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Words of Wisdom

Art is what we call...the thing an artist does. It's not the medium or the oil or the price or whether it hangs on a wall or you eat it. What matters, what makes it art, is that the person who made it overcame the resistance, ignored the voice of doubt and made something worth making. Something risky. Something human. Art is not in the ...eye of the beholder. It's in the soul of the artist.

Seth Godin

LIKESUCCESS.com

Meeting Venue

Please note our new location for monthly meetings. It is at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave, Nepean ON K2G 2L5, between Baseline, Clyde/Merivale, and Meadowlands.

Please bring shoes or slippers to wear so that we don't track snow into the meeting hall.

OOTB Program Lineup 2019

April 15, Meeting: Francis Taylor will treat us to a talk and trunk show of her Wearable Art.

May 3-4, Workshop: Pat Herzberg Thread Web Workshop

May 20, Meeting: Ontario artist Bridget O'Flaherty will give a talk and trunk show entitled "My Journey as an Artist".

May 27: Playdate: Edwina Sutherland, doll making. [Http://edwinasutherland.blogspot.com](http://edwinasutherland.blogspot.com)

June 17, Meeting: Artist, Bethany Garner, will give a talk and trunk show entitled "My Journey to Art Quilts".

June 22 – July 6, Show: "Summer Fibrations" at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

June 24, Playdate: Francis Taylor, Free Form Crocheting.

Playdates

Three playdates are planned for each session at a cost of \$10 per playdate or \$25 when you register for a full session. Registration is now open, you can register at a meeting or by contacting Lynn Keeler anottawagirl@yahoo.ca.

Playdate Session 2. (Registration is open)

Monday May 27/19 Edwina Sutherland, Doll Making.



See more examples at: [Http://edwinasutherland.blogspot.com](http://edwinasutherland.blogspot.com)

Monday, June 24/19. Francis Taylor, Free Form Crocheting.



Free Form Crochet roots are from the traditional Irish crochet. Prudence Mapstone is the undisputed queen of free-form crochet and is very active on Facebook and frequently teaches on cruise ships. She also does free-form knitting. Free-form crochet is different from regular crochet because you don't use a pattern when "free-forming". Basically, you make small "motifs" or

pieces of crochet, which are then joined either by sewing or crocheting them together.

Participants should know how to do the basic crochet stitches and be able to judge how to keep the work flat. Attached is a website that provides very useful downloadable pdf files on how to do free-form crochet by Sylvia Cosh and James Walters: <http://www.crochet.nu/scjwc/workshops/index.html> -- they call it "scrumbling". Those interested might want to start experimenting, Frances recommends using a size 5 crochet hook.

Conversation with... Lynn Keeler



This chronicle titled 'Conversation with...' aims to discover one of our members. Whether or not you already 'know' the textile artist in question, you will certainly discover something new about the person. It is hoped that it will inspire you in your own artistic journey.

Lynn, the playdate organizer, the program organizer (she is so good at organizing artsy activities), the cheerful and funny Lynn (she is so good at organizing fun sessions!), Lynn who makes great art with felt (and many other techniques as you will discover) and is enthusiastic about embracing, can I say...the world around her and far away). It is great to have Lynn involved in the OOTB organization. I worked with Lynn on the Program committee for a few years, and I made a new friend! Thanks for sharing Lynn! Beware readers: you will laugh!

When did you start doing textile art, and how did that happen?

I was born to create! I remember making doll clothes before I could use a sewing machine. In grade 7 sewing class we had to buy a skirt pattern, fabric and thread. I

bought enough fabric for two skirts, same pattern, different colours and spent the rest of my Saturday making my first skirt, with the help of my Mom. I continued making clothes for myself and others up to about 10 years ago.

What type of textile art have you being doing in your life?

In my life? That covers many, many years of creating! Anything that caught my eye, I would figure out how to make it myself. Sewing, embroidery, quilting, jewelry making, weaving, macramé, crocheting, painting, dyeing, needle and wet felting, freestyle stitching, thread painting.

What inspires you?

I'm inspired by almost all handmade items, books, colours, design, shape & texture, gallery visits and studio tours. Most of my inspiration comes from OOTB members; they inspire me to try new things and step out of my comfort zone. Attending our Playdates and being with other artists always pump me up.



The two pieces are titled 'Tornado and Eye of the Tornado'. It was inspired by the 2018 tornado in the Ottawa region. It includes needle felting, hand embroidery stitching and found objects.



This piece, titled Rocky shores, includes found objects.



Tree of everlasting life



This needle felted piece is titled We are one II.



This piece of needed felting artwork is titled Moon over the ocean.

How do you go from inspiration to completing a piece (your creative process)?

- 1- I first start with an idea or a challenge, then run ideas in my head; it could take an hour or 5 years. For instance, I want to try something new with needle felting & stitching by adding more colour and shapes. I study artist profiles of work I like, e.g. Teresa Young, Alex Janvier, Paul Klee, the Group of Seven, to name a few.
- 2- I ask myself : what attracts me to their work? Can I do this in felt?
- 3- I do a rough drawing, plan design & colour, size, etc.
- 4- if I'm doing needle felting, I cut a piece of wool felt, adding an extra 2-4 inches border - this is my base. When wet felting I use pre-felt for the base. This helps me.
- 5- I lightly draw design on my base.
- 6- I start felting usually from the bottom up, but have started from middle out and top down until I think it's finished.
- 7- Often I take pictures throughout the process, this is helpful in determining where I need to add more wool, change colour, shadowing, shape, etc. it is easy at this point to incorporate changes, move, add or remove, add depth, shape, light or shadowing.
- 8- if I'm still not happy with the finished piece, I will stand it up so that I can see it often. I will eventually see what I need to change.
- 9- When it's finished, I mount or frame it,
- 10- Then I take a final picture and pat myself on my back.

Tell us about your studio space

I had outgrown my small bedroom and moved my studio into the master bedroom. I don't have much natural light, so I have six adjustable lights in different areas; this works well for me. I removed the closet and put in wall-to-wall shelves. These hold a lot of files, about 16 plastic containers labeled with various types of supplies and tools. I have a worktop and two deep 3-drawer dressers. My main worktop is a folding table with small drawers, and I have my serger and sewing machine on a separate old pine table, and two shelf units to hold my roving, felting supplies and some books. A cozy chair, TV and reading area are perfect for handstitching and felting. I'm lucky to have the space for a dedicated room to do what I love to do.

I started to stitch a sign that says, "A clean and tidy art studio is a sign of an artist who isn't creating". It's been in my UFO basket for 4 years now.

Tell us about an artist whose artwork you enjoy very much

Besides the artists I noted above, I'm drawn to Canadian artists especially from Quebec, e.g. Norman Hudon, Pauline Pacquin, Hannah Ranger, to name a few.

Tell us about your current project

Currently I'm working on show deadlines. My goals for 2019: is to participate in all OOTB exhibitions, complete my UFO's, practice machine thread painting and to put stuff away where it belongs, when I'm finished with it.

BTW. I'm a procrastinator so my new year doesn't start until April 1st.



This piece is at our Fibre Fling show and sale this year. In embroidery stitching, it says: before pointing your finger at someone, look at the three pointing at you.

Is there any other art form you have explored that complements fibre arts well?

I've explored some printing and acrylic, pastels and watercolour painting.

Any pearls of wisdom or advice for fellow OOTB members?

"Wabi-sabi nurtures all that is authentic by acknowledging three simple realities: nothing lasts, nothing is finished, and nothing is perfect." Richard Powell, author

- My definition of insanity is when you see a piece of art for sale at \$100.
- You think "I love that, I could make that!"
- Then you go out and spend \$200+ on equipment and supplies to make it.
- Years later you find it in your UFO basket.

Lynn Keeler's words of wisdom.

Text and photos: Lynn Keeler
Facilitation: Madeleine Rousseau
April 2019

OOTB Website Focus on Fibre Links

Felting Tools and Tips

We have a number of felting artists, both wet and needle, in our group and other members who have experimented with the technique. Some of the results were recently on

view at Fibre Fling providing lots of inspiration for the rest of us.

The links for these pages can be found on the OOTB Resource page - <http://www.out-of-the-box.org/resources.html>

Links for felting needles links were presented a couple of months ago and most of us are aware of the need for the mats and fibres used in the process so I'm focusing on other felting tools and supplies this time. The sallybea.com link has many conventional and not so conventional tools which can be used for wet felting. It's interesting that many of the tools are found in the kitchen. The website also has tutorials and YouTube videos showing how to make hats, bags, and footwear along with other small projects.

An alternative to hand felting to speed up the process is an embellishing machine, also known as a felting machine. Embellisher machines may look very similar to sewing machines at first glance, but are completely different beasts. The link introduces embellisher machines and some pros and cons to 3 of the most popular.

You may have heard of the Artfelt product used by Nancy Garrard and others at OOTB. In this YouTube video Karin Skacel demonstrates the basics of the artfelt felting process and shows many of the amazing things that can be made with this technique. It's an hour-long video and I found myself speeding things up but it is helpful, especially if you like visual learning. The next link provides detailed written artfelt instructions. There is a link to a website but it seems the domain name may be for sale.

Wendo van Essen offers this product for sale. Contact her if you are interested in trying it out.

MaryAnne

Members Only Access

I have recently heard that some members have had problems getting access to the Members' Only section of our website. I suspect that sometimes the menu tab for the link is not visible, especially when using a phone or tablet. I've added buttons to the Site map on the Activities, Exhibition and the Contact Us pages to provide additional options. Just click on them and hopefully this will help.

This update still means you need the login ID and password, which is found on the back of your

membership card. If your card is not available (lost) please contact the Membership Coordinator for the information.

MaryAnne

March Playdate

At the March Embroidery Playdate 10 members enjoyed a relaxing and creative day. MaryAnne Toonders shared her expertise by demonstrating 10 stitches. She answered questions on types of fabric, threads, yarns and needles to use and brought along examples of her stitching art work and book collection.



Andrea Guidon's sampler of stitches covered

Surface Design Association Conference

Information can be found about the SDA 2019 Conference Oct. 6 -9 in St Louis https://www surfacedesign.org/events-exhibits/conferences/conference2019/?fbclid=IwAR0uFLzoRUcE-CBmZ0uRzf9xoh1rECA1v2_oi5cjncjcd-iRbx4X-CRB9c

Planning Committee

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Secretary	Nancy Leigh-Smith
Membership	Val Rochester
Treasurer	Marilyn White
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