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## Words of Wisdom

"Creativity doesn't wait for that perfect moment. It fashions it's own perfect moments out of ordinary ones."

Bruce Garrabrant

## Program Lineup 2021

**Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> - "TENTATIVE"** tailgate outdoor 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 (100) for the date in August, and will be confirmed by email by 1:00 pm on August 16th,

For the fall we are exploring a potential return to in person for some meetings while others may remain on Zoom. We will keep everyone posted as we get closer to September.

**Monday, September 20** - This is the meeting to welcome new members and introduce what is coming up for members in the year ahead. A new challenge will be presented.

**Monday, October 18** - OOTB member Connie ten Bruggenkate will discuss her experiences eco-dyeing and how she is using natural inks like those developed by Wendy Feldberg.

**November** – Stittsville Library Show – Idioms

## November 2-3 - Yarn Painting Workshop on Zoom

The Education Committee has booked Len de Graaf to do his Starry Night yarn painting workshop. The workshop will be run over 2 half days, from 9am - 12pm. The price will be \$70, that includes the workshop and a beeswaxed board that will be prepared for each participant. Members will learn about the history of yarn painting, as well as techniques and tips. It's a great way to learn something new in a relaxing atmosphere and share some time with fellow OOTB members. Please contact Nancy Scott to indicate your interest or if you have any questions.

## November 15<sup>th</sup> – Challenge Reveal

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Social – a Christmas ornament you have made of that has inspired you. Note, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month to avoid being too close to Xmas and is planned to be on Zoom.

## January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Elaine Quehl – a Design Journey

The **January** and **February** Meetings are planned to be virtual to avoid the dark winter driving. Also planned are 4 playdates, 2 in the fall and 2 in the winter, virtual or in person. More details will follow.

## From Anne & Loree, your Co-Chairs:

I'm looking forward to our outdoor tailgate get-together on August 16. I'm still limiting my in-person social time, yet it feels wonderful when I do get to see my friends and family. It seems many are craving to see others in person, to socialize, to feel a return to a normalcy while the weather remains good. Let's stay safe at our tailgate party with masks and distancing. Bring some show & tell, and any items you may have to give away. And if the weather is bad, we will meet up on Zoom instead.

(See all the details for the August meeting at the end of this note.)

And please remember to renew your membership at either the August 16th or September 20th meeting or online.

We are exploring a partial return to in-person meetings this fall. The **September 20th meeting** we hope will be a hybrid version - a smallish group indoors at City View United Church (as of this writing we are only allowed 25 people in our meeting space) while running Zoom at the same time so others can attend and participate from home. There are still a few details to figure out to make

this a reality. Masks will be required and chairs will be placed 6' apart in the church hall.

**September's meeting will be all about us:** what is being offered by OOTB this upcoming year: a new challenge, the 25th anniversary, a return to some playdates & workshops, shows, playtime and sharing, and monthly tips to help us grow as fibre artists. Whether you are part of the OOTB community for the social side, show & sales opportunities, learning more techniques, inspiration, getting feedback, or another reason, I think there will be something for everyone. Presentations for the September hybrid meeting will be on PowerPoint so you can join in on Zoom or in person at the church.

While the full **library** won't be will be available for in-person gatherings this fall, we are planning a test run with a few boxes in September. Stay tuned for more on that next month.

We of course want everyone to stay safe, and if needed we will revert to Zoom for our meetings, but otherwise hope to continue the hybrid in-person/Zoom format in October and November. These online platforms have been such a blessing throughout this pandemic. I don't know how I would have coped without them.

The **December, January and February meetings** will be on Zoom and not in person. This means no potential meeting cancellations due to weather, and no one needs to be concerned about night driving during the winter months. We anticipate a return to the hybrid format in March.

As an added benefit, we hope to record the upcoming presentations and post a link on the website for those not able to attend our meetings. This has yet to be tested but has been implemented successfully by some art groups around the city.

Please know that Loree and I are always open to your thoughts and ideas. We want to know what you are working on, what you would like to see offered.

### **AUGUST 16, MEETING INFORMATION:**

- Start time is 7 pm. We will aim to be done by 8:30 when darkness is falling.
- At this time we are able to hold an outdoor tailgate social in the parking lot of City View United Church. Covid regulations allow up to 100 people at outdoor events.
- We will need a few volunteers at the start of the evening to help direct people to parking spots. Loree and I will try to help with this too -

could you email [annearburton@hotmail.com](mailto:annearburton@hotmail.com) if you can help, and meet us at the parking lot at 6:30 pm.

- We are also looking for a member who could assist Dorothy De Rose with accepting membership renewals.
- Masks are required for the evening. Please park so that trunks/back of vehicles can be opened with the items you have to show/give away.
- Bring hand sanitizer and a lawn chair - also some show & tell, and any materials you wish to give away. Any leftover giveaway items will be donated to Wendy Feldberg. And enjoy seeing your OOTB friends.
- Bathroom access will be available at the church. You will need to sign a contact tracing form inside the entrance. The sign-in sheets are kept by the church for 6 weeks, then destroyed.
- In the event of bad weather, we will hold a meeting on Zoom instead - and invite you to participate in a show & tell. Notification will be sent by 1:00 pm on August 16th, the day of the tailgate party.

### ***Membership Renewal***

The time has come to renew your OOTB membership. The membership year runs from September 1, 2021 until August 31, 2022. September is right around the corner and we all know it's best not to leave things to the last minute.

If our planned meeting takes place in the City View United Church parking lot on August 16th you will be able to pay in person at that time. That evening we will accept cheques or cash (\$45.00) and will hand out membership cards. The on-line membership form must be filled out before the meeting.

We will be changing the password for the Members Only section of the website and you will need your new membership card in order to receive that password.

You can find the membership form at <https://out-of-the-box.org/joinus/index.html>

If you prefer not to follow links in the newsletter you may go directly to our website, click on the Join Us section, scroll down the page and hit the link for the Membership Form. It's as easy as that!

Remember, your membership is not complete until you have paid.

### **FREE fibre related magazines to give away**

I was given several boxes of the magazines listed below. They are in great condition and free for the taking. I will bring them to the August 17th tailgate meeting. If you can't attend the meeting but are interested in taking some of the magazines, let me know.

Inspirations Magazine, (has beautiful pullout patterns )  
Issues 3-69  
Embroidery Canada, 1994-2019  
Embroidery Magazine, 2011-2018  
Needlepoint Now, 2010-2019  
Stitch Magazine 2000-2019

Nancy Scott

### **Stuff to give away at our meeting**

Unfortunately, I have struggled with being creative during the pandemic. However, I am currently decluttering my home in anticipation of selling. I plan to bring an eclectic variety of items to give away to any intrepid, creative folks coming to the outdoor gathering. Some of the items I will be bringing an assortment of keys, sphagnum moss, 2 books of Ottawa/Gatineau maps, sheet magnets, jewelry collars, wooden bead doll heads, ribbon, small plastic frames, and a whole lot more. I hope that most things can find a new home and end up in future projects of our talented and endlessly creative OOTB members.

Sharon Dunlop

### **REMINDER**

Starry Night Yarn Painting Zoom Workshop with Len de Graaf

The OOTB Education Committee has booked this zoom workshop for Tuesday November 2 and Wednesday, November 3 from 9am-12 pm. The cost is \$70 per person, which includes two half-days of instruction, a beeswaxed board for your painting and an outline of the Starry Night painting and a supply list. This zoom session is limited to 8-12 participants.

Supply requirements are minimal: a selection of colours of 2-ply wool (Briggs and Little is recommended). You won't need whole balls of yarn, just leftovers of different colours and yarn lengths will be fine. You'll need a knitting needle or seafood fork with a flat end, or similar tool and sharp scissors. The complete supply list will be mailed to each registered participant.

Len will introduce you to the history of yarn painting and spend time demonstrating techniques. He will also help

you learn to apply alternative fibres, beads, if you have some on hand to add to your board. You are not restricted to following the Starry Night pattern, you can do an abstract or a piece of your choice.

We need to have names and payment by September 30, 2021.

Participants will e-transfer the \$70 directly to Len and provide your mailing address. Once payment has been received, he will prepare your beeswax board and mail it out to you asap so you have before the workshop. NOTE: the session will be recorded, so if any paid participant misses the session, you'll have a chance to view the class.

Come have fun on a chilly November morning learning about the interesting traditional art of yarn painting, working on your masterpiece and chatting with fellow OOTBers. Please direct any questions to Nancy Scott

### **Stittsville Library Show 2021**

I have some good news! Stittsville Library has confirmed our show in November 2021 at the Stittsville Library. There's a wall space and a glass cabinet where we can display from November 1 to 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: It's raining cats and dogs, It's a piece of cake, Once in a blue moon etc. In French an example of an idiom would be Les murs ont des oreilles, S'occuper de ses ongles, La nuit porte conseil 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.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in this show. 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](mailto:connietb10@gmail.com)

## **OOTB Website Focus on Fibre Links – Modern Macrame**

Knotting—or macramé (a 1970s relic that many of us have likely attempted) —is one of many crafts being revived by those who love working with their hands. In the last couple of years, I have been seeing a lot of posts from artists on social media using this technique to create. Some of my family members have been experimenting with macramé too. Some artists are using macramé with other fibre media or techniques. This piece by Kasha Cantillo is an example found on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/kashasCraftCreation/photos/a.2025879737508600/4143969185699634/>

Sally England is one artist who has done many macramé/mixed fibre artwork commissions.

The 'Modern Macramé' site includes a number of artists and their work, tutorials, supplies and more.

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

MaryAnne

## **The Gift of Artistic Expression: Creative Musings**

by Nelusha McDonald

What have you discovered about yourself through the process of creation? I understand we all create for different reasons and some of us do not stop the making to have a deep think about what we are doing or why we are doing it (apart from the fact that it just feels so good!); however, I know that art has a miraculously restorative power. There are too many stories to discount the fact and rather than discussing the Truths of others, I'll speak my own and perhaps you'll find you relate at some level.

As I stand back and consider the latest body of work that has occupied most waking moments of my life for the

past several years, it is invariably clear that it consists of collaging small bits of fabrics and fibers into ethereal, colourful larger pieces of fabrics. That whole may be a strip or a square and is usually something unconventional as I have a strong aversion to being confined to rules, but the point is that all my creations began with tiny random meaningless bits coming together into something more beautiful and inspiring than what it began as.



I don't sketch or plan the final composition. There is no map to follow, no instructions and no guidelines that lead to a final destination. More interestingly, that final composition bears no resemblance to its component bits. The process is entirely intuitive and comes together piece by piece, bit by bit, stitch by stitch and layer by layer. Every small step matters in a monumental way.



It should come as no surprise that this process of intuitive collaging was symbolic of how my own shattered life was healing. It is obvious in hindsight but during those thoughtful moments of creation, I only knew that I was driven to create with urgency, compulsion, and endless inspiration. I had no idea whether what I was creating was objectively 'good'. I did know that they felt beautiful (and magical) to me. The motivation was entirely from a sacred place within.



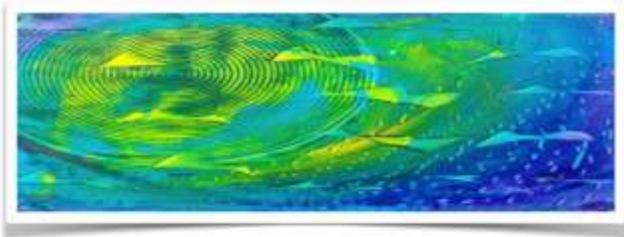
Through the gift of textile collage, I have pieced myself back together one proverbial stitch at a time, embellishing those parts that need a little extra flair and layering over the bits that need a little more time. In addition to making unusual and novel fabrics, through the process of creation, I've discovered that art is also a gateway to the Soul.



What's your story?

## Two Fibre Exhibitions

Would you like to see a beautiful fibre exhibition? Or two?



In "Off the Page" members of Connections Fibre Artists have created works inspired by books and stories. You can see this exquisite show in person at Grimsby Public Art Gallery, Ontario until August 28. Or view it online here:

<https://www.connectionsfibreartists.com/off-the-page.html>

"Leafing Through My Sketch Book - and Absorbing the Wisdom of Tea Bag Tags"



I am very proud to be a member of Connections Fibre Artists, and enjoy the fabulous work and the community of great artists in our group.

"Re:Collections" is another of our exhibitions that was only open for a couple of weeks due to covid restrictions. However it's just a click away to enjoy online.

<https://www.connectionsfibreartists.com/recollections.html>

Freshly painted fabrics and other printed goodies are constantly added in my Etsy shop, so be sure to check in often at:



<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Colourvie>

To see more of my work and find out about workshops and lectures, please visit my website:

<https://www.gunnelhagstudio.com/>

Take care and be safe!

Gunnel Hag

## Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience.

The exhibition in the Aberdeen Pavilion at Landsdowne Park finishes September 16. Although Van Gogh is not near the top of my list of favourite painters and I usually avoid crowds and the tickets were pricey (\$52) and I don't like parking at Landsdowne, something prompted me to go and I was glad I did!

The exhibit is divided into 3 sections. The first presents text over close-up images of sections of Van Gogh's paintings. The text gives visitors a good enough overview of Van Gogh's life and personal challenges if you don't know or remember much of his history. What I found exciting and inspiring, though, was the colour and texture revealed by the enlarged images of the paintings.

The second section was called the transition space where one begins the experience of being in "cubic space art". The film is projected on the walls and floor

and it is fun as well as thought provoking to watch how the patterns flow and change.

As you enter the third section, you are told that the film loop is 35 minutes but "you can stay as long as you want." Apparently over 300 pieces of Van Gogh's paintings are depicted in the giant high definition projections on canvas walls and the floor as well as on several large columns of canvas. Again, it was fascinating to see the details of colour and brushstrokes and then imagining sections being reproduced in fabric, thread and/or beads. No matter where you stand in this part of the Pavillion, you won't miss anything. There was a magical section where Van Gogh's Almond Blossom painting is depicted as the background to waves of petals streaming across the canvas walls on all 4 sides of the room and the floor. Because the walls are not firm, they ripple and that adds to the impressions. It was amusing to see the joy of some young visitors as they tried to jump on the moving shapes before they disappeared. There was interesting music as a backdrop....I didn't really appreciate how well it complemented the art work until part way through the video loop because my mind was focused on the images and the colour.

Some advice if you go:

- you need to buy a ticket beforehand.
- park in the Cinema (blue) section of the parking lot especially if you want to use an elevator. The parking info tells you to park in the yellow section if you are going to the Pavillion but that elevator section was locked for my 11:45 am ticket. And it was a longer walk to the front entrance of the Pavillion than using the Cinema section.
- there was plenty of room to keep a good 2 metres between people.
- there were no chairs in the first 2 sections and only a few chairs in the third section (maybe 8 for several hundred people) so be prepared to stand.
- take some water (I forgot).
- it takes about 60 minutes unless you stay longer in the last section.

I didn't read much about the exhibition beforehand so was pleased to learn afterwards that the idea originated in a Montreal studio. Apparently a number of studios have recently produced immersive art exhibits featuring Van Gogh. It seems that this one has been in several US locations as well as Toronto. There are some negative reviews on line but I felt that the journalists were not perhaps appreciating all the different levels of artistic achievement in ways that we as fibre artists can.

Meredith (Filshie)

## ***Palestinian Embroidery***



The Embroiderers' Association of Canada has passed on info about a virtual embroidery workshop that ONN members might like. It's "Tatreez and Tea" on August 20th from 7-9 pm with artist and researcher Wafa Ghnaim, hosted by the Art Gallery of Burlington.

Wafa is an American-born Palestinian artist, who will be sharing her research and work related to preserving the Palestinian art of Tatreez. During the workshop, Wafa will also lead the participants in learning how to embroider traditional Tatreez. The event is pay-what-you can (\$40 suggested).

Please feel free to circulate details about Wafa and the workshop, which are available here:

<https://agb.life/visit/events/tatreez-and-tea>

## ***The Japanese Kimono Project***

Did you know that kimonos were made to represent each of the participating countries in the Olympics. This link takes you to a wonderful site where each country is detailed.

[https://kimono.piow.jp/kimonolist.html?mc\\_cid=6bf304bace&mc\\_eid=7165d9db0e](https://kimono.piow.jp/kimonolist.html?mc_cid=6bf304bace&mc_eid=7165d9db0e)

## ***Planning Committee***

PC Convenor	Anne Warburton, Loree Tannett
Education	Kathy Lajeunesse, Nancy Davies, Pam Davy, Crystal Angers, Liz Tyrwhitt, Olivia Chuchryk
Secretary	Andrée Faubert
Membership	Dorothy DeRose
Treasurer	Marilyn White
Web-coordinator	MaryAnne Toonders
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
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Library	Nancy Scott
Publicity/Marketing	
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