

## 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. Visitor fees are \$10.00 when we have a paid speaker and \$5.00 for regular meetings.

## 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.**

**Submission Deadline for the January Newsletter is January 8, 2010.**

## 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).

**Contacts:** [info@outofthebox.org](mailto:info@outofthebox.org)

PC Convenor	Elaine Quehl Meredith Filshie
Programs	Frances Taylor Nancy Garrard
Secretary	Marie Anzai
Membership	Elena Keen
Treasurer	Diane Bowman
Web-coordinator	Mary Pal
Web-email	Cynthia Sanoy
Newsletter	Helen Gordon Jean Gerster
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity	Joan Harrison
Workshops	Paula Benjaminson
Shows	Joanne Batchelor

## Dates of Meetings with Program Topics

Check the web site for the most up-to-date information

Dec 21	Programs	Beading Challenge
Jan 18	Margit Hideg	Sources of inspiration and Creativity
Feb 15	Lou Hayden	Fibre Artist and Costume Designer
Mar 15	Panel	Panel of fibre artists who are at different stages in the development of the business side of their art
Apr 19		
May 17		
June 21		
July 19		

## Words of Wisdom- "Quilts are my poems"

"I am interested in abstract images and the expression of something intangible through the medium of fabric. This is my language. My quilts are my poems. They allow me to say something". [Cynthia Corbin](#)

### Getting to Know our Upcoming Invited Speakers

Submitted by Frances Taylor

**Margit Hideg** is confirmed for our January meeting. She will be talking about the creativity process. Here is Margit's Bio and Artist's Statement from her website.

#### Bio

Margit Hideg is a multidisciplinary artist originally from Transylvania. She graduated with BFA (HON) Academy of Visual Arts, Ion Andreescu, Cluj, Romania. Margit immigrated to Canada in 1989. In 1993 she studied advanced editorial design at Center of Creative Studies in Detroit, USA. Later she followed the technology path and completed a six-month residency at Habitat, New Media Lab, and Canadian Film Center, in Toronto. During her stay, she sought "New storytelling models for interactive art and media in a team-based facility."

She has participated in a number of solo and group shows. Her work has been displayed in Europe and USA. In Canada, at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Romanian Embassy and Galerie d'art Jean-Claude-Bergeron both in Ottawa, Bertossini Fine Arts, The Canadian Film Center, Praxis Gallery in Toronto, Gallery St. Bernard in Montreal.

#### Artist's Statement

My art is an act of building and self-discovery. It has evolved from the belief that in this fragmented world, the most important thing I can do is to create my own artistic language.

Regardless of what medium I choose for my expression, digital or the flat surface of paper, I am searching for a meaning that reflects our relationship with the universe. In this life of illusionary realities created by mass media, something is missing. Because of our lack of feeling, we stand in danger of being isolated. This is the reason why I am trying to bring people back to nature and to poetry.

#### Website

<http://hideg.ca/art/html/pulpp.htm>

**The December 15th meeting** will be our Beading Challenge and social event. There are still some beads left -- please see Frances at an upcoming meeting. Beads are \$6/bag, taxes included. Please note that you will need a special beading needle to thread the beads - these are available from Canada Beading on Colonnade Road, but Frances may have some extras, so check with her at an upcoming meeting.

### Beading Challenge:

1. Each person entering will purchase a kit of mixed (assorted colours and sizes) fresh water pearls for \$6.00 (taxes included).
2. There will be a limited number of kits, so it will be first come, first served. They will be available at the May (see Frances), June, July, September, October and November meetings, or until all kits are sold. They can also be picked up at Canada Beading on Colonnade Road -- please mention the OOTB beading challenge.
3. At least 1/3 of the bag should be used in your project.
4. Additional beads may be used.
5. Ideally, work should be no larger than 120" (overall measurements). Larger pieces of work are acceptable, but they would not be displayed at Canada Beading (see #9 below). There are no shape or minimum size restrictions.
6. There is no theme imposed.
7. Deadline for submission of finished works is the December 2009 meeting.
8. Canada Beading Supply will offer two twenty-five dollar gift certificates: one for the most creative use of beads (judging will be done by an impartial person with an artistic background) and one for viewers' choice.
9. For those interested, pieces smaller than 120" could be displayed at Canada Beading for one month at the end of the challenge. Meredith Filshie, owner of Canada Beading, will design the display once she has had a chance to see the pieces of work. If you are interested in selling your piece, Canada Beading would put the interested person in touch with you.

### Announcements

#### OOTB December Meeting

Hear ye, hear ye, Edible Contributions to this month's OOTB Festive Social are welcome. Elaine Quehl has generously offered to provide the punch. Please bring a mug for coffee, finger food and cookies or other goodies. Along with your beading challenge piece, please feel free to bring any beaded work that you have done in the past to show and tell. Other non-beaded show and tell items are, of course, also welcome. As always, don't forget to wear your name tag.

### Great News

Submitted by Elaine Quehl

We have received word that Out of the Box has been juried into the City of Ottawa Galleries. We were one of the 35 (out of a total of 114) submissions that were accepted. Our show will run July 2-27, 2010 at the Shenkman Arts Centre, Trinity Art Gallery, Salon A. If you have not visited the new Shenkman Arts Centre, you are in for a treat!! Their new galleries are gorgeous and will show our art at its best. Thank you to everyone who submitted work and congratulations!!

Just a reminder that this show is restricted to members who submitted work by the September 15, 2009 deadline. Space is limited, so the fairest way is to include work by members who submitted for the deadline. We are eligible to make another submission next year. Your OOTB Show Committee is working hard and investigating options for an additional show that all members can participate in. Our new Show Chair is Joanne Batchelor.

Elaine Quehl has also been juried into the City Galleries for a solo show and has been given a time slot at the same time as the Out of the Box show. Her work will appear in Salon B, next to the Out of the Box show in Salon A. All fibre all the time!!! Great to see that the City of Ottawa is so fibre friendly.

### Making Artistic New Year's Resolutions

Submitted by Nancy Garrard

Two years ago I decided to make a commitment to do more fibre art so I challenged myself to make a small art quilt every week of that year as part of my New Year's resolutions. How hard could it be to produce something every week? Well, it turned out to be harder than I thought, but it was a great personal motivator to get working on projects and to try new techniques. But like other resolutions, it was easy to get sidetracked and lapse into old ways. To help motivate me I told my friends about this project and their curiosity about what I was doing helped me to continue all year long.....until I broke my right shoulder at Thanksgiving. In total I complete 46 small art quilts. During that year I know I did lots more fibre art than any other year of my life and I pushed myself artistically even on weeks when I hardly had any inspiration at all. Not every week is the same in terms of time you have available to create and even finding some inspiration for doing anything at all. Pushing through the "uninspiring" time is helpful. I would certainly recommend all OOTB members put one fibre art resolution on their list for 2010 and see how you grow creatively throughout the year. Perhaps we

could do a mid year review at our June meeting to see how things are progressing! Happy New Year.

### Artist in the Spotlight: Beverley Hastings

OOTB Member Profile by Liane Thiry-Smith



Something sparkly catches my eye as I walk up to Bev's front door. Interspersed among the river rock along the path are little shiny glass pebbles and marbles. This unexpected touch of whimsy is just the first of many delightful discoveries I experienced during my visit to Bev's home.

As I've known her since the mid 1990's, conversation begins easily in the foyer, even before I remove my shoes & coat. It's hard to recall exactly when we first met, but I do remember that we both took our first free-motion embroidery class together at Maple Tree Quilts. (Mary Pal's former quilt shop in the Glebe) I have always been drawn to Bev's use of bright jewel tones and rich visual textures in her work. Over the years we got to know each other better as we were both members of the same doll club and guilds.

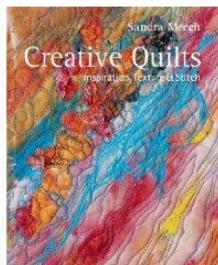
I admire a stained glass piece hanging in her dining room window; I learn that this was her first medium as an artist. Although she enjoyed working with glass for 5-6 years, eventually she found its physical properties limited her creativity. It was then she turned to quilting.

While she's showing me around, I find that we both we both share a love of jigsaw puzzles and gardening. Looking at her work and her home it is easy to see that nature's flora is her primary source of inspiration. I recognize a felted vase she made in a Maggie Glossop's workshop we both took years ago. She mentions she wants to put some branches of bittersweet in it. Not surprising since that bright shade of orange-red is a colour often found in her art.

Bev has also experimented with techniques such as dyeing her own fabrics and dollmaking. Ultimately, it is this experimentation that helped her find her focus and passion in thread play.

We chat about her family. It seems she's passed on her creative energies to her children. Of her four children, three have become artists in their own right. Geoff is an actor; Joy is a pastry chef and Karen is a cabinet maker in high demand. She begins telling me of a recent visit to Karen's woodshop. Karen is using a hand plane to shave and smooth the surface of some walnut. The shavings are beautiful as they curl off the board. Bev is aghast as she learns that her daughter just tosses it all away. So Bev begins gathering them up. Earlier I had asked to see her studio, as this point she leads me down to the basement to her "womb" as she fondly refers to her studio. She pulls out a bag of these wood shavings. I get it. The grain, the textures, they are gorgeous. I can't wait to see what she will do with them.

Next she shows me her current experiment: metal mesh that you can stitch thru on your machine. She has various weights to play with all silvery and shimmery. Once stitched and manipulated, it has a 3-D sculptural quality to it. She was introduced to it in Sandra Meech's book: *Creative Quilts: Inspiration, Texture and Stitch*.



I am struck with how light and airy the space is for a basement studio. It was all part of the plan. Knowing it would be her studio and that she needed to be able to see outside they had a window installed before they moved in. There's much attention to detail in the layout and structure. From the cutting table her husband Jim made her, to the bins and baskets of threads and yarns. I admire her sewing machine cabinet-table. It's like the ones I dream of and seen in quilting magazines and shops. She tells me it was worth the cost. It's a fabulous space for creating.

I've had fun getting to know Bev better. I've also got new inspiration. Maybe you will too.  
I'll wrap up this profile with some fun Q&A.

### **Getting to Know Bev** ☺

**Liane:** How long have you been doing this? When did you start quilting?

**Bev:** "I have always sewn and although I began quilting about 30 years, I only discovered fibre art in the 90's. It's my one regret: I wish I'd found fiber art earlier."

**L:** What brought you to OOTB?

**B:** "How the group was pushing the envelope and taking fibre to the extreme...especially with regards to threads and colour."

**L:** How long have you been a member?

**B:** "Oh...about 7 years."

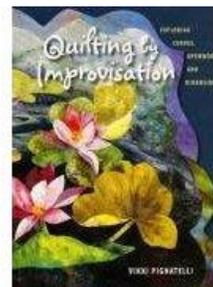
**L:** What do you enjoy most about group?

**B:** "Watching the diversity of media and styles."

**L:** What are you reading right now?

**B:** "I enjoy mystery books, but right now I'm reading Obama's first biography.

Mostly, I like to listen to books on tape while I'm working in the studio. Oh and I currently have Vikki Pignatelli's *Quilting and Improvisation, Exploring Curves, Openwork and Dimension*



from the Ottawa library. Her methods really resonate with me."

**L:** What food do you always have in the fridge?

**B:** "Chocolate! Chocolate & fruit."

**L:** What would surprise others to learn about you?

**B:** "Oh, that I love organ music. Organ music and birds."

**L:** What's your favourite colour?

**B:** "Reds!"

**L:** Your favourite medium?

**B:** "Threads! I love threads and thread play."

**L:** What's the first thing you do when you walk into a quilt shop?

**B:** "Oh, I make a beeline for the batiks and the brightest colours."

**L:** Where are you from originally? Past occupation?

**B:** "Montreal. I was a nurse and taught obstetrical nursing."

**L:** What profession would you most like to try?

**B:** "Something in nature conservation."

**L:** What profession would you least want to try?

**B:** "Ugh...a driving instructor"

L: What's your favourite sound?

B: "My grandchildren's laughter and the voices of my family."

L: What sound do you hate?

B: "High pitched sounds, such as violins. It's why I don't like chamber music and why I love the deep resonant tones of an organ."

L: What would you want to be next lifetime?

B: "Myself. I've been very content this lifetime, even through the hard times."

L: What would you most like to be remembered for?

B: "As someone who gave of herself."

L: Most influential teacher?

B: "Sylvia Naylor...I've taken many classes from her. I still learn something new from her every time."

L: Do you have a photo of one of your early works?



B: One of my early fiber art pieces that I did. I wanted to learn to work with bias so I wouldn't screw it up. So I did this out of Optical Illusions For Quilters by Karen Combs. It was most challenging and worth it. There are numerous different cottons in this piece: tone on tones, batiks, prints, solids, you name it and it went in! It is mostly stitched in the ditch with some free motion quilting and approximately 36"X30".

L: Please show me a more recent piece.



B: This piece is from last year. It was commission, a wedding gift. The couple wanted me to replicate, on some background, a small orange gecko they found on their property. It was really fun to do. The background is a beautiful 100% cotton, with stone accents, and a lot of raw edge work in the grasses and reeds. Free motion quilting and embroidery was used and the gecko is layered rayon and polyester threads and was done separately and then applied to the background. It was mounted on a frame about 18"X24"

### Webwalk

This month OOTB members have submitted these internet links for your perusal and enjoyment:

The 2009 Quilt Visions Show '*Interpretations*' is on online [here](#). OOTB member Mary Pal's quilt 'Juicy Gossip' was juried into this show.

Art quilter and blogger Debbie Bein has posted a nice review, with photos, of the [SAQA 'Transformations'](#) show at the Guildford Arts Centre in Connecticut. OOTB member Elaine Quehl has a quilt in this show.

For our wearable art enthusiasts here's a link to an interesting online Montreal fashion show in [Fashion Magazine](#).

### Can You Answer This?

This month's question about the memberships' art practice was submitted by Helen Gordon.

### What are your favourite fibre art shows and if you enter shows, how do you find out about the Call for Entry?

My favourite show is usually the most recent one I attended.(grin)....most of the ones I hear about come through fellow members, quilting magazines and facebook group announcements (the truth is out now!)

I am a goal-oriented worker so I often decide to enter a call for entries to get myself doing instead of *thinking* about doing. Unfortunately, due to other priorities, the actual entry rarely happens. The only juried shows I have entered and been accepted into (I think my brain conveniently forgets the rejections – artistic, cellistic, and academic!) have been ones at U of Ottawa and another that was for employees of all the arts organizations in Lincoln Centre, NY. (My submission was the only quilt – at that time traditional bluework embroidery - but at least it was accepted as art!) I find that reading about the calls for entry gets my creativity going...now I just need to get the dissertation done so I

can get back into my studio and try to get some of my sketchbook ideas to come to life!!! (My threats to my husband to apply to art school after the PhD (PhatigueD) still loom...ha ha! Submitted by Joan Harrison

The fibre Quarterly 'aroundtown' Blog lists fibre related shows and events all over Canada. Enter 'Ottawa' in the blog search window and you'll find out that there is currently a show on at the Art Gallery of Ottawa called Fibred Optics, until February 14, 2010. Read about it [here](#). Fibre Arts magazine has a section in the back of each issue called 'Current and Coming' where they announce shows and exhibits all over the world. There is usually something listed for Ontario or Quebec. There is also a section called 'Competitions and Opportunities' which features Calls for Entry.

When I'm travelling I usually check out the [Quilt Museum Google World Map](#) (yes there is such a thing) to see if there are any interesting fibre art museums in the area where I am traveling.

I also subscribe to the Toronto Textile Museums e-dispatch in which they announce whatever exhibits they have on. There are usually good things going on there. I visit about once a year and always find something worthwhile. You can sign up for their newsletter [here](#). Submitted by Jean Gerster

For an updated collection of 'Calls for Entry' visit the OOTB website and check out the [Calls For Entry document](#) in the resources collection in the members only section.

If anyone has a question they want to ask the membership at large, please send it the newsletter team.

## Workshops:

**From Joanne Batchelor**

### ***Printing with Found Objects***

Teacher: Rayna Gillman

Date: April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Time: 9:00 to 4:00

Location: to be determined

Level: All levels

Cost: \$200.00

(2 days)

Course Description: A fresh look at surface design as the starting point for an art quilt. We will stamp and screen print, using textile inks and such materials as freezer paper, newsprint, paper towels, and textured items from around the house or the hardware store. Working experimentally, you will come away with your own unique fabric to use in your work.



### ***Five Easy Pieces***

Teacher: Dena Crain

Date: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Time: 9:00 to 4:00

Location: to be determined

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Cost: \$100.00 (1 day)

**Course Description:** Students are confronted with a design challenge like few others: to make a quilt top from only 5 pieces of fabric. Each piece must remain whole, but not necessarily intact. Borders, bindings, and embellishments are extra; students can do whatever they like with them. Creative cutting, fabric manipulations, and innovative construction techniques join forces with quick thinking and confident action to make one-off originals. Students learn to let accidents happen even as they attempt to control the design's evolution. The creative spirit in each student rises to the surface, and they learn to go with the creative flow – often with amazing results!



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