

## 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 April 2011 Newsletter is April 10, 2011 at 5:00 pm.

## 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

"Color is my day-long obsession, joy and torment." - Claude Monet

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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>

## Can You Answer This?

from Carol Howard Donati -

My question to all the experienced artists in our group:

At what point did you start participating in shows or events? How did you get started? How many shows or events (juried, non – juried, group, solo) do you participate in now each year? What do you gain from participating?

No one answered this question. Perhaps none of us thinks of ourselves as experienced artists?

## ***Planned Program for the Spring***

Special thanks to Pat Hardie for her excellent presentation on photography at the February meeting.

**March 21** - Betsy Anfield is our guest speaker. She is a colourist, classically trained in the European style, who will expound on knowing the rules of art and who makes up those rules. She is interested in making people feel more confident in their abilities to judge art. She will have questions for members to answer for themselves when assessing/critiquing their own art. Come and join us for this talk.

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. If you attended one or both of these workshops, please consider bringing some "show and tell" to share with the whole group.

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

**May 16 - Learning and Sharing:** Several OOTB members have come forward to share their techniques. Shiva sticks, ink, dyes and resists will be explored, shown and demonstrated. It will be an exciting night to see what our dynamic members are doing.

**June 20** – William Hodge will talk about his artwork. Election of new Planning Committee for 2011-12

## ***OOTB Workshops***

### **March 21 - Beaded Beads Play Date**

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. Workshop fee of \$15.00. Please contact Frances Taylor to sign up for this learning opportunity.

### **April 18 - Picture a House**

One day design workshop with Sylvia Naylor. In order to free the creative spirit the class will begin by creating some designs of houses using torn papers. Topics to be covered include the use of colour and design. Workshop fee is \$90. 9:30am -3:30pm. Please contact Nancy Garrard if interested in attending.

### **June 20, 21 - Workshops by William Hodge**

#### **Monday, June 20: Colour for creative people**

Colour surrounds us and affects every aspect of our lives. This workshop is for those who want to work more effectively with colour in their creative pieces. Specific exercises to facilitate better use of colour will be worked on as well as practical suggestions on how to improve your use of colour (bring examples of your less successful use of colour for discussion and suggestions on what could have been a more successful choice).

#### **Tuesday, June 21: Design symmetries – the keys to pattern – explorations**

This hands-on workshop will explore the use of symmetry concepts for fibre arts. Techniques of design development will be explored on paper using cut and paste, colouring, sketching and other devices. We will also look at the use of contemporary technology to develop original designs for visual work.

Estimated workshop costs -\$90/day. Please contact Doreen Meyer if interested in attending.

### **October 17 - Judith Tinkl**

Judith will be doing a workshop on **Additive Colour and Visual Mixing**. Watch upcoming newsletters and notices for further information.

## ***Other Workshops***

### **Photo, Print, Paste, Paint: Golden Digital Mixed Media**

with Andrea Warren  
March 19, 20, 10:00 - 4:00

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 several 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 several finished works!

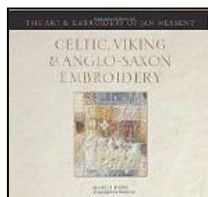
All materials provided. No computer skills required! Please bring several images to be scanned (original photographs, sketches, text, etc), maximum size of 8 x 10

Details:

Wallacks Nepean  
3657 Richmond Rd  
Stafford Centre  
Nepean, ON  
Contact: Wallacks Nepean (613) 596-1001  
Event Website: <http://www.wallacks.com>  
Fee: \$175.00

**Book Reviews**

**Celtic, Viking and Anglo-Saxon Embroidery – The Art and Embroidery of Jan Messent**



By Jan Messent, Search Press, 2010  
Reviewed by Nancy Garrard

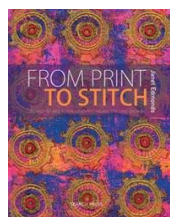
This book is available from the Ottawa library and has been ordered for the OOTB library. Jan Messent is well-known and respected in the embroidery world and her latest book is another wonderful resource for all stitchers. She combines contemporary renditions of ancient embroideries with a wealth of historical facts. She has created several mixed media fibre books to demonstrate the textiles and stitches of the Celtic, Viking and Anglo-Saxon women.

The book provides a wealth of information about early embroidery but Jan Messent makes stitching very much

alive by how she has shared her research with us – using her unique multi-media books with wonderful samples, heaps of documentation and sharing the history of the various influences on contemporary British embroidery. The photographs are simply luscious and she provides clear explanations on the origins of stitch and how she has interpreted these for contemporary fibres and techniques. Her stitching of “fragments” of garments based on historical research is very exciting and brings alive this period of history.

Whether or not you are a hand stitcher, this book is certainly worth a look not only to appreciate the long history of stitching and textiles but also to experience the excitement of old textile techniques re-created for today’s textile artists.

**From Print to Stitch**



By Janet Edmonds, Search Press, 2010,  
ISBN 978-1-84448-459-1

Reviewed by Susan Lilley

The subtitle of this book: Tips and Techniques for Hand-Printing and Stitching on Fabric, says it all. If you love making gorgeous fabrics, this book is for you! It’s a beautiful book filled with stunning images that are both instructive and inspiring. The techniques are simple enough for beginners, with sufficient depth of content to interest experienced fibre artists. It’s a book you’ll turn to often.

From Print to Stitch is divided into three sections, an introductory section that focuses on materials, design and colour, a section on printing, and a final section on embellishing printed cloth with stitch.

In the introductory section, I particularly enjoyed the design content. Rather than reviewing design principles, Janet works through five different design themes, showing the original inspiration and how she used it to produce a variety of printed and stitched fabrics.

The print section is great! Four techniques are featured: block printing, lino, monoprinting and printing with found objects. Several richly-illustrated pages explore each method in considerable depth. The instructions are clear and the techniques are simple,

mostly using items you already have at hand. Lots of ideas for a play day or three!

The final section, Stitching, brings it all together. The author shows how printed pieces can be transformed into vibrant textiles that can be enjoyed as art pieces or incorporated into other projects. Both hand and machine stitching are covered, with considerable detail about how to use hand stitching in a more painterly way. My favourite section is the extensive gallery of hand stitches. Lots of inspiration there!

Janet Edmunds is an embroiderer and teacher of embroidery from the UK. Her particular interest is in three-dimensional and sculptural embroidery. As she takes us from an initial inspiration to the development of a theme, the making of a print block, the printing of the design, and then on to the stitchery, Janet's love of print and colour shines through. This book is a must-have for the OOTB library.

## Events

### Fold/Unfold Exhibition

From March 14 to April 29, the Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles (MCCT) presents in its gallery the Fold/Unfold exhibition. This group exhibition will unveil to the public artworks by Philippa BROCK (UK) - Tine DE RUYSSER (UK) - Sarah KELLY (UK) - Stephanie LAU (Canada) - Elisabeth LECOURT (UK) Eun - Kyung SUH (USA). The opening will take place on April 6 from 5 to 7 pm. This presentation is part of the "April is Textile Month" event.

For more information, go to the website [www.textiles-mtl.com](http://www.textiles-mtl.com)

### Diagonale: Centre des Arts et des Fibres du Québec

Nineteen students of the textiles program at Concordia University participate in an annual juried show at Diagonale, March 12 - 26. 5455 rue de Gaspé, suite 203, Montreal. Hours Wednesday - Saturday, noon - 5 514-524-6645. [www.artdiagonale.org](http://www.artdiagonale.org)

### Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild Show

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>

We have been given space by OVQG once again to have a showing of OOTB fibre art. So raid your stash, heck even buy some new fabric so we can have a fabulous show depicting the various talents of our members. There is no restriction on the type of media used. *Liane Thiery-Smith* is convening the show and will let the membership know by the beginning of April

when and where pieces of art for the show are to be submitted. Let's make this a great show! From *Bev Hastings*.

## Profile

Meet Elaine Quehl  
By Meredith Filshie



Most OOTB members will know Elaine because of her dramatic depictions of hostas, trees and flowers made even more stunning by her wonderful hand dyed cottons. My first memory of Elaine was when she showed a stunning sun flower art quilt during show and tell at one of my first OOTB meetings. I was speechless with awe! The colour and drama were inspirational. Having had very

demanding instructors when I was learning haute couture techniques for clothing, I was impressed with Elaine's execution.

So the question is how did she get there?

Elaine's grandmother and great grandmother were both excellent quilters and she was surrounded by quilts when she was growing up. Her mother was an excellent hand quilter participating in quilting bees, making charity quilts, but Elaine describes her mother as a frustrated sewer who did not provide much encouragement when Elaine was learning to sew in grade school home economics programs. In 1996, Elaine's mother developed Alzheimer's and to cope with the grief of that, Elaine took a quilting class and became hooked. She felt that doing something that her mother had done was a way of connecting with her Mom and then was surprised at the feeling of calm it brought. She gave up aerobics and her Master's thesis to devote all her available time to quilting!

For a number of years, she made traditional quilts but would always change something. When she saw her first exhibition of art quilts, probably at an Ontario Juried Quilt Show in 2000, she was smitten and has not looked back. Shortly after seeing that exhibition, she had the opportunity to take a workshop with *Esterita Austin*. This was a pivotal point in the evolution of Elaine's approach to her art. Esterita Austin encourages the use of exaggerated value contrasts, seeing them as critical to achieving dramatic end results and Elaine loves drama. *Katie*

*Pasquini-Masopust* was another who inspired Elaine as she switched from traditional to art quilts.

Elaine also started dyeing fabric in 2002 because she liked the rich colours and the surprise effects obtained with hand dyes. *Hillary Perrott*, a former OOTB member now living in BC, gave a talk at OOTB one night on fabric dyeing so Elaine started experimenting. She liked the results so much she kept on doing more and more and lucky for us, she decided that she had to sell some! She mostly uses a high thread count cotton lawn but has added silk/rayon velvet, silk dupioni, cheese cloth, and silk organza. If you have not seen her "Textile Temptations" packages with fat quarters of each fabric done in the same dye bath, you are in for a treat!

In 2003, Elaine began teaching free motion stitching. Stippling classes were available locally at that time but one would have to go to very large quilt shows for workshops on more advanced free motion techniques. Her advice here is that lots of doodling and practice are the key factors to success. You have to put in the time on both to get good results!



Because Elaine is inspired by the drama in nature - size, high intensity contrasts, light and shadow, curves, movement, she has developed a keen interest in photography. She bought her first SLR camera in 2006 and always has it with her when she travels. It can take hundreds of photos before something resonates with her. Usually she feels that she takes her most creative photos when in new environments and also finds herself most creative when in new environments

because one takes more notice of things. Since recognizing this, Elaine makes an effort on a regular basis to go to new places, be it locally or some distance away. During an early spring visit to PEI, for instance, she noticed hostas unfurling. Most of us will have seen the amazing results of that! If you haven't seen any of her hosta pieces, check Elaine's web site. Some of these pieces have had international attention.

Elaine does not consider herself creative, having grown up with a sister who excelled in creative endeavours, so she has worked hard to build up her creative skills. She has a wealth of books and taken a number of courses

on everything related to art quilts: techniques, elements of design, colour theory, fabric dyeing, drawing, painting etc. She likes to visit art galleries when she can, reads a lot of art magazines and turns to nature for inspiration. Last year, she attended a workshop with *Eric Maisel* on creativity and is currently taking his introductory creativity coaching class. She is not convinced that she will become a certified coach but felt it would be useful in helping both herself and her students move forward.



When Elaine became frustrated with the regular 9-5 work in her last job, she decided to take some time off before looking for another. Things went so well with her teaching and her hand dyes, however, that she just kept on that path. Not having a day job allowed her to take more bookings and to market more

aggressively. In 2011, she already has 56 teaching days scheduled. In addition there will be travel time and preparation time. Even when the classes are repeats, there is still prep work to do. Teaching income is supplemented by sales of her hand dyes and some sales/commissions of her art quilts. She laughs when she talks about her career - she loves it and hopes that she never has to be in the 9-5 world again and feels so lucky. BUT when she had her day job, she had so many creative ideas and little time to execute them and now she still does not have much time either because she has all the details of "running her business" to manage.

Elaine will be featured in the July issue of *Machine Quilting Unlimited* in the regular feature "in the Art Studio". In 2012, *Martha Sielman's* book entitled *Art Quilt Portfolio - the Natural World* will have one section devoted to Elaine's work. Several of her pieces have been exhibited internationally. If you Google "Elaine Queh!" you will get to her website to see more pictures of her wonderful art quilts and read about some of the things that Elaine does "earning her living".

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