

# Out of the Box

February 2008 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 organization, 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 Joanne Batchelor 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.**

## 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 free of charge and do not want any involvement in administrative matters.) As a last resort, you could call Meredith Filshie at 613 727-3886.

## Contacts

Convenor	Bev Hastings	<a href="mailto:jmcbey@rogers.com">jmcbey@rogers.com</a>
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## Dates of Meetings with Program Topics

2008	
February 18	Karen Goetzing will give a PowerPoint presentation of the SAQA show.
March 17	Elena Keen will have the Black and White Challenge pieces set out for a Viewer's Choice. Elissa Wright will do a hands on demo of screen-printing (please bring an old top if you wish to participate)
April 21	to be determined
May 19	Presentation on her process, her transition from traditional to art and trunk show by Cathy Breedyk Law

**Submission Deadline for the February Newsletter is March 7, 2008.**

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## SHAKE THE KNOWLEDGE TREE:

We'd like to start a new feature in the Newsletter that will allow members to share their vast and untapped knowledge. It will be an open Question and Answer forum. If anyone has a question of general interest, please submit it to the newsletter where they will be published monthly. The questions will be fielded at the regular meeting and hopefully some or many will have the answer. The response (s) will also be posted in the next newsletter for those who didn't attend.

Questions can be about resources (where can I find silk tops in Ottawa?), about techniques (how do you use a tambour hook and can anyone show me how to use it?), about locations (I'm going to New York City in April, what fabric and thread stores must I absolutely get to?), or about anything else that you feel the membership would be interested in.

From Meredith Filshie

Since spring cleaning time is approaching, does anyone have any clever ideas about organising their fabrics and threads and needles? I am particularly focused on my pile of "white stuff": specialty fabrics like iron on stabilisers and soluble fabrics etc. I buy them and then forget what they are to be used for! I am thinking that in the future I should label them as I get them but pins fall out and paper rips. A very long time ago fabric stores used neat little light cardboard labels about 1" that folded over a pin so the pin was hidden but I have not seen them in years. Any ideas on organising would be most welcome.

Please answer Meredith's or pose a new one to the newsletter: [Helen.gordon@rogers.com](mailto:Helen.gordon@rogers.com) or [keen1@sympatico.ca](mailto:keen1@sympatico.ca)

## Donations requested

Recently the National Art Gallery of Canada was the recipient of a wonderful donation from Mr. Colin MacDonald of Ottawa. For years Mr. MacDonald has been writing a dictionary of Canadian artists which I believe now comprises 7 volumes. He has given the volumes, not yet quite completed, to the Gallery and they are hoping to complete the biographical histories of the artists and put the completed dictionary on line. They need added funds to complete this task and are looking for financial donations from the public to do so.

If you, as an artist, are interested in giving to this project, please contact the NAG Foundation office at 613-241-9359.

I have received permission from the NAG Foundation people post this request.  
Bev Hastings

## SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS:

### A great big thank you to Heather!

Heather: we all appreciated your efforts in seeking out an exhibition opportunity for OOTB members. It sounded like a wonderful venue and a good price. Unfortunately not enough of us were able to commit the art work and the time to carry the idea forward this year. Thank you so much!

1. **Heather Dubreuil** has a solo show which started Sunday, January 6 and will run until Sunday, February 17, Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the Beaconsfield United Church, 202 Woodside Road, Beaconsfield. For more information on the show, call Heather at t 450-458-7408, or e-mail: [heather@curlylocks.ca](mailto:heather@curlylocks.ca). Website: [www.curlylocks.ca](http://www.curlylocks.ca)

2. **Chantal Davignon** has a solo show at the Theatre de la Nouvelle Scene, 333 King Edward Street, Ottawa. It opened January 7 and runs until February 29. The show will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

3. **Small Talk: Exhibition of Miniature Textiles from Universities and Art Colleges in Canada**, running from January 7 to 11 at Gallery 115, 100 Laurier Street.  
Opening: Thursday, January 10 from 4-6 pm  
January 14 to February 16 at Simard Building  
University of Ottawa, 1st floor (glass showcases)

Small Talk is a touring exhibition of miniature textiles from Universities and Art Colleges in Canada. This exhibition has been shown in Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton, St. John and Halifax. Its last stop is at the University of Ottawa. The public was invited to attend the opening on Thursday, January 10 from 4--6 pm at the Gallery 115.

The student work is in fibre media and in many forms. The exhibition investigates contemporary, innovative approaches to fibre based objects and two dimensional structures, exploring connections between sculpture, handcrafted textiles and process oriented work. Student makers attend courses at ACAD, Calgary; Anna Templeton Centre, NF; Centre Design and Impression Textile, Montreal; Concordia University, Montréal; Kootenay School of the Arts, BC; NSCAD University, Halifax; NBCCD, Fredericton; OCAD, Toronto; Sheridan College of Craft and Design, Oakville; Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook

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NF; and the Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles.

It was organized by Robin Muller, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Eva Ennist, Ontario College of Art and Design, for the occasion of the Fall 2006 Textile Society of America Conference held in Toronto. The show opened at the Ontario College of Art & Design Gallery. It toured to other participating institutions: The Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles and to the NB College of Craft and Design in Fredericton. This summer it was at the Saint John Arts Centre in NB. After NSCAD and the Neocraft Conference, the exhibition closes at University of Ottawa in February. The exhibition gives faculty, students and viewers an opportunity to see a range of creative practices that are less prevalent in this area.

It is curated at the University of Ottawa by Jennifer Macklem


## Upcoming Events

Art in the Islands Retreat, Glenn House Resort, April 18-20, 2008. A couple of cancellations have opened up two spaces. We are accepting new names on a first come first serve basis. Should you be interested in joining us at this wonderful event, contact Kit Vincent immediately at [kit@kitvincent.com](mailto:kit@kitvincent.com), 1.613.342.0512. You can find out more about this year's retreat at [www.seventhreadsstudios.com](http://www.seventhreadsstudios.com).

## Websites We Like

### FABRIC

 <http://superiorthreads.com> Has great newsletters about 4 times a year.

 <http://fabrics-store.com> A beautiful array of linens, linen/cotton mixes and cotton.

Batik Tambal

<http://www.jacqufabrics.com> - unbelievable hand dyed fabric

River Gallery (Canadian)

Mickey Lawlor Skydyes – hand dyed fabric

<http://equilter.com> – huge selection of fabric

<http://quiltshops.com> – link to over 200 quilt shops

Source of Angelina Fibers –

<http://texturatrading.com/index.html>

Source of fun things:

<http://meinketoy.com>

<http://stef-francis.co.uk>

<http://thethreadstudio.com/catfibre/fibreframe.htm>

### NEWSLETTERS

<http://threadlink.typepad.com> – Valerie Header – wonderful links to other fibre artists and media

<http://www.cater-woods.com/index.php> – Laura Cater-Woods

### VIDEO'S



<http://www.twistedthread.com/pages/learningZone.aspx> – short videos from Gloria Loughman of Australia, showing how she paints fabric to use in her landscape quilts

### MACHINE EMBROIDERY

<http://AnnTheGran.com> – free designs

Sue Box Designs – lace

<http://Advanced-embroidery-designs.com>

<http://Secretsof.com> – collection of embroidery designs

### DESIGNERS

Esterita Austin

<http://jennyhaskins.com>

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXHIBITING

<http://ArtCalender.com>

<http://fiberarts.com>

<http://quiltingarts.com>

<http://surfacedesign.org>

## Trip Report

### My Most Fabulous Fiber Adventure By Liane Thiry-Smith

I'd been looking forward to this all year and I wasn't disappointed. I went to the [NY Sheep and Wool Festival](#) in Rhinebeck, NY with my sister-in-law and two other knitters from the Ottawa Knitting Guild. I thought the car was full when we left...ha! It took some expert packing on my part to load the car on the return trip. I'd never been to the Adirondacks before and although it rained on the drive down, the rest of the weekend was simply glorious. It was fun to have an extended viewing of fall's resplendent foliage. Spectacular like our Gatineau's only bigger!

We stayed at the Marriott in Poughkeepsie where all the Knit bloggers stay. We were a rowdy bunch filling the lobby lounge in the evenings as we all sat knitting and sharing stories and wine. It was great fun to meet the women whose tales I read on the web.

The next day I let myself be sidetracked and visited the CIA! That is the [Culinary Institute of America](#) which is located in a fabulous old seminary in Hyde Park, NY (Yes the Hyde Park which was home to

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Franklin D. Roosevelt). There I was inspired by the architecture and gardens. After a trip to their bookstore for my husband's surprise gift I was on my way to the festival fairgrounds. Next year I'll take my husband with me and eat at one of their restaurants. The CIA also had food and wine at the fairgrounds and a carved pumpkin display. I'd also love to have time to visit the Eleanor Roosevelt Museum and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Having had no clue as to how rich in history that area of New York is I'm already looking forward to another trip next year.

Once there I saw breeds of sheep I've never seen before: my new favourite being the [Jacob sheep](#). Their small stature and little horns reminded of the goats I love so. I also had my first experience of being spat upon by a llama. I can laugh about it now, but at the time I was quite put off. After all I had my new felted hat and a new alpaca sweater on and the cud even reached my brand new fibre purchases...but that's all been cleaned up now. I saw so many breeds and was charmed by all. The experience has deepened my love and appreciation of working with various wools.

This was my first time attending a sheep and wool festival. I had thought they were mostly geared to spinners and knitters. But in reality, it was a full celebration of wool in all its forms, from sheep to product and everything in between. Exhibitors and vendors come from all over the US and Canada. I was pleasantly surprised to find rugs, hookers, weavers, and more felters than I'd expected. Oh and the most amazing assortment of soap makers. I came home with 2 dozen bars of soaps. It is an agricultural fair with something for everyone not just the fibre enthusiast. Oh and the most amazing food, the longest lines for amazing lamb dishes are worth the wait! There was so much to see and do that I had to make peace with the fact that I just couldn't do it all. And although it's hard to imagine, I've been told that the [Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival in May](#) is even bigger. [Vermont and many other states](#) also hold annual sheep and wool festivals. I can't wait to go back another year!

Among my new purchases was a new Bosworth drop spindle (I even got a little coaching from Sheila herself), and some wonderful new fibres to play with. I met Sharon Costello a well known felting artist and had her sign the book and DVD's I bought from her. It's hard to choose what my favourite purchase was...I love my new felt hats (I bought 3!), and then there's the hand-dyed purple alpaca silk and Falkland yarns I bought. Oh, and then there's the .15 micron merino (as soft as cashmere!) I can't wait to experiment at felting and dying with, oh and the lovely handspun-hand-dyed wool in sea green and plums. I've returned with so much new inspiration to experiment with over the coming winter months. Road trips can really fire up your imagination.

## ARTS OTTAWA EAST

Feb 82008

**New faces join the AOE team!** We're happy to welcome **Hayley MacPhee** and **Vera Kiriloff** to the AOE team! As AOE's new Communications Coordinator, Hayley's strong writing and media relations skills, as well as her commitment to the artistic community, will be a great asset. Vera's diverse experience and commitment to community-based art practices will be put to good use in her new role as AOE's Community Development Coordinator. Together we form an energetic team—with a wealth of enthusiasm, knowledge, skills and a passion for the arts!

**Be "switched on"** Arts Ottawa East invites you to attend its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, March 26th from 7-9:30 pm at the Orleans Client Service Centre. The brief meeting will be followed by a reception that is always an amazing networking opportunity. The AGM is a great opportunity to meet fellow activists and arts supporters. RSVP: 613-749-4978

**Change of date for Selections 2008** Mark it in your calendar—the date for AOE's annual juried arts show has changed! Stay tuned for details regarding submissions. The vernissage will now take place on **Oct 1, 2008** from 7 – 9 pm. Gallery location: Cumberland and Gloucester galleries, 255 Centrum Boulevard, at the Orleans Client Service Centre in Orleans. All inquiries can be made at 613-749-4978 or [info@artsoe.ca](mailto:info@artsoe.ca)