

# Out of the Box

June 2007 Newsletter

## About Us (Mission Statement)

The Out of the Box Fibre Art Group is a cooperative association of artists who are passionate about creating innovative, thought-provoking works of art, and promoting fibre art through exhibitions, education and professional development.

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. Since we are a co-op organisation, we place strong emphasis on activities that support active participation of the membership in 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 meet once a month to share ideas, techniques and inspiration, 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.**

### Volunteers Needed: Membership Coordinator and Newsletter Editor

The Out of the Box Fibre Art Group is currently seeking replacements for the positions of Membership Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, effective September 2007. If you are interested in either position, please contact Meredith Filshie.

**Submission Deadline for the June newsletter is July 6, 2007.**

## Contacts

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## Dates of Meetings with Program Topics

2007	
April 16	Ray Pilon – Photographing Your Work
May 21	Workshops – Joanne Batchelor
June 18	Open Meeting
July 16	Cynthia Sanoy – Tour of Orpheus
August 20	Open Meeting
September 17	Dale Smith – Panel Discussion?
October 15	Dale Smith – Panel Discussion?
November 19	Heather Dubreuil - Trunk Show
December 17	

## June Program and Agenda:

1. Show and Tell
2. Program: Open Meeting
3. Business

Thanks to Heather Dubreuil for sharing the art quotations that appear in this month's newsletter.

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## July Program

The Out of the Box meeting on July 16, 2007 is going to be a "road trip" away from our regular meeting venue. We are going on a visit to the home of Orpheus Musical Theatre Society, at Orpheus House located at 17 Fairmont Drive, Ottawa in the Parkdale and Wellington area of Hintonburg. Start time is 7:15, but people are encouraged to come down a bit earlier to have a look around. During this road trip, we will have an opportunity to tour the pre-production workshops at Orpheus Musical Theatre Society including the woodshop, paint loft, properties, costume design, costume creation and wardrobe storage areas. We can have a brief regular meeting in Rice Hall (the rehearsal space), and then I will be doing a powerpoint presentation on the costume design process at Orpheus, and a "show and tell" of some of the more interesting costumes in our collection.

Location: 17 Fairmont Avenue

Date: July 16, 2007

Start: 7:15pm

Doors open: 6:30pm

Street parking. Be certain not to park in the St. Francis of Assisi parking lot, as tickets would be issued.

Map:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=17+fairmont+avenue,+ottawa,+ontario,&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=48.240201,69.521484&ie=UTF8&z=16&iwloc=addr&om=1>

Website: <http://www.orpheus-theatre.on.ca/>

## Rejection: Playing The Game - Marilyn Noble

[http://www.sculpturalpursuit.com/media/EDocs/Creative\\_Wisdom\\_\\_Handling\\_Rejection\\_and\\_Copyrights.htm#article14](http://www.sculpturalpursuit.com/media/EDocs/Creative_Wisdom__Handling_Rejection_and_Copyrights.htm#article14)

Thanks to Karen Goetzinger for passing along this article.

*Sometimes the universe tests us with rejection; life asks us if we are confident enough in ourselves and our creations to keep going in the face of obstacles. . . . While we must be open to feedback, we must also hold a faith that supersedes the opinions of those who do not agree with us. If you believe in something enough, you will not be put off by obstacles or setbacks. - Alan Cohen*

The invitation arrives in the mail and your heart skips a beat. You've been asked to submit a piece for jury consideration for the biggest museum show in your area. You've just finished a work that you know is perfect. It's a

shoe-in. You fill out the application, enclose the slides, and send them off, confident you'll be accepted. You envision your piece in glossy splendor on the pages of the show catalog; you imagine yourself stepping forward to receive the Best in Show award. Fame and glory follow. Your career is made.

Several weeks later the letter comes in the mail. "Dear Artist," it begins. "We regret to inform you. . ." You're crushed. You berate yourself. I'm so stupid, How did I think I could possibly get into a show like that? Then you get angry. The jurors are idiots. They obviously don't understand good work. You vow to get even. I'll show them. I'll never create another piece of sculpture again. And I'll never set foot in that museum again either. You rationalize. I'm sure they had to play the political game and accept work from the director's third cousin and their big donors. They didn't have room for me.

Once the initial emotions have finished racing through your heart and head, what's your next step? Do you dash off an angry letter to the director of the museum, thus ensuring you'll never be invited to show there? Do you moan and complain to everyone you know, convincing your family, friends and colleagues that you're a spoiled diva? Do you give up, believing your work will never be good enough? If you stay stuck in those unproductive emotions, you'll never achieve the level of success you desire, a level many of your less talented colleagues may surpass.

Professional artists know rejection is part of the game -- it happens to everybody. The difference between satisfying success and bitter failure is how you handle it. Rejection always hurts, but accepting the pain and moving on is critical to building your career. How do you do that?

1. Turn loose of your work. As with a child that you bring into the world and raise, at some point you have to let go. Your children move into other relationships in life, and so must your art. You can still love the pieces you create, but allow others to love them, or not, as well.
2. Realize your work is not You. Your work may be the deepest expression of your soul, but it's not your soul. Rejection has little to do with you, and everything to do

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3. with the viewer. Jurors and others who examine your work do so through their own lenses of life experience. Sometimes they relate, sometimes they don't. It doesn't mean they don't like, admire, respect, or even know You.
4. Rejection is not necessarily criticism. Galleries, jurors, and others who make choices about work make those decisions based on criteria about which you may not know. They may reject your work not because it's poor quality, but because they have enough bronze figures, or abstract stone, or wood miniatures. Maybe it's simply not a fit for the gallery or show. Much of the time it has nothing to do with your talent, your statement, or your creative expression.
5. With criticism, accept what makes sense to you and ignore the rest. Everybody has an opinion, and most people don't hesitate to express theirs. Consider the source of the criticism. If an art professional tells you your piece lacks proportion and gives you some ideas about fixing it, pay closer attention than you would to a collector who lives in a house full of ceramic frogs who tells you your abstract female figure doesn't have any personality. It's important to listen with an open mind, and then take an objective look at your work. If you can see how it would improve by incorporating someone's suggestions, do it. If not, let the comments go.
6. As my best friend says, honor the process. Continue to improve your skills, stay true to your vision, create your art, and send it out into the world. Let go of your attachment to the results. Sometimes you'll feel the sting of rejection; other times you'll feel the happiness of success. It's all part of the journey. As in life, the journey is just as important as the destination.
7. When all else fails, comfort yourself with the thought that every no leads one step closer to yes. You'll learn to relish the rejection because you know acceptance is imminent. A writing friend of mine plays something he calls the Rejection Game. His aim is to collect one hundred rejection slips all while writing the best he can. He's never reached the goal because he gets so many acceptances along with the rejections that he doesn't have time to keep playing the game.

"Life is short, art long, opportunity fleeting, experience treacherous, judgment difficult." (Hippocrates)

## News from our Members

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

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

### Elaine Quehl

A photo of "Losses" will be one of 10 quilts featured alongside an article about the Sacred Threads Show in the July/August issue of Quilters Newsletter Magazine.

### Fortunée Shugar

Spring Fling  
April 25 – June 16, 2007  
Irene's Pub  
885 Bank St.  
613-230-4474  
[www.irenespub.ca](http://www.irenespub.ca)

## Events

### The Beaconsfield Quilters' Guild

Annual Quilt Exhibition 2007  
May 3 - 27 at the Beaconsfield Library,  
303 Beaconsfield Blvd., Beaconsfield, Quebec  
Library hours are Monday 1 to 9 p.m., Tuesday to  
Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5  
p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

### Gees Bend Quilts

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia  
Barrington St., Halifax  
Until September

### Tay River Gallery Presents:

#### Converging Worlds: Paintings by Shirley Mancino

June 1 – 30, 2007  
Opening Reception and meet the artist: June 2nd,  
2 - 4 p.m.

Shirley's dramatic figurative and abstract paintings are inspired by her travels in Asia.

The arts are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow."  
(Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.)

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## Calls for Entry

### Quilts=Art=Quilts

The Schweinfurth Art Centre is calling all quilters!!  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilts=Arts=Quilts Entry deadline: August 20, 2007

Jurors: Liz Axford, Nancy Halpern & Jonathan Holstein  
Quilts=Arts=Quilts has been showcasing quilts as a visual art form for over 25 years.

This exhibit features quilts chosen for their originality, design, visual impact and workmanship. The 2006 exhibit featured over 90 quilts from around the United States and Canada and attracted almost 5,000 visitors. The exhibit is juried from slides and/or digital images. Up to 2 entries per person are permitted and the entry fee is \$20 for Art Center members & \$25 for non-members.

For more information visit:

<http://www.schweinfurthartcenter.org/exhibits/2007/QAQ.html>

## Workshops

### Workshops with Local Artists

#### Summer Academy of the Arts at Algonquin College

Submitted by Beth Cameron

July 3 – August 3, 2007

Week long workshops and a creativity lecture will be featured. For more information:

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/summerarts/index.htm>

Don't delay! Some classes are already full!

Even if you are not partaking of the Summer Academy series you might want to be aware of the lecture by William Hodge on Wednesday, July 25th, from 7:00 to 9:00, "Developing your Creative Potential":

This lecture will illustrate how you can increase your own creative potential through some practical and functional suggestions. Although this lecture has been directed at the fibre arts, the discussion is suitable for any individual who wishes to extend their creative potential as the information is totally transferable to any creative endeavour. I could barely do his 12 page enviable CV justice in a sentence but William Hodge comes highly recommended and I would be remiss if I didn't point it out to you all!

"Not to dare is to lose oneself." (Soren Kierkegaard)

### St. Lawrence College Summer School of the Arts, Brockville Campus

The members of Seven Threads Studios will be teaching at St. Lawrence College Summer School of the Arts. Most of these week-long fibre art workshops are credit courses applicable to a Fibre Arts Certificate in Quilting. We will be bringing brochures to the Out of the Box meeting when they are ready from the college. To receive a brochure by mail contact the college through their website at [www.slc.on.ca](http://www.slc.on.ca)

#### 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.

"Success means fulfilling your own dreams, singing your own songs, dancing your own dances, creating from your heart, and trusting that whatever happens, it will be okay." (Elana Lindquist)

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## Websites

The Professional Art Quilt Alliance South (PAQA)

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

The Professional Art Quilt Alliance-South presents their fourth annual international exhibition, juried by Hollis Chatelain.

<http://quiltersvillage.com/gallery/artquilt/>

North Country Studio Workshops

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

"What one does is what counts and not what one had the intention of doing." (Pablo Picasso)

## Minutes of the Out of the Box Meeting of May 21, 2007

1. Neera facilitated the meeting and extended congratulations to both Elaine Quehl and Helen Gordon as recent prize winners
2. The Idiom Quilt was accepted at Waterloo but no prize was awarded as it was the only quilt entered in the group category.
3. Elena gave a brief report on the display at OVQG.
4. Chantal advised that she requires a CD from each member who wishes to participate in gallery shows. The CD is to include a bio, and high resolution photos of at least 3 pieces of work (300 pixels). Chantal requires these the first week in June.
5. Show and tell was amazing and inspiring. What a talented membership!
6. Joanne facilitated the presentation of OOTB workshops with the following members giving a short presentation: Joanne, Joan, Mary, Joanne Zorzi, Daphne, Lynne, Sharon, Marie, Neera and Magda. Thank you to everyone who participated.
7. Cynthia advised that the Historical Committee of the National Gallery is looking for pieces of art for their fund raising auction in June. Discussion took place concerning the venue and security. Cynthia will advise further.
8. The 50/50 draw raised \$9.00 for the library.
9. Meeting adjourned.

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing you will be successful. Albert Schweitzer