

## 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 normally 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 November Newsletter is November 7, 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).

## Words of Wisdom

"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

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## Planning Committee 2010-2011

PC Convenor	Meredith Filshie & Bev Hastings
Programs	Nancy Garrard, Frances Taylor, Marie Anz & Dorreen Meyer
Secretary	Elissa Wright
Membership	Elena Keen & MaryAnne Toonders
Treasurer	Diane Bowman
Web-coordinator	Pat Hardie / Elissa Wright
Newsletter	Helen Gordon & Heather Dubreuil
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity	Joan Harrison
Shows	Open
Contacts:	<a href="mailto:info@outofthebox.org">info@outofthebox.org</a>

## Planned Program for the Fall and Winter

(Please note correction of date for October meeting.)

**October 18:** Local artist Cathy Breedyk Law will be our guest speaker. Cathy is a very well known fibre artist and a former member of OOTB. She'll talk about her artistic journey since leaving OOTB and she'll have lots of "eye candy" artwork to show us.

**November 15:** Current plans are for an event based on the theme of beads and fibre arts. Members who frequently use beads in their work

will demonstrate the tricks and tips they use and will bring examples of how they use beads in their work.

**December 20:** We will have our usual holiday social event with a more relaxed version of last October's "speed dating" where members can tell each other something about their fibre art, and where new members can get to know their new fibre art colleagues.

**January 17:** Exhibit of your fibre expressions inspired by the challenge of doodling Zen style. Participants in the summer Katazome Workshop will demonstrate work learned from this workshop.

**Feb 21:** Pat Hardie will give a talk on photographing fibre art. Pat is an accomplished photographer as well as a fibre artist and she will try and help all of us improve our photos for shows and competition.

**March 21:**...stay tuned

**April 18:** Sylvia Naylor will come to talk about her work.

### **Challenge/call for creativity:**

Rather than a challenge, this is a call to have some creative fun with "structured" doodling. Doodling Zen style uses the meditative state of mindless doodling to create intuitively while putting our inner critic on hold. The goal is to have fun with the process rather than feel pressured to work in a particular way.

1. Create your own doodle art. (Google the terms Zen doodle, Zen tangle or Zen-dala for ideas on how to start your own structured doodle. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XrpE0vUtP8>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgwUroh4YV0&feature=related>  
Or download the Cloth, Paper, Scissors free ebook on journaling, which features an article on Zentangles (issue Nov-Dec 2009) at <http://www.clothpaperscissors.com/blogs/clothpaperscissors/2010/08/02/download-your-free-ebook.aspx>

2. Use your doodle drawing or a portion of it to inspire your fibre art piece - OR use the idea of structured doodling as a starting point for your artwork.

3. Bring your finished project to the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Membership**

**MaryAnne Toonders** reminds us that September is a time to get back into regular schedules and that includes Out of The Box. Please remember to bring your completed membership and volunteer forms included in the newsletter and your funds. Anyone who has not renewed by October 15 will have their information removed from the website.

Your membership renewal form is included at the end of this newsletter.

### **Website Submissions**

For personal reasons, Pat Hardie has had to relinquish her website duties. Therefore, starting immediately, please send all website submissions to Elissa Wright at [ewright@ripnet.com](mailto:ewright@ripnet.com)

### **Can You Answer This?**

This month's question is "We all have favourite colours for our clothes, and maybe different ones when we decorate our homes, and maybe different ones when we create our art. What is your favourite colour?"

I find my favourite colour changes every couple of years. Right now I love Eggplant...but I'm finding I'm starting to move over to green? - **Wendy Foster**

I think we are naturally drawn to colours that complement our skin and hair. In my teens, I alarmed family and friends by claiming beige and grey as favourites. Never have liked white, but cream does have its charms.

I have blithely passed through several palettes' worth of quilting fabric. My first real quilt, c. 1982, was in the popular colours of the era: peach, cream and green. I then went through the red-blue-and-tan of the folk-art palette, and proceeded directly to the brights, accounting for a large stash of fabrics that no longer appeal to me. The folk art cottons are now often used for surface design, mostly on the reverse side. As for the brights, I imagine that one day, blessed with a granddaughter, I will make some really fun clothes

with neon pinks, oranges and greens, set off with those jazzy accents of black and white polka dots.

These days I am attracted to more complex colours, the ones that are difficult to label. Is it a green or a brown? A violet or a grey? A pink or a beige? I would like to think I have several palettes still left to explore.

- Heather Dubreuil

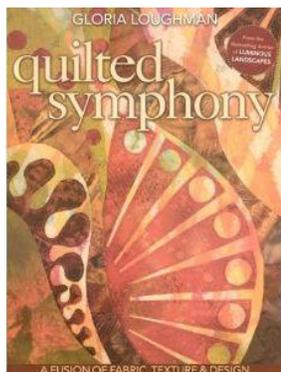
## Book Reviews

### Quilted Symphony

By Gloria Loughman

C&T Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-57120-660-2

Reviewed by Bev Hastings



The subtitle on the cover of this book is A Fusion of Fabric, Texture and Design and since one of my main reasons for being a fabric artist is the idea of combining texture and fabric to create a piece of art, and since design is not my forte, the book intrigued me. Once I received it I realized it was timely for the Zen not-quite-a-challenge!

Gloria Loughman writes well and succinctly and the book is pure eye candy, full of instructional illustrations as well as pictures of her work and that of her students. She starts, as do many authors, exploring the significance of the elements of design but stresses the importance of finding inspiration in everything we see, particularly the common and overlooked. It may be just a section or a small part of a rusted out car, an old plough or formations in the sand but from the picture we can extract the lines then doodle and play till we have a design that satisfies our artistic souls. Her section on colour is a first-rate teaching tool. She is concise and I found the section on triadic (three variations of colours, one colour removed from each other), tetrad (four) and hexad (six) colour schemes fascinating. These colour concepts have provided ideas for increasing the variety of colour in my work.

Once you have the 'doodle' how do you create your masterpiece? She uses the segmental approach to building the piece of art. I would probably make more use of fusible web than Gloria as I am not a fan of turning under wee bits of edges and trying to iron

them! After years of trying, thanks to her directions, I finally found a suitable blind hem stitch for invisible appliqué. Her section on Surface Decoration is full of ideas: cuttings from interesting pieces of patterned fabric, fabric mosaics and mosaic tiles, paint, fancy stitching – drawing with stitching and making use of those stitches on our machine we never use. As I have become interested in experimenting with unusual ways to finish my pieces i.e. borders and binding, her section on this subject was of interest: many useful and artful ways of finishing off a work of art.

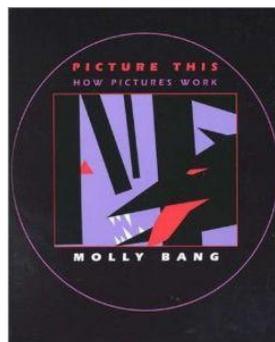
Gloria Loughman has had twenty years experience as a fabric artist and has taught and won many awards around the world. Her book is informally written, informational and inspiring.

### Picture This: How Pictures Work

By Molly Bang

SeaStar Books

Reviewed by Bev Hastings



Picture This, published in 2000, is not a new book, but for those interested in looking at design in an alternate fashion, I think it is worth a read. Many quilt art authors explain the elements of design using line, shape, texture as well as colour and harmony etc. Molly Bang takes a more simplistic

slant and uses shape, size and position. A warning about reading this book: the writer has to suspend any idea of hue, value and tone as the author uses only black and white with the occasional addition of purple and red in her illustrations; even her language is black and white. I found this frustrating at times (at one point she describes the foam produced by ocean waves as "white" and my immediate reaction as an ocean lover was to say, "No, no, it's so many colours!") She does not want hues and tones to get in the way illustratively or literally.

The three sections of the book are divided as follows: Building a Picture, The Principles and Arranging Shapes on a Rectangle. The book is short, the illustrations very graphic and it can easily be digested, with concentration, in an hour's read.

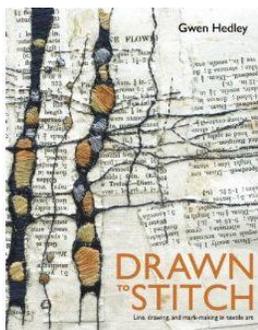
The illustrations are not eye candy but are very explicit to explain her rationale. The written word is terse and straightforward. The blanket statements bothered me but I realized after I had finished the book that I would remember and apply her principles of design and incorporate them along with others I have learned.

Molly Bang is an American professional artist and works mainly in illustrating children's books. The book is available at the Ottawa Public Library.

### Drawn to Stitch

By Gwen Hedley

Reviewed by Nancy Garrard



This book has just been released and has a wealth of ideas and inspiration for fibre artists who are perhaps reticent when it comes to drawing as a preparation for stitch or for other reasons.

Her various exercises are not intended to result in realistic drawings but instead

concentrate on taking sections or areas out of context, so as to focus on the different qualities of line and discover the essence of its character. She covers a wide range of drawing and mark making tools, backgrounds and the various processes to make a line (printing, lifting, removing and resisting colour, exploratory marks, transfer techniques, needle-felted lines and marks, fibrous surfaces and stitching).

What makes this book different from several others in the same genre is her section on interpreting line quality to the stitching. In this section of her book, she explores a wide variety of lines (e.g., crisp and hard, soft and ragged, interrupted and implied, etc.) and she shows the original inspiration, drawing and stitching samples and the final art interpretation so that the reader can appreciate the artistic journey.

It's a great reference and easily kick starts other creative ideas. I think this would be an excellent resource for those of you who love the creative processes of artists such as Sandra Meech and Jean Littlejohn and Jan Beaney. It is mostly targeted to stitching rather than quilting artists. Enjoy.

### Events

**Ottawa Glass Bead Artists'** Third annual show is on Nov 12-13 at the Hellenic Community Centre on Prince of Wales Drive. Here's a link to the website for more info:

<http://www.ottawaglassbeadartists.com> (submitted by Frances Taylor)

There will be an "**Arts and Scraps Flea Market**" on Saturday, October 23 from 1:00-4:00 pm at the Sandy Hill Community Centre, Main Hall, 250 Somerset Street East. Vendors will be selling supplies for artists and crafts persons, with a limited number of finished goods. (submitted by Frances Taylor)

**Helen Gordon** is part of an exhibit at the Stittsville Library October 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> as part of their Fall Artspace Wall.

### Resources

From Cynthia Sanoy, news of an innovative product:

#### Fabric in a Can?

How many times have you heard: "That T-shirt is so tight it looks painted on"? In the near future, thanks to Manel Torres' research, that t-shirt might very well have come from a can. His spray-on cotton fabric, literally fabric in a can, was used to create a number of outfits shown the fashion runway in London this fall. Check out the websites:

<http://www.youtube.com/v/wSZIHqXGz7I>

<http://www.fabricanltd.com>

This stuff looks like it would be fun to play with. Think of the possibilities to our fibre art! If anyone hears of a North American source for the product, please share it with the group!



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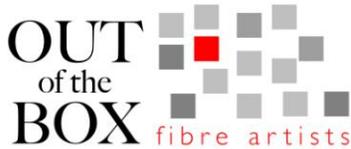
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## 2010-2011 Member Profile Sheet

The annual fee (Sept 1-Aug 31) is \$30.00. Make cheque payable to OOTB.

By mail: Complete this form and send to Mary Anne Toonders, 13 Cheryl Rd., Nepean, ON K2G 0V5. Please enclose a SASE to receive your membership card by return mail.

In person: Complete this form and submit to Mary Anne Toonders, along with cash or cheque, at the August or September meeting.

Questions may be directed to [toonders@gmail.com](mailto:toonders@gmail.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Please initial this box if you consent to having your contact information available to OOTB members on the group website in the members-only area.

Please fill out both attached forms: the Website Information form, indicating if you want to be listed in the "members only" section or the public section of the website, and the "How can I volunteer" form.

Thank you! And welcome to an exciting year at Out of the Box!

## **Website Information**

Your membership fee of **\$30.00** entitles you to a “Member Profile” in the “Members only” section of the OOTB website. In addition, you can purchase a page on the “public” part of the website at an additional cost of **\$20.00 per year**. If you choose this option, either make a separate cheque for this amount payable to OOTB, or one cheque for \$50.00.

The member profile, accessible to members only, will contain your photo (a headshot) and a few words indicating your interests, something like a Yearbook page, allowing members to put a face to a name.

The public page will contain a paragraph or two about the kind of fibre art you like to create, your inspirations, etc., along with email address (and website if you have one) and 2 photos of your current work.

Members Only information: (included in Basic membership fee)

Please submit:

- a photo of yourself (we can crop it for you) or if you don't have a photo, we can take a snapshot of you at the September or October meeting
- 6-7 words or phrases about your interests: e.g. ***hand-dyeing, hand and machine felting***

Public page information (Showcase - available for \$20)

Please submit:

- city you live in
- your email and/or website where potential buyers of your artwork can contact you
- a paragraph or two (written in the first person) about what kind of fibre art you do
- two (2) photos of your current work (please tell me the dimensions, too, HxW in inches).

You can change and update as frequently as you like, even after the site goes live.

Email all this to Elissa Wright at [ewright@ripnet.com](mailto:ewright@ripnet.com)

## How can I volunteer?

Please check any of the following that you would consider doing for our group:

At meetings:

- Do a demonstration: Topic: \_\_\_\_\_
- Organize a hands-on activity on: \_\_\_\_\_
- Help organize a challenge: \_\_\_\_\_
- Preside over show and tell at one meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

For the newsletter:

- Write a book review
- Do a member interview ("Neera" model in May Newsletter
- Shop review
- Exhibition review
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other:

- Help contact stores for member discounts
- Help organize advertising in our newsletters
- Help the show committee organize shows
- Help with the organization of planned workshops
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Let us know your ideas on the suggestions below and add your own ideas:

For the library: What one book would you like the library to have?

1.  **Digital Essentials** by Gloria Hansen
2.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
3.  I am not likely to borrow books from the library.

What one magazine subscription would you like to see?

1.  **Selvedge**
2.  **Textile Forum**
3.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
4.  I am not likely to borrow magazines from the library.

What DVD would be useful?

1.  Quilting Arts techniques series
2.  Other \_\_\_\_\_
3.  I am not likely to borrow DVDs from the library.

For guest speakers: Is there one fantastic speaker you would love to learn from? For example, we held Dena Crain and Rayna Gilman in spring 2010. Think national and international since we could consider developing a program of activities to ease the financial burden.

1.  William Hodge
2.  Steen Hougs/Inge Mardal
3.  Velda Newman
4.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Signature

