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Words of Wisdom

To an engineer, good enough means perfect. With an artist, there's no such thing as perfect. - Alexander Calder

2013 Programs/Workshops:

July 15, Member drop-in night.

August 19, Presentation by rug hooker Loretta Moore, plus finalizing OOTB plans for September Fibre Fest in Almonte.

September 16, 7:15pm – Trunk show by fibre artist Maggie Vanderweit (www.stonethreads.ca).

September 17, 10:00am-4:00pm – TEXTILE COLLAGE WORKSHOP with Maggie Vanderweit.

October 21, 7:15pm – Trunk show by thread painter Judi Miller.

November, OOTB members' show at Library in Stittsville.

November 18, 7:15pm – TBA

December 16, 7:15 – How do you promote your work? Member Show and Tell of cards (greeting, business, etc.) and promotional materials.

2014:

February 28, Due date for 12x12 Colour Wheel Challenge, year 2 (turquoise, sun yellow or black and white with choice colour)

Don't forget to register for Textile Collage workshop

Not to be missed, it's OOTB's upcoming September 17 workshop with Guelph fibre artist Maggie Vanderweit. Register at the upcoming OOTB meeting or contact Program/Workshop Committee members Doreen Meyer (dmeyer97@yahoo.com or phone 613 446-4516) or Marie Anzai (marie@anzai.com).

Maggie works with many different materials and techniques, from intuitive abstract painting and depictions of political and personal events to traditional quilting. For a look at this exciting textile artist and her art, go online to www.stonethreads.ca/index.asp and click on the youtube video link now up on Maggie's front page. The video is about Maggie's recent work with "distressed canvas" artwork.

Says Maggie of her Textile Collage workshop: "In this relaxing, open-ended and fun class you will explore ways to prepare a completely original "distressed canvas" as a ground, then create, stencil, stamp, glue and layer with all kinds of paints, ink, paper, medium and gesso onto the canvas. You will be able to complete several unique and exciting wall hangings. Try to think of stories you wish to tell with your art. We will share sewing machines. Appropriate for students of all levels."

With 30 years of experience in quilting and exploring textile art and teaching across the country, Maggie's workshop is one you won't want to miss.

The Textile Collage one-day workshop is on Tuesday, September 17 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Kitchissippi United Church Hall, Island Park Drive, in Ottawa. Workshop cost is now \$110 for members or non-members. To register, contact Doreen Meyer (dmeyer97@yahoo.com) or Marie Anzai (marie@anzai.com).

Show Up!! or Lessons learned the hard way by Elaine Quehl

Many thanks to member Elaine Quehl who shared her personal insights on her fibre artist journey with OOTBers at the June meeting.

Elaine, who has studied with Creativity guru Eric Maisel, had a lot of great advice to pass along, including dealing

with those negative inner voices that keep us from doing the work we want to do: "We are all too attached to the outcome. We all want to skip the work that doesn't work." Or, as she says Maisel would put it, that we've "only failed to choose and commit."

She talked about self-defining terms, such as quilt artist, and how what we call ourselves can sometimes limit how people outside the art quilt field see the work. "I've come to dread the question 'what do you do for a living?' They're off. They start to talk about grandma's quilts," she says of the struggle for wider public appreciation of the artistry that goes into quilt art.

Elaine's most important comments were reserved for the importance of knowing and understanding design. "Art is a visual language where communication occurs through visual symbols rather than words... Design principles are the rules of grammar for this visual language." Elaine says that she sometimes uses "direct and intuitive free-hand cutting" while other times she works "according to plan" from a pattern she creates. On developing a process, she says, there is "no right or wrong way to design... Whatever makes you happy or whatever gives you the effect you are looking for."

For more about Elaine and her work, be sure to check her website: <http://www.equarelle.ca/> and you can read about her continuing artistic journey on her blog.

Pieces inspired by the first line from a book.

This will be the show for the Stittsville Library for November, 2013.

One site for ideas is the '100 best first lines from novels' at <http://americanbookreview.org/100bestlines.asp> If none of these appeals, then use your own books. The show will be hung on November 1 and taken down on November 30, 2013.

Number: maximum of two per member. One piece from each member will be exhibited with additional entries displayed if space permits.

Size: no side longer than 24". Smaller pieces and three-dimensional pieces are welcome and encouraged. There is a locked glass display case.

Deadlines: information and photo due by October 18, 2013. Send to Rita. I will again be doing cards to display with the art. Photo needs to show color, shape and materials. Piece does not necessarily have to be finished in the photo. Please send as jpg.

Finished art work due by October 21, 2013 at the meeting or to Canada Beading Supply, 210 Colonnade Rd, Unit 12B by October 25, 2013

Please include the following information for each entry and send to ritarottman@sympatico.ca

Title-

Maker-

Size-(if framed, frame size)

Inspiration (50 words or less)- include the title of the book and the author.

Techniques and materials used-

Are photos allowed during the show-

How is piece displayed (rods, hangers, frame, shelf).

Include any special props with your piece.

Label your bag and packaging materials. Make sure that your name and phone number are on your art work.

OOTB contacts for the show are: Rita Rottman (ritarottman@sympatico.ca) and Meredith Filshie (mfilshie@rogers.com)

OOTB library news

New books for July

At the meeting in June, 74 items went out on loan from the OOTB library. That is the highest number of loans ever and almost a whole box that I did not carry home. Each time that new books are added to the library, the number of borrowed items increases and since we have money in the bank, the planning committee approved additional expenditures for the library. The following list plus several donations is the result. Remember that if you want one of the books, all you have to do is call (613-723-7404) or email ritarottman@sympatico.ca and the book will be waiting for you at the meeting on Monday. OOTB has also subscribed to *Fiber Art Now* but the first issue has not yet arrived. As soon as it does, it too will be available for loan.

- Albers, Josef. Interaction of Color: 50th anniversary edition.

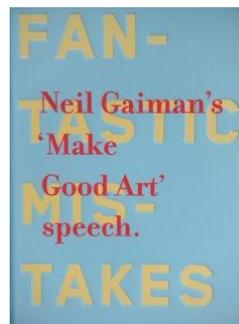
- Ash, Bethan. Vibrant quilt collage: a spontaneous approach to fused art quilts.
- Barton, Elizabeth. Inspired to design: seven steps to successful art quilts.
- Beal, Margaret. Fusing fabric: creative cutting, bonding and mark-making with the soldering iron.
- Beaney, Jan & Jean Littlejohn. Colour explorations. Book 15.
- Beaney, Jan & Jean Littlejohn. Over the line: couching rediscovered. Book 16.
- Beaney, Jan & Jean Littlejohn. Stitchscapes.
- Blake, Kathy & Bill Milne. Making & decorating your own paper: innovative techniques & original projects.
- Cartwright, Angela. Mixed emulsions: altered art techniques for photographic imagery.
- Chambers, Anne. Marbling on fabric: soft swirling effects on silk, satin and cotton.
- Crafters Network Resource Book, issue 14.
- Doran, Diane Rusin. Digital Collage for Quilt design from start to finish. DVD
- Hearder, Valerie. Points of View: landscape quilts to stitch and embellish.
- James, Michael. The Quiltmaker's handbook.
- James, Michael. The second Quiltmaker's handbook.
- Jinzenji, Yoshiko. Quilt artistry: inspired designs from the East.
- Kahn, Sherrill. Mixed –Media master class: 50+ surface-design techniques for fabric & paper.
- Kazmer, Susan Lenart. Making Connections: a handbook of cold joins for jewelers and mixed-media artists.
- Leland, Nita. Confident color: an artist's guide to harmony, contrast and unity.
- Littlejohn, Jean. Voluptuous velvet. Book 2.
- McCaffery, Bonnie Lyn. Fantasy fabrics: techniques for layered surface design.
- McDowell, Ruth B. Art & inspiration.
- Mitchell, Dakota. Finding your visual voice: a painter's guide to developing an artistic style.
- Montano, Judith Baker. Free-form embroidery: transforming traditional stitches into fiber art.
- Shinn, Carol. Freestyle machine embroidery: techniques and inspiration for fiber art.
- Sielman, Martha. Art Quilt portfolio: people & portraits.
- Singer, Ruth. Fabric manipulation: 150 creative sewing techniques.
- Smith, Sheila. Felt to stitch.

- Spiegel, Virginia A. Wild at the Edges: inspiration from a creative life.
- Synge, Lanto. Antique Needlework.
- Thittichai, Kim. Experimental textiles: a journey through design, interpretation and inspiration.
- Thittichai, Kim. Layered textiles: new surfaces with heat tools, machine and hand stitch.
- Wells, Jean. Intuitive color & design: adventures in art quilting.
- Wolfrom, Joen. Color play: easy steps to imaginative color in quilts.
- Wolfrom, Joen. Visual coloring: a foolproof approach to color-rich quilts.
- Zieman, Nancy & Natalie Sewell. Landscape Quilts: create stunning fabric paintings.

Book Reviews

Make Good Art

Book review by Doreen Meyer



It's a small book, artfully laid out by New York graphic designer and writer Chip Kidd. Neil Gaiman's 'Make Good Art' speech, is the best selling author's commencement address at Philadelphia's University of the Arts in May 2012.

In it, Gaiman, the author of *Star Dust* and *Coraline*, passes along some wonderful wisdom: "People who know what they are doing, know the rules, and know what is possible and impossible... If you don't know it's impossible, it's easier to do."

Some of Gaiman's own rules:

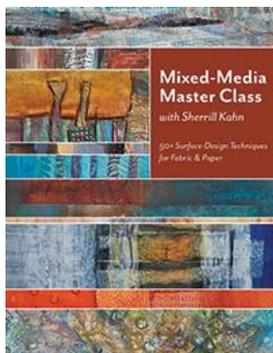
- On work and money: "...nothing I did where the only reason for doing it was the money was ever worth it... If I did the work I was proud of, and I didn't get the money, at least I'd have the work."
- On mistakes: "If you're making mistakes, it means you're out there doing something.... I once misspelled Caroline in a letter, transposing the A and the O, and I thought, "Coraline looks like a real name..."
- On making art: "whatever you do, you have one thing that's unique. You have the ability to make art... The ultimate lifesaver. It gets you through

good times and it gets you through the other ones."

Maybe it's because I like Neil Gaiman's writing, maybe it's because the book has such a funky layout, or maybe it's just his wonderful way of saying 'make good art', I really like this little book and highly recommend it.

Mixed-Media Master Class

with Sherrill Kahn: 50+ Surface-Design Techniques for Fabric & Paper- Sherrill Kahn author
ISBN 978-1-60705-423-8(soft cover) C&T Publishing



The Good: This book delivers exactly what it promises namely lots of divergent techniques for working with fabric and paper with lists of materials and a super helpful – “To-Do”, step-by-step photos of every stage of that particular technique. For those artists with more experience on the fibre side of the art world, this book will lessen the learning

curve and “angst” when dealing with unfamiliar art materials and approaches. For those more in the know about art materials this book will link some familiar techniques with uses in fabric rather than just on paper or canvas.

The Caution: Technique, technique and more techniques. Is that the goal or is there more to a piece of fabric art that the technique used to make it? What you do after mastering any one particular technique doesn't appear to be addressed in this book...perhaps in the next book?

Is it worth the Read? **** Stars. Since I am primarily a visual learner this book appeals to me on three levels:

- i) there is a ratio of about 40%-60%- text-to-photos which makes learning any particular technique pretty easy to understand and,
- ii) this is a book which can be picked up at any page and set aside for another time. One does not have to read it sequentially which makes it well suited to a hectic life.
- iii) This book covers a tonne of techniques! There is just about every type, kind and procedure known to man or woman that is given coverage in this book.

However; if you want a pithy discussion on what you do after mastering the techniques or how one scales up the majority of the techniques, that is not in this book.

Am I glad to have had the opportunity to read this book? You bet. I think you will find something exciting and maybe even significant in the 143 pages.

Garrie Bea Joyce, July 4, 2013

Twist Festival

Wabi Sabi is organizing a bus to go to the Twist Festival on August 24, 2013. check the website Wabi Sabi for details and the Twist Festival for details of workshops.

<http://wabi-sabi.ca>

<http://www.festivaltwist.org/en/>

The bus will also be able to bring people to the vernissage of

Michèle Provost's
exhibit at

Centre d'action culturelle de la MRC de Papineau
Saint-André-Avellin (Québec)

Vernissage on Saturday, August 24 from 2 to 4pm

Colour Matching Apps



myPantone

Check out the following myPantone (\$9.99 for iPhone, \$7.99 for android) and Swatchmatic (free for android, not available for iPhone)



Swatchmatic

Canada Beading Supply just downloaded an interesting app for their smart phones. The myPantone app can help you with complimentary, and contrast colours for your designs. Just take a snap shot of your beads and it will tell you what colours work well with them (App store charges do apply). If you are looking for a free app Swatchmatic is available for Android phones and you can hover over your beads or threads and it will show you matching colours.

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 August 2013 Newsletter is August 8th 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).

Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sally Rutherford & Nancy Garrard
Programs	Marie Anzai, Doreen Meyer, Wendo Van Essen
Secretary	Meredith Filshie
Membership	MaryAnne Toonders

Treasurer	Sandy Goldsmith
Web-coordinator	Sandy Goldsmith
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity/Marketing	Rebecca Dufton
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