

## 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.

## 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.**

## Contacts (apologies if any of the following is inaccurate)

PC Convenor	Open	
Convenor	Rotates	
Programs	Frances Taylor Nancy Garrard	<a href="mailto:programs@out-of-the-box.org">programs@out-of-the-box.org</a> <a href="mailto:frances_taylor@sympatico.ca">frances_taylor@sympatico.ca</a> <a href="mailto:ngarrard@crookedstick.com">ngarrard@crookedstick.com</a>
Secretary	Marie Anzai	<a href="mailto:marie@anzai.com">marie@anzai.com</a>
Membership	Elena Keen	<a href="mailto:keen1@sympatico.ca">keen1@sympatico.ca</a>
Treasurer	Diane Bowman	<a href="mailto:yalakomite@hotmail.com">yalakomite@hotmail.com</a>
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Workshops	Joanne Batchelor	<a href="mailto:joanne.batchelor@sympatico.ca">joanne.batchelor@sympatico.ca</a>

**Submission Deadline for the June Newsletter is June 10, 2009.**

## Dates of Meetings with Program Topics

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

2008	Role	
	Show & Tell	Empty
May 18	Wabi Sabi	Fibres, classes, dyeing space. Carol Secord will give a talk on the products in the shop and bring samples - silk ribbon, buffalo yarns and much more. She will also talk about the dye studio and different types or dyes.
June 15	Lianna Van der Bellen	Lianna will speak on "Aspects of Asian Paper Arts and Crafts" and bring her vast knowledge of a wide range of Asian art and techniques to better help fiber artists understand this form of art.
Jul 20	Expanded Show & Tell	See suggestion below about the July Meeting
Aug 17	Joanne Batchelor	Annual garage sale and social at Maki House
Sept 21	Lou Hayden	Costume Design
Oct 19		
Nov 16		
Dec 21		

## 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).

## Words of wisdom: Putting rocks in your shoes

"The greatest enemy for an artist is ease...repeating yourself once you get good at it. To keep things from getting too easy I set obstacles for myself. I call it 'putting rocks in my shoes.' Problem solving is highly overrated. Problem creation is much more interesting. If you want to react personally you have to move away from other people's ideas. You have to back yourself into your own corner where no one else's solutions apply and ask yourself to behave as an individual."

Chuck Close, American painter

[\[Wikipedia\]](#) [\[Gallery\]](#) [\[Tapestries\]](#)

**2009-2010 Program Update:**

Here are the results of the survey of members for the July meeting and on next year's program. We received 13 responses.

*July meeting:* There was overwhelming support for an expanded show and tell for the July meeting, but there were also some other good suggestion:

- One member has volunteered to do a short demonstration -- would anyone else like to volunteer?
- Would anyone like to discuss one or more favourite techniques from a book or article you've read or from a workshop you've attended? Examples of how the techniques have been used or a possible short demo would be especially interesting.
- Does anyone have a UFO they'd like some help on?
- Would anyone be interested in discussing useful tools or sources of materials you've discovered?

If anyone is willing to do any of the above, or anything else that you think others would be interested in knowing about, please send Frances Taylor an e-mail at [mailto:frances\\_taylor@sympatico.ca](mailto:frances_taylor@sympatico.ca). Frances will be coordinating input for the meeting.

*Survey Results:*

**QUESTION #1 - July 2009 meeting**

- 0 Paid speaker
- 11 Expanded Show & Tell
- 1 Other Ideas: share work from workshops
- 3 Demonstrations by members
- 1 in the past, have had people bring books and magazines they had read and which they wanted to share -- it has always been a great meeting
- 1 folks could bring a UFO they are having problems with and receive some help from the group.
- 1 how about a critiquing session? Margaret Dunsmore once volunteered a piece for critiquing practice - maybe we could do 4 or 5?

**QUESTION #2: 2009-2010 program year**

- 2 Uta Riccius
- 1 Pat Lemaire
- 3 Peggy Wilson
- 0 Marianne Leeck
- 3 Beth Garner: **spoke at OVQG April 2009**
- 1 Cathy Breedyk Law
- 4 Pamela Allen

- 7 Sylvia Naylor
- 4 Britt Quinlain
- 6 Karen Jennings

We are currently contacting Sylvia Naylor to see if she'll come to talk to us. Unfortunately, Karen Jennings has returned to university, and is unable to talk to us. Nancy and Frances will be meeting soon to discuss next steps.

**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.

### Book Review:

***The Art of Embroidery*** - inspirational stitches, textures and surfaces  
By Meredith Filshie

This is a sensational book and not just for embroiderers! The first 65 pages cover embroidery basics - threads, fabrics, stitches etc. The rest of the book discusses motifs and surface design. There are fabulous photos of scenes used as inspiration for the art work as well as sections of the finished piece. In many cases there are several photos of the art work and you can see in detail how the artist has accomplished her goal. My favourite is a photo of a compost heap with 11 photos of the finished work. Fantastic use of red and green fabrics, threads and embellishments! It really was an eye opener to see how one could translate something as mundane as a compost heap into something incredibly beautiful. For those interested in colour, design and composition theories, there are hundreds of excellent photographs for you to analyze.

I bought this from <http://www.booksforyou.ca/>  
302 pages  
Francoise Tellier-Loumagne  
Thames and Hudson  
ISBN 978-0-500-28639-5  
Suggested price:\$44.00  
<http://www.thamesandhudson.com>

### Web Walk: *Where to show your fibre art - Calls for Entry*

The following websites list Calls for Entry for fibre artists.

1. Michelle Verbeeck's list of <http://www.michelleverbeeck.com/artcall.htm>  
(Scroll down for the 2009 listings).
2. City of Ottawa – Resources for Artists [http://city.ottawa.on.ca/residents/arts/for\\_artists/index\\_en.html](http://city.ottawa.on.ca/residents/arts/for_artists/index_en.html)
3. Fiber Art Calls for Entry <http://fiberartcalls.blogspot.com/>
4. Quilt Art Calendar <http://www.quiltart.com/wordpress/>
5. SAQA Calls for Entry <http://www.saqa.com/calendar.aspx?region=9>
6. Lyric Kinard's [http://www.lyrickinard.com/where\\_to\\_show.html](http://www.lyrickinard.com/where_to_show.html)

### Workshops:

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

Teacher: Rayna Gillman  
Date: April 8th and 9th, 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.

### Last but not least - Many Thanks to Joanne Batchelor:

Thanks to Joanne Batchelor for organizing OOTB's table at the Quilt Show who continues to do a tremendous amount of work - not only for the Quilt Show, but organizing our workshops and the August garage sale and social. We all need to recognize Joanne's contributions and express our appreciation.



### At the Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild “Festival of Quilts”

by Jean Gerster

Joanne Batchelor organized and hung an exhibit of OOTB members quilts on Mother's day weekend at the Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild Show 'Festival of Quilts.' The OOTB booth was located on the east wall of the RA Center arena facing the art quilt portion of the show. A number of OOTB members also presented their work as artists in residence at the show, including Beth Cameron: Humour in Quilts, Linda Palaisy: Creative

Freedom with Sewing Machine, Elaine Quehl: Quilt Artist, Teacher, Dyer and Liane Thiry-Smith: Wearables, Hangings, Felted items. In addition, Elaine Quehl was interviewed on CBC's 'In Town and Out' with Michael Bhardwaj on Saturday morning May 9. During the interview she provided a context for her quilt art in the traditional work of the previous generations of quilters, spoke about how she came to art quilting, and discussed the personal nature of her work. If you missed the interview you can find it in the 'In Town and Out' Saturday, May 19 CBC archive <http://www.cbc.ca/intownandout/>.

Art quilts appeared to be a highlight of the show for many attendees, at least that is what I was hearing at the OOTB booth on Saturday afternoon. One woman confided, "It was worth the \$8 just to see the quilts in your booth." Below are photos taken at the OOTB exhibit on Saturday.



Liane Thiry-Smith discusses one of her pieces with two quilt show attendees



A visitor studies Mary Pal's piece entitled 'Waiting'



Joan Bechthold and Neera Huckvale volunteer at the OOTB booth