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Words of Wisdom

Art is everywhere, except it has to pass through a creative mind.

-- Louise Nevelson

2013 Programs/Workshops:

August 19, 7:15pm – 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, 7:15pm – Due date for 12x12 Colour Wheel Challenge, year 2 (turquoise, sun yellow or black and white with choice colour)

Still a few spots open for Textile Collage workshop

There are still a few places open in OOTB's upcoming September 17 workshop with Guelph fibre artist Maggie Vanderweit. To register, contact Program/Workshop

Committee members Doreen Meyer
(dmeyer97@yahoo.com or phone 613 446-4516) or
Marie Anzai (marie@anzai.com).

Worth seeing

If you haven't already seen it, don't miss the Studio Art Quilt Associates exhibit at the Ben Franklin Place Atrium Gallery at 101 Centrepointhe Drive. Sixteen Canadian SAQA members' work is featured in the dynamically diverse travelling show, among them are artworks by several OOTB members. The show is on until August 21.

Worth watching

If you have the HIFI channel, be sure to catch the 30-minute Art in Progress show. Leading North American artists and their work is profiled in each segment, often focussing on the artist's preparation for a show. Some of the highlights that I've enjoyed from the shows I've watched so far are:

Deborah Kass: "Artists look at art history, previous generation's history, and make it their own appropriation." Kass's featured work uses Warhol's style as a take-off to explore her own identity.

Damian Elwes, whose paintings recreate Picasso's studio in Cannes, France. Learned from Picasso: "Look at your work in a mirror ... see what is working or not."

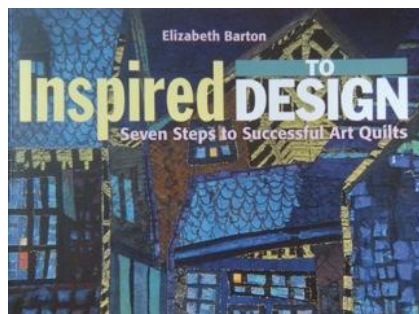
Donald Sultan: "Art is the process by which a person takes an inanimate object and transfers ideas and spirit into it and then back to the person again and it holds that somehow. A work of art, even if you find it on the street somewhere, you're going to know if it's a work of art. It could be three stones placed on the sidewalk. And if it's done with that intention... when you're walking, you won't see those as just three stones, you'll know somebody put that there for some reason. It's kind of one of the last magic things we have." Sultan uses rough, industrial materials like plaster and tar with refined, repeated images.

contributor: Doreen Meyer

Book reviews:

Doreen Meyer

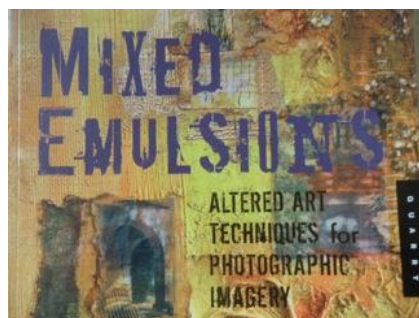
Inspired to design, by Elizabeth Barton –



Having read my share of books, which discuss design principles and elements and fabric art, this is the first one that pulled it together for me in a concise fashion. Barton makes wonderful,

well-designed art quilts but she also knows how to get her points across simply. The book has a good layout mix of text, illustrations and photos that all work together to illustrate each point she makes about what goes into making a quilt a work of art. She's titled her book well because the first six steps are about working through the design decisions before getting to step seven, constructing the piece. From deciding where to begin, to using structures such as grids, to considering positive and negative shapes and the importance of value and light, it's a book designed as a user's guide to achieving your own inspiration and developing your own voice. While it is primarily about design content, it focuses exclusively on fabric art quilts so may not be of interest to those working in media other than fabric and stitch. Still some of Barton's advice is good for any artist: "Think of designing with all your senses."

Mixed emulsions: altered art techniques for photographic imagery, by Angela Cartwright –



Paint, wash, rub, blend, antique, fade and enhance, there are dozens of ways to manipulate and incorporate photographs into a mixed media work of art and Cartwright does

her best to inspire her readers to try all of them. Having received a camera as a gift from her parents at 15, Cartwright found her passion not in the realism of her photos but in using the images as a jumping off point for

her personal art expression. From oil painting her photos to scratching, pulling, tearing or using various products on them, her ingenuity is inspirational. Her book also features excellent lists of words and phrases and product explanations that expand the reader's art design lexicon. While I found the book very interesting in its creative use of techniques to break the boundaries of a traditional use of photo imagery, many of the "project launches" Cartwright explores are more practical for mixed media work on canvas and board foundations rather than fabric constructions. Still, it's an imaginative stretch of possibilities.

Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts – Needle Arts Fair



*Cataraqui Guild
of
Needle Arts
10th Annual
Needle Arts Fair*



*Saturday, October 5, 2013
10am to 3pm
Kingston Seniors Centre
56 Francis Street, Kingston, ON*

Admission \$5 Lunch available

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For more information, contact Theresa at
cgna@quiltskingston.org or visit www.quiltskingston.org/cgna

A brief history of Out of the Box (OOTB)

Prompted by a request from Doreen Meyer for some history about OOTB, Meredith Filshie prepared the following overview. If any members have any comments, please forward them to Meredith mfilshie@rogers.com as it would be useful to have some history on the web site.

The Out of the Box fibre arts group began as a small and informal group of quilters in 2000. Joelyn Gregory and Leslie Wilson were on the executive of a local quilt guild and invited several other friends who were interested in going beyond traditional quilting to meet to share ideas and new techniques. Joanne Batchelor joined a year later. Members were interested in incorporating a variety of techniques from other disciplines including doll-making, rug-hooking, embroidery, knitting, crocheting, felting, beading, weaving, and painting backgrounds to move in new directions. There was an emphasis on exploring new products and recycling in innovative, artistic ways.

After a few years of the small group meeting together and with growing interest from other people wanting to join, space was found at the Ottawa Citizen which made it possible to expand the group. Membership was set at 50 and was by invitation only. Many of the new members came from other fibre art disciplines, thus there was a lot of creative energy, cross-fertilization and inspiration!

It was about this time that participants decided that a name was needed for the group as a show was being organized at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. Thus the name Out of the Box was adopted. With the expanded group, it became apparent that some light organization was required. A Planning Committee was created with a chair person, secretary, treasurer, membership, newsletter, web site, and program/workshop responsibilities and membership was made open and expanded to 75.

A key aspect of membership is to contribute in some way to the functioning of the group. There are roles for everyone: from long term and ongoing responsibilities on the Planning Committee to short duration requirements like setting up chairs at the meetings or being a docent at a show. Every effort is made to provide a safe place where people have confidence to

seek artistic help, to share their dreams and aspirations and to get inspired.

Meetings are held once a month. A normal meeting would feature a special event such as a trunk show by an invited guest or a talk from someone in a related discipline or a demonstration of a new technique or medium or a discussion about an aspect of "the business of art". At every meeting there is time to discuss a bit of business as required and lots of time for "show and tell" when members show new work completed or talk about workshop experiences. Over the years we have developed an extensive library which members value highly. In recent years, a lot of effort has gone into organizing exhibits of members' work which have been widely acclaimed. From time to time, someone launches a challenge and it is always rewarding to see the results!

Workshops and play days are organised every year. We have had many interesting workshop leaders over the years drawing on the Canadian talent pool as well as having several "imports". Play days are usually led by a member to experiment with design ideas, and share expertise, new techniques and/or products.

Newsletters are produced monthly. Each provides information about upcoming events of interest to members, book reports, interviews featuring a member, and workshop/show reports. The web site complements the newsletters with photos of members work, a catalogue of library holdings, and archived newsletters for reference.

It has been interesting to see how the organization evolves as the membership changes. New members bring new perspectives and new energies and thus we move in new directions. A common thread over the years from new as well as longtime members is how inspirational the organization is and how motivational!

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 September 2013 Newsletter is September 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
Shows	Rita Rottman & Meredith Filshie
Contacts:	info@outofthebox.org

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2013-2014 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 MaryAnne 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 MaryAnne Toonders, along with cash or cheque, at the August, September or October meeting.

Questions may be directed to 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.

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.

In addition, you can opt for a page on the “public” part of the website. 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
- 6-7 words or phrases about your interests: e.g. ***hand-dyeing, hand and machine felting***

Public page information (Showcase)

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.

Email all this to Sandy Goldsmith sandygo33@hotmail.com



How can I volunteer?

Volunteers are essential to successfully run our organization.

I currently volunteer as: _____

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: _____
 - Come early to set up chairs/room: _____
 - Help organize a challenge: _____
 - Help setup the library books and assist with checkout _____
 - Other: _____

- For the newsletter:
- Write a book review
 - Do a member interview (models in previous newsletters)
 - Review shops techniques exhibits Other
 - Take photos
 - Other: _____

- Shows:
- Exhibit in a show
 - Help show committee organize shows
 - Help with setup and/or take down
 - Help with show promotion
 - Help at shows (docent)
 - Other: _____

- Publicity:
- Help contact stores for member discounts
 - Help organize advertising in our newsletter
 - Distribute promotional materials

- Other:
- Take photos at meetings or other events
 - 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 book/DVD's//Magazine subscriptions would you like the library to have?

1. _____
2. _____

For guest speakers: Are there fantastic speakers you would love to learn from? Think national and international since we could consider developing a program of activities to ease the financial burden.

1. _____
2. _____

Your Name