

## 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 February 2011 Newsletter is February 11, 2011.

## 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

"Art is the only way to run away without leaving home." - Twyla Tharp

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## Planning Committee 2010-2011

PC Convenor	Meredith Filshie & Bev Hastings
Programs	Nancy Garrard, Frances Taylor, Marie Anzai & 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>

## Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a great holiday and that you are looking forward to a stimulating and creative 2011!

Adrienne Rich, an American poet born in 1929, wrote "The most important thing one woman can do for another is to illuminate and expand her

sense of actual possibilities". We thought this was a timely message as OOTB is all about helping us to grow confidence in our abilities and our art. We feel that for most, if not all of us, it is comforting to know that there is a group of amazing women who care and share, who provide encouragement and inspiration as we expand our horizons.

Grateful thanks are extended to Jean Gerster for organising our submission to the City Galleries and to Marie -France for coordinating efforts at Wabi Sabi. We hope everyone has an amazing creative year!

Bev and Meredith

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

Have you made a New Year's resolution for your development as an artist? Did you make any last year, and if so, were you able to keep them?

*From Elena Keen* - My main resolution, year in and year out is NOT to make any. Sadly, past experience has shown me that resolutions are easily broken, or life interferes and the truth of the saying that "Man proposes and God disposes" is only too true. However, I did set myself a challenge, and it was somewhat before the New Year. I have a number of tops that need quilting and while I do not intend quilting the larger ones myself I decided that this year I will be quilting the smaller ones and in so doing improve my machine quilting skills, especially the free-motion ones. And I already have started on this challenge, the first piece is "almost" finished.

### ***Planned Program for the Fall and Winter***

**January 17:** Exhibit of your fibre expressions inspired by the challenge of doodling Zen style. Participants in the summer 2010 Katazome Workshop will demonstrate work learned from this workshop. **Be sure to bring your Zen doodle piece as well as doodling inspiration to the meeting.**

**February 21:** Pat Hardie will talk on the photography of 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:** Betsy Anfield will talk on critiquing and judging art. Betsy is a classically trained artist. Members who took the recent (October) Sandra

Meech workshop and/or did the November Golden products play date will present on their work inspired from this workshop.

**April 18:** Sylvia Naylor will come to talk about her work and the creative processes that she uses.

**May 16: Learning and Sharing:** Members will demonstrate a variety of techniques and products. Elaine Quehl will show us some of her new dyeing techniques using either soy wax batik of flour paste resists, Bev Hastings will show us new techniques using shiva sticks. Elyssa Wright will share some of her techniques. More details to follow closer to the date of the meeting

**June 20:** Election of new Planning Committee for 2011-12

### ***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 journalling, which features an article on Zentangles (issue Nov-Dec 2009) at <http://www.clothpaperscissors.com/blogs/clothpaperscissorstoday/archive/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.

## ***Beaded Beads Play Date***

**March 21**

Come learn how to make beautiful three-dimensional beads in various shapes using seed and other beads and beading thread. There are very few books or courses on how to make these, so this is a great opportunity to learn this technique. All skill levels are welcome.

Diane Bowman has kindly agreed to lead this play date, and I'm sure you've all seen her absolutely fabulous creations. Diane will be leaving Ottawa this year, so this is just about the last opportunity to benefit from her expertise.

There will be a supply list notice before the workshop date, but feel free to bring any beads and other supplies that you already have. Using appropriate needles and beading thread is important because they make learning the techniques much easier. Arrangements have been made with Dragon's Lair Beads to make any needed supplies available for purchase on the day at the start of play date. If you have no supplies, everything needed for the workshop would start at around \$20 (depending on the quality of beads you purchase). You would be able to make a lot of beads from that investment. If you have any pearls leftover from the beading challenge, it would be a good idea to bring them.

A minimum of 5 people is needed to run the play date with a maximum of 12 participants. So, register early by e-mailing Frances Taylor ([frances\\_taylor@sympatico.ca](mailto:frances_taylor@sympatico.ca)). We will confirm your registration once your workshop fee of \$15.00 is received. Please see Nancy Garrard, Marie Anzai, Doreen Meyer or Diane Bowman with your payment (cheques preferable please, made payable to Out of the Box).

The play date will be held at Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Drive (parking available but not in numbered spaces please).

Don't miss this opportunity to create your own beaded beads. Register now for the Monday, March 21 play date.

## ***Our December Meeting***

(report by Bev Hastings)

We had planned to have a "speed dating meeting" that night but as only a dozen or so members turned out, the program folks, using their creative thinking and formed one circle of chairs. Thus began one of the most interesting and helpful meetings I have attended. I had arrived at the meeting bringing with me that horrible feeling of 'fibre artist's block'. It had been with me for a couple of months and nothing seemed to unstick it. As we sat in our circle each member, in turn, talked about their show and tell. For those like myself who either didn't bring anything (or forgot to!!) we talked about the piece we were presently working on. Subjects ranged from crocheting beautiful twisted scarves (it's amazing how creative some people are with a crochet hook and some wool), transfer painting and embellishing, traditional quilting and a new but simple twist on piecing an innovative quilted background - also beautifully embellished. Exquisite beading was passed around but best of all we had a chance and the time to get up close and personal with the work and discuss methods and design face to face with the artist. As the night wore on I found myself getting excited again - I could feel the creative juices start to flow and they are still flowing. A big thank you to all that were there and shared their ideas and creativity. You gave a very special gift to this member! A bonus gift to us all were fantastic goodies and punch to celebrate the holiday season.

Happy New Year Out of the Box and may 2011 be full of creative ideas and beautiful art.

## ***Upcoming OOTB Workshops:***

**April 18:** a one day design workshop with Sylvia Naylor

**October 17:** Judith Tinkl will be doing a workshop on Additive Colour and Visual Mixing

## Other Workshops

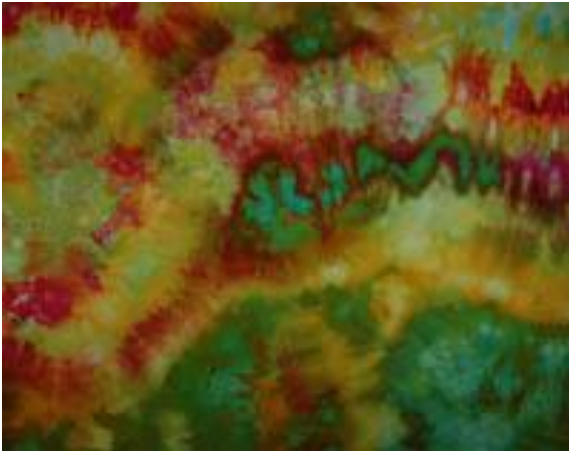
### Hand Dyeing using Snow as a Resist, with Pat Hardie

Dates: Jan 14, 20, 26, Feb 2, 10, 18  
Time: 10:00 - 3:00

One day workshop for a maximum of 6 students in my studio in Merrickville. Absolutely no experience required, just bring your sense of adventure.

\$50 per student. Supply fee to be determined based on individual needs.

For more specific information, please email Pat at [hardie5@sympatico.ca](mailto:hardie5@sympatico.ca)



Frances Taylor sent in an item about two workshops this month:

### Lush Layers: Gels and Mediums, with Andrea Warren of Golden Products

Date: Saturday, Jan 22, 2011  
Time: 10:00 - 4:00

Ever wonder what all those jars full of "white goop" do?

In this full day, intensive workshop, we will be exploring the full range of Golden gels and mediums - learning what each does, and seeing what possibilities they open up for our own work. We will learn techniques for using them such as glazing, pouring smooth surfaces, painting wet-into-wet, and sgraffito. From the iced windowpane look of the Glass Bead Gel, to the waxy, encaustic-like Heavy Gel Matte, discover what gel to use to get the look you're going for.

Come learn and experiment in a relaxed setting, bring your questions, get inspired, and take your work to the next level!

All materials included, with samples to take home.

Details:  
Wallacks Nepean  
3657 Richmond Rd, Stafford Centre  
Nepean, ON  
Contact: Wallacks Nepean (613) 596-1001  
Event Website: <http://www.wallacks.com>  
Fee: \$110.00

### Photo, Print, Paste, Paint: Golden Digital Mixed Media, with Andrea Warren of Golden Products

Date: January 29 -30, 2011

Photography and painting collide!

In this weekend workshop, we will be playing with Golden's Digital Mixed Media grounds and gels, and discovering the exciting new possibilities they offer. Take your photos, drawings, designs and text, and print them on virtually any surface using your home ink jet printer - including tin foil, cloth, acetate, canvas, plexiglass, and acrylic skins. Learn the step by step process for surface preparation, printing, post-printing alterations, layering your image, and protecting your finished piece. Prepare various materials such as tin foil, glass bead skins, and lace for printing, and use



your own images to create two pieces from start to finish, using Golden pastes and gels as underlying layers.

Go home with a ton of new ideas, product samples, step-by-step instruction handouts, a variety of prepared printing surfaces, and a couple of finished works!

All materials provided. No computer skills required! Please bring three images (original photographs, sketches, text, etc), maximum size of 8 x 10

Drinks, snacks and delicious lunch provided by the lovely Cheryl!

Details:  
Earmark Decorative Studio  
3152 Stonecrest Rd  
Dunrobin, ON  
Contact: Cheryl Poulin (613) 832-4099  
Event Website: <http://www.earmark-decorative-painting-studio.com>  
Fee: \$185.00

Andrea, who demonstrated the use of Golden products to our group a few months ago, advises us that she is showing some of her new work at Oz Café, 361 Elgin St., starting Wednesday, January 12th. She writes, "The opening is that evening - would love to have a glass of wine with you all, and share what I've been working on!"

Finally, she notes that she is offering private lessons. For further information, e-mail Andrea at [andrea\\_e\\_warren@hotmail.com](mailto:andrea_e_warren@hotmail.com)

## Great news!

Quilting Arts Magazine has published a four-page spread of the work of Mary Pal in their 10th Anniversary edition (Dec/Jan 2011). Congratulations Mary!

The SAQA Journal of Fall 2010 has a two-page article written by Mary Pal, called "Art Imitating Art", describing the experience of making a collaborative art quilt. Several of our members were involved in the project.

## Events

(Marie-France submitted this item about an event at Carleton University.)

### Four Ottawa Painters: Authier, Golland, Morrow, Schissel

Curated by Sandra Dyck

22 November 2010 – 30 January 2011

**Four Ottawa Painters: Panel discussion with James D. Campbell, Sunday, 23 January 2011, 2:00 p.m.**

Four Ottawa Painters takes the pulse of regional painting activity, presenting the work of ambitious young artists who are already garnering acclaim in Canada and internationally. The exhibition offers a unique snapshot of one aspect of the city's artistic scene, featuring paintings made exclusively in 2010 and not yet seen here. It reflects and is shaped by significant developments in the city's cultural profile, in particular the University of Ottawa's recent establishment of a Master of Fine Arts degree program (Martin Golland is a professor there, while Amy Schissel and Andrew Morrow are recent MFA graduates). More broadly, Four Ottawa Painters signals a revived interest in contemporary painting, here and abroad.

Melanie Authier is committed to total abstraction: her canvases manifest an intense push-pull between opposing forces of the artificial and the real, chaos and control, the sublime and the ordinary. Martin Golland takes the urban setting as his starting point, distorting real-world sources into imaginary spaces where entropy and enigma are the order of the day. In her densely-layered works, Amy Schissel appropriates dots, pixels, clusters, loops, and linear sequences from networked computing environments, pushing the language of abstraction to encompass contemporary understandings of space. Andrew Morrow's work is rooted in the past but focused on the present. He revisits the conventions of historic pastoral painting, using graphic sexual imagery to disturb and transform its idealized landscapes while raising questions about contemporary attitudes to sexuality, masculinity, and gender.

## Challenges

(submitted by Doreen Meyer)

### Quilty Pleasures Challenge for Peace by Piece

As part of the upcoming Peace by Piece quilt show (St Andrew's United Church, Rockland, October 15 & 16, 2011), Quilty Pleasures in Orleans has issued a challenge: Make a quilt based on the theme of "Peace" and win a \$100 gift card from Quilty Pleasures!

The rules are simple:

1. The quilt may be any shape, but the size is restricted to 24" per side.
2. You may use any method, any fabrics, and any embellishments you desire.
3. The deadline for submission is September 15, 2011. Quilts will hang in the store for a month prior to the quilt show and the winner will be determined by viewers' choice ballots. All submitted quilts will then be displayed at the Peace by Piece quilt show.
4. Full details will be made available at the QP web site (<http://www.quiltypleasures.ca/>).

## Resources

Marie-France advises us that Out of the Box Members will get 10 % discount at Wabi Sabi. They must ask for it and identify themselves as OOTB members.

## Humour

An amusing article from the Globe & Mail, with which some of us can identify only too well!

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/quilting-has-taken-over-my-family/article1859110/>



### Expression of Interest: Preston Street Grape Harvest Festival

The organizers of the Grape Harvest Festival on Preston St, which takes place in late September, are adding an art component to their event this year. As such, they are looking for artists who are interested in exhibiting and selling their work along Preston St during the Festival. To add to the atmosphere of the event, artists would be asked to work on a piece outdoors on Preston while the festival is going on - it could even be a plein air piece based on the Festival itself.

Registration for the event can be expected to be in the spring of 2011, but for now the organizers are trying to gauge how much artist participation they can expect in the event. If this sounds like something you would be interested in or have ideas or suggestion to recommend, please contact Malcolm Cowell at [mscowell@rogers.com](mailto:mscowell@rogers.com) by January 26 2011.

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