Davy, Crystal Angers, Liz Tyrwhitt, Olivia Chuchryk
Secretary	Andrée Faubert
Membership	Dorothy DeRose
Treasurer	Marilyn White
Web-coordinator	MaryAnne Toonders
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Library	Rita Rottman (Nancy Scott)
Publicity/Marketing	Lorraine Lacroix
Exhibitions/Shows	Connie ten Bruggenkate, Debbie Boyd-Chisholm, Andree Faubert
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