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Words of Wisdom

An artist is someone who produces things that people don't need to have – Andy Warhol

Programs/Workshops:

January 20, 7:15pm – Book artist Mary Kritz
February 17, 7:15pm – Submitting your work for Fibre Fling: presentation by Garrie Bea Joyce
February 28, Due date for 12x12 Colour Wheel Challenge, year 2 (turquoise, sun yellow or black and white with choice colour)
March – 12x12 Colour Challenge on show at Wabi Sabi
March 17, 9:30am-3:30pm – Member Playdate (Meredith Filschie, beading)
March 17, 7:15pm – 'Button Lady' Evelyn Davies
April 4-5 – Fibre Fling 3 Show & Sale of members' work
April 21, 7:15pm – Recap of Fibre Fling and member show & tell
May 19, 9:30am-3:30pm - Member Playdate (Wendo Van Essen, felting)

Play Dates

Mark your calendars for this year's playdates

Building on last year's success, OOTB is again holding three member playdates over the next several months. The dates are all Mondays: March 17, May 19 and June 16.

A playdate is a date with your artistic self. Members who attend are free to participate in a shared creative experience or use the day to further their own individual project. A member volunteer takes the lead in kicking off the day with exercises drawn from their own creative process and experience.

Beader Meredith Filschie will be our member leader at the Monday, March 17 playdate and felter Wendo Van Essen leads on Monday, May 19.

Cost for the playdates is \$10 per day OR \$25 for all three sessions and is payable in advance. OOTB policy is that fees are non-refundable but members may find another member to take their place (playdates are open to OOTB members only).

Hours are 9:30 to 3:30 at the Kitchissippi United Church Hall, 630 Island Park Drive. Free parking is available on site (not in numbered spots please). The hall has a communal kitchen so members are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

To register for the playdates, contact OOTB Planning Committee members Lynn Ruff (lynnandjack@hotmail.ca) or Doreen Meyer (dmeyer97@yahoo.com). Treasurer Sandy Goldsmith will confirm your registration once OOTB receives your fee. Lynn or Doreen will send you details on supplies needed for your playdate by email before the event.

Fibre Fling 3

Fibre Fling 3 will be April 4-5 with delivery of art to the church on Wednesday evening April 2 and set up of show on Thursday April 3. We are starting the advertising with rack cards and **again need images from members**. Please send images to Helen Gordon by January 24, 2014. Your image(s) should be in a jpeg format and sent to helen.gordon@rogers.com. The cards will be available at the February meeting for members to distribute.

Colour Challenge

The colour challenge will not be hung at Wabi Sabi before Fibre Fling 3. The pieces will have their place at Fibre Fling 3 but this year will have information cards the same as the rest of the show. If you have your piece done and want to bring it to the February or March meeting, then Pat Hardie will take them and bring them back in on Wednesday, April 2. Or, you can bring your colour challenge pieces to the church on April 3. Additional information and details will come out soon. We will demo the placement of the d-rings at both the February and March meetings. Rita has d'rings for 10 cents each and these can be purchased at the meetings as well.

Transformations: Taking Felt in New Directions



If you thought felt was used only in hats and other fashion accessories, the upcoming installation at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will be an eye-opener. "Transformations" opens on January 21, 2014 and runs until March 15. The exhibit features the work of Canadian fibre artists Maggie Glossop and Andrea Graham who use the ancient art of felt making to create unique works that fascinate and delight. Both are inspired by nature but are very different in approach and style.

Maggie Glossop has been working with fibres since the mid-1970s. She first explored the creative uses of fibres as a spinner and weaver, and then, 25 years ago, joined the vanguard of textile artists exploring felt making as a medium for fine art. Using wool and other natural fibres that she has dyed, she creates wonderful textured landscapes and sculptured wall pieces. Maggie shares her enthusiasm and creativity with young and old and has received many awards and grants to support and further her outreach as a teacher as well as for her works, which are displayed in public, corporate and private spaces.

"Rocks, water, trees and sky – these are the subjects of my art," says Glossop. "I am drawn to the ever-changing natural environment that surrounds me. I invite the viewer to focus on the beauty that is all around us but is often overlooked. I hope to awaken the viewer to see again or perhaps to see for the first time with new eyes and, having seen, appreciate what was always there."

Andrea Graham is a multimedia artist residing in rural Ontario. Andrea exhibits, teaches and lectures internationally and is recognized for her technical skill and innovation. She is a 2013 Niche Award Finalist and was also named one of the top influences in contemporary fibre art by *Fiber Art Now* magazine. Andrea was Artist in Residence at Queen's University in 2011 and has taught workshops for numerous guilds and conferences throughout North America and Europe. Using both traditional and modern

felt-making techniques, she transforms wool fibres and produces sculptures that evoke living organisms.

"Life cycles silently occur and often go without notice," says Andrea. "We acknowledge these cycles at times of transformation, which can elicit feelings from awe and reflection to unease and denial. These transformations remind us of life's dichotomy of persistence and surrender. Whether we neglect or intervene, we are at the mercy of these processes. In expressing these transformations using humble materials and simple form, I seek to bring about these primal emotions we feel at these pivotal moments."

Don't miss this joint exhibit by two exceptional artists. There will be a vernissage from 2 to 4 p.m., February 1, 2014. The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located at 3 Rosamond St. E., Almonte.

Michael Rikley-Lancaster
Executive Director / Curator
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
[613-256-3754](tel:613-256-3754)
curator@mvtm.ca
www.mvtm.ca

Painting with Fibres: Felt Workshop at the MVTM

Join award-winning artist and teacher Maggie Glossop at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum on Sunday February 23 as she shares the techniques that she uses to create her amazing felt artworks, some of which are currently featured in the museum's gallery.

Workshop participants will learn how to produce a landscape, still life or abstract picture using fibres rather than paint, paper or canvas.

They will begin by laying out a base of fine wool and will then create an image using commercial and hand-dyed wools, silks and other natural fibres. They will then employ the ancient techniques of wet felt-making to process the fibres into a piece of felted fabric. At the end of the workshop, participants will have a finished "painting," which they may choose to embellish with embroidery or other stitching techniques.

No experience in either felt-making or painting/drawing is necessary. The workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the museum's multipurpose room, and participants are asked to bring a bag lunch and a towel or two. The cost is \$60 to register plus \$10 for materials on the day of the workshop. To register please call the museum at [613 256-3754 ext. 6](tel:613-256-3754) or by email at info@mvtm.ca or drop by the museum at 3 Rosamond St. E. in Almonte. The deadline for registration is February 14.

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Presenting Helen Gordon

By Meredith Filshie



Helen with "My Ottawa"

You will know Helen by name as she is our Newsletter Coordinator, a job she has done since the fall of 2008 for which we have all been grateful! She has always been instrumental in getting many of our publicity pieces from the idea to "ready to print" stage required by the printers. Her knowledge of computers is impressive. From time to time, we also get to see the wonderful fibre art she creates, several of which have been award winners, notably in Threadworks exhibitions. Even though I have been in two groups with her for a number of years, we had never really spoken about how she got to where she is.

Helen joined OOTB in April 2008 after attending a weekend fibre art workshop and being prompted by several OOTB members. Her earlier passion was embroidery which still remains a strong influence in all her work even when she incorporates many other techniques and mediums.

She learned embroidery, sewing, knitting, and crocheting at home beginning when she was about 8 or 9 years old. While her Mother was the principal instructor, her grandmothers were both key in encouraging Helen's interest. One anecdote Helen related was the following: her maternal Grandmother was somewhat critical that Helen's Mother had spent a lot of time making a cutwork embroidered bridge table cloth and matching napkins thinking that it was not a very useful size. She purchased a length of linen suitable for a dining room table cloth. Helen's Mother completed only a small corner and then put it away. Helen found it and finished it at the age of 15. I was lucky enough to see it - the workmanship was beautiful and incredibly fine!

Helen decided to take art as an elective in high school rather than home economics and this has inspired a lot of her fibre art. During university and her early professional life, there was some interruption to her creative life. When she began to travel extensively, as part of her job, she began taking cross stitch projects with her, usually small kits on even weave linen. As with many who enjoyed kits, at a point in time she wanted to do more original work. She had usually changed the basic kits to make the end result more to her taste, but felt the urge to do more. Pat Caffery, a former member of OOTB, was teaching a series of classes on the principles of design and colour theory at the Cross Stitch Cupboard. She encouraged Helen to design and enter a piece in the Threadworks call for entry in 2007 having the theme "Passion". "My Ottawa" was Helen's first submission to a juried show and she won "Best of Show"!

Success has followed since. Her work was accepted for the next two Threadworks shows having the themes of Trees and Water.



Vidarr



Nautilus

The Water exhibition is currently on tour. (The closest show for us will be in Gananoque. Information will be in the newsletter closer to the exhibition). One of her pieces, "Pulse", was accepted in the World of Threads, 2009 show in Oakville. The successful piece was one that grew out of an OOTB challenge several years ago

on hearts/love for our February meeting that year. With the success has come sales although this was a reluctant transition. It took sometime to be able "to get over the preciousness" of some of the pieces.



Pulse

For a long time, Helen chose projects with a particular place in her home in mind for the end result. Now she does whatever tweaks her fancy and does not stick with one technique. With her mathematical background, she is inspired by shapes and puzzles. Colour is also an inspiration. She is always doodling and drawing now but regrets the hiatus in her art work while she was working. She returned to drawing about 15 years ago and is doing some amazing things. Several years ago she returned to painting with a focus on watercolours, finding that painting gives fast results which is a good balance to the longer time frame of fibre art pieces.

I always like to ask others how they organise their studios, always hoping for something to help me get better organised. Here is Helen's description:

"By colour and by function. I have my embroidery threads in separate boxes by colour, ditto the machine threads, and the cotton fat quarters. Beads are in small bins organized by colour into larger containers with a separate box for the beading tools. I have a box called "gooey stuff" which is where all the glues are. Another box is called cutting tools where the paper cutter, various knives and rulers are located. Another Big box is called sheers (they tend to explode into twice the size when touched, so a big box is needed). There's a drawer for electric gadgets (rotary tool, small quilting irons, soldering iron, heat tool). There's a drawer for metal and wires (sheet of copper, coloured wire). A box for all the tools needed to frame and hang finished works (hammer, awl, wire cutter, all the various hooks and wires), boxes for fabric paints by type, another box for silk fabrics, etc. You get the picture. There are 3 long shelves for books arranged largely by function (hand embroidery, surface design, beading, box making, inspiration, etc). Right now its a mess because many of the boxes are not back in their right place on the

shelves, but I can still put my hands on just about everything in pretty quick order."

Helen has several words of wisdom: "Don't be afraid to try anything. Think - maybe that might work." Also: "Don't box yourself in".

Helen has been a long time member of Studio Inspirations. In addition to OOTB, she belongs to a watercolour group, Surface Design Association (SDA) and Studio Art Quilts Associates (SAQA).

Valerie Hearder's Africa trip

Margaret Dunsmore

At a previous meeting, I mentioned that Pat Hardie and I would be going on Valerie Hearder's South African tour in March, where we will be visiting several women's groups to see their beading, copper work, wall hangings, etc., and also an AIDS Centre. Valerie suggested that each person on the tour take along some items that would be useful to the women and others in their communities. The items suggested included **sturdy reading glasses** (Magnifiers, non-prescription), **school supplies** (pencils, erasers, markers) **sewing supplies** (especially large needles), embroidery threads, etc. To make the best use of space and weight, I will take a limited amount of children's clothing only (I already have enough clothing for adults), and no paper products. I have fabrics that I can include if I have the space.

Any contributions that OOTB members might care to make would be most appreciated.

Margaret

Spring into Art

2014 Spring Art Conference & Luncheon
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

"...an exploration of ideas about the creation and promotion of art

Five Speakers throughout the day...

1 - "Finding your Fit in the Art World" by Christina Lovisa.

2 – Founding of Figureworks.org and Hilde's personal journey as a visual artist by Hilde Lambrechts
www.Figureworks.org , www.h-art.ca

3 – Zimbabwean visual artist and provocateur - Chikonzero (Chiko) Chazunguza
www.chikochazunguza.ca

4 – Personal Brands & Business Networking for Artists - Shawna Tregunna, founder ReSoMe
www.ReSoMe.com

5 – Winsor & Newton Oil Paints - Douglas Purdon
www.dougpurdon-artist.com , www.winsornewton.com

Date: Saturday April 12, 2014 Time: 8:45am to 4:15pm
Place: Carp Memorial Hall (Intersection of Carp Road and Donald B. Munro Drive). Lunch: Included
Cost: \$50 for registration postmarked by Feb 19. \$70 for registration postmarked after Feb 19.

For registration and further information visit the West Carleton Arts Society website
www.westcarletonartsociety.ca

Fibre content 2014

Bi-annual juried exhibition of contemporary fibre art
Burlington Art Centre, September 9th – September 16th, 2014

Please note that any OOTB member can submit entries to this show. The only caveat is that if you are accepted, you would be required to join SAQA (Studio Art Quilt Associates).

Fibre Content 2014 seeks to exhibit the best of contemporary Canadian fibre art, and invites submissions that reflect a wide range of works related to fibre and mixed media. Fibre includes fabric, paper, yarn, thread and various mixed media materials.

JURORS

Emma Quin
Executive Director
Ontario Crafts Council

Virginia Eichhorn
Director and Chief
Curator Tom Thomson
Art Gallery

Sandra Dupret
Dean/Principal, Fleming
College
Haliburton Campus

AWARDS

Each juror will select one piece for a Juror's Choice Award, which will be highlighted in the show, catalogue and on the website.

EXHIBITION CALENDAR

- June 1, 2014
Entry deadline online at 11:59 pm
- July 14, 2014
Accepted entry notification by email
- Aug. 24, 2014
Optional delivery of artwork to Ottawa and Kingston
- Sep. 8, 2014
Delivery of accepted art to BAC no later than 9:30am
- Sep. 9, 2014
Show opens
- Sep. 16, 2014
Show closes
- Sep. 17, 2014
Pick up artwork at BAC from 1:00 pm to no later than 6:00 pm
- Sep. 20, 2014
Optional pick up of artwork in Ottawa and Kingston

Each participating group is expected to make collection arrangements to minimize shipping for the artists. For special handling requirements or oversized items, the artist will be responsible for shipping.

ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS:

You must be a member of one of the following groups: Studio Art Quilt Associates (SAQA) Central Canada Division, Burlington Fibre Arts Guild, Burlington Handweavers and Spinners Guild, Burlington Hooking Craft Guild, Connections Fibre Artists, Grand Guild of Fibre Artists, Group of Eight Fibre Artists or Oakville Fibre Arts Guild: or be willing to join SAQA if your work is accepted.

Original artwork must have been completed within the last five years and must be the result of independent effort. Work must be ready to be hung, and may be framed or unframed (glass is not acceptable). Three-dimensional works may not exceed 40 pounds and 9 feet in any direction. Any work that does not match the digital image in quality or content will be rejected.

SUBMISSIONS:

Please submit one overall image and one detail image online at www.fibrations.org, by 11:59 p.m. on June 1, 2014 by following the links to the entry form, which provides further details and requirements. A non-refundable fee for entry in the amount of \$20.00 for each piece is payable online upon submission, (maximum of three submissions per artist).

For further information or exhibition queries, please contact robyne@fibrations.org

Volunteer hours at show by accepted artists are encouraged and appreciated.

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 January 2014 Newsletter is January 12 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 Lynn Ruff, Connie ten Bruggenkate
Secretary	Meredith Filshie
Membership	MaryAnne Toonders
Treasurer	Sandy Goldsmith
Web-coordinator	Anna Wagner-Ott
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity/Marketing	Rebecca Dufton
Shows	Rita Rottman & Meredith Filshie
Contacts:	info@outofthebox.org



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