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Words of Wisdom

“Follow your inner moonlight; don’t hide the madness”
Allen Ginsberg

Program Lineup 2023- 2024

May 20 meeting – Alice Vander Vennen guest speaker, Fibre Fling debriefing

May 21 - Nature Narratives Workshop with Alice Vander Vennen, Brown Bag Swap

June Playdate on Bookmaking – date tbd

June 17 meeting – TBA

July 15 meeting – Giveaway night, ATC swap

August 19 meeting – A possible field trip

From Wendo

Congratulations all on a fabulously successful Fibre Fling! We had so many compliments! If you didn’t participate, you’ve got another chance at our Fall Fling! I’m really looking forward to seeing Anne Vander Vennen’s presentation next Monday. Remember to bring your brown bag challenges to swap at the meeting. See you next week!

Cheers, Wendo

Fibre Fling 2024 a Resounding Success!

With over 300 visitors and overall sales of \$13,400, it is my pleasure to declare Fibre Fling 2024 a success.

The most successful thing about the show was the quality of the work. We had lots of compliments on both the Gallery and the Marketplace. The general conclusion was that the Gallery work was both more varied and more sophisticated. Our time together at OOTB is clearly pushing us to do better work - while still having fun!

I would like to thank the Planning Group for its hard work and patience. It is those who take on the jobs like designing the post card (Helen Gordon), wrangling volunteers (Cheryl Ford), doing social media (Cathy Haley), organizing registration (MaryAnne Toonders), curating the Gallery (Garrie Bea Joyce), organizing and managing the Marketplace (Sandy, Goldsmith Wendo van Essen and Val Rochester), ensuring that everything works smoothly (Nancy Garrard), saving the day (Lynn Ruff and Norma Goldsmith) who make the show work. In addition, new additions to the show, the charity raffle for Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Ottawa Food Bank organized by -Meredith Filshie (we raised \$825!) and a membership table "personned" Andree Faubert (who collected the names of 30 people who expressed interest in joining OOTB) added to the quality and sense of commitment to the show.

Indeed, thank you to all of you who volunteered in whatever way before and after the show. It couldn't have happened without you.

The Planning Group is meeting shortly to chat about improvements for next year. Any thoughts that you would like to send me will be gratefully received.

Sally Rutherford

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Bring your Brown Bags to the May 20th meeting

Please remember to bring your brown bags to the May meeting to exchange with other participating members.

To recap previous discussions, the idea is to challenge other members to create a piece of art using the bag's 6-8 contents.

Please note that not all items inside need to be fabric related but should fit inside a small brown bag. You can draw on your stash to complete your piece, but concentrate on integrating the 6-8 items contained inside your bag.

The bags will be placed together on a table and chosen at random by participants. Your pieces of art should be

ready to be shown at the September 16, 2024 meeting. Remember, you must donate a bag to get a bag.

Andrée Faubert will be at the meeting to facilitate the exchange. Please contact Andrée or Nancy Scott if you have any questions.

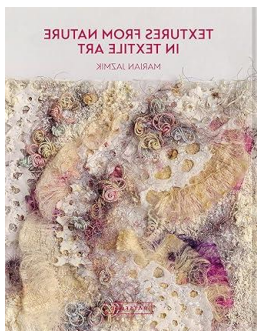
Radical Stitch

As beading is a great contribution to any fibre art piece, many of the OOTB members have experimented with various types of beading and have an appreciation of, and an interest in, the artform. From Friday May 17 to Monday September 30 there is a new exhibit at the National Gallery of Canada of Indigenous beadwork that you may find interesting. It is called Radical Stitch and it was organized by The MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina and has been touring around Canada. The original show featured more than 100 North America beadwork artists who are First Nations, Métis and Inuit. The Ottawa show will be a sub-set of these artists but will show a range of artwork from customary to contemporary types of beadwork. One reviewer of the show called it an "intergenerational celebration" that speaks to the tradition of teaching skills to new generations so as to not lose that cultural anchor. [Radical Stitch | National Gallery of Canada](#)

Laura Corkill

Textures from Nature in Textile Arts by Marian Jazmik

Book Review



Marian Jazmik is known for her highly textured 3-D art forms, using techniques such as hand and machine embroidery, dyeing, painting, and the liberal use of the heat gun and soldering iron. She uses both natural and man-made materials you would expect to find in the recycling bin or the landfill to build up intriguing textures.

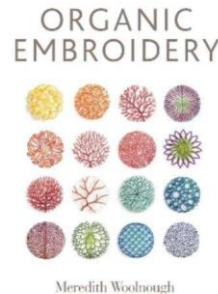
An introductory chapter covers topics such as using photography, image transfer, mixed-media components, equipment, heat treatments, dyeing and machine embroidery.

The following chapters are a real treat. Each follows the development of a specific source of inspiration such as Trees, Lichen, Foliage, Seed Heads, and Fungi, from original photos to experimental samples, to finished art

works. Scattered throughout the 128 pages and glorious photos are "What if..." boxes, to encourage further explorations. You will enjoy this book if you are into using non-traditional materials and heat.

Nan Davies

Meredith Woolnough – Organic Embroidery



Have you been inspired by Meredith Woolnough's beautiful embroidered art work? The library has recently acquired her latest book "Organic Embroidery" in which she gives a great guide to the way she creates her amazing pieces. Basically, her work is using the free hand machine embroidery technique on

water soluble fabric. Throughout the book there are fabulous photographs, many of her work.

The first section is on research and development. Since her pieces are inspired by the natural world, Meredith uses many pages to communicate her approach ie photography including underwater photography, collecting specimens, recording the natural colours in situ, and drawing.

Section 2 is focussed on "Drawing with a Sewing Machine". There is a thorough discussion about tools and materials all simple and easy to find. She comments that her approach is not "fancy, new or difficult" but simply a creative way of darning! Pointers are given about choosing amongst the products generally available. For instance, she prefers using polyester thread rather than natural fibres for their archival attributes. Her discussion about stitching has many useful points to help avoiding "issues" such as rips in the fabric and stitching that may unravel.

Section 3 is devoted to "Dissolving and Sculpting" to help users get the best end results. She describes this part of the process as magical as the thread drawing comes to life. Suggestions are made as to how to achieve interesting 3 D effects.

Section 4 covers "Tips and Troubleshooting" which are invaluable. She covers sewing machine set-up and

maintenance, stitching tips, best practices for drawing on water soluble fabrics and other technical things she has learned over the years.

The book is clearly written and is designed to help both those who are familiar with free hand embroidery and for those just starting out. Even if you are not interested in this type of fibre art, the book itself is a piece of art and one can be inspired by the way Meredith presents her finished pieces.

Meredith (Filshie)

Lansdowne Textiles Festival 2024

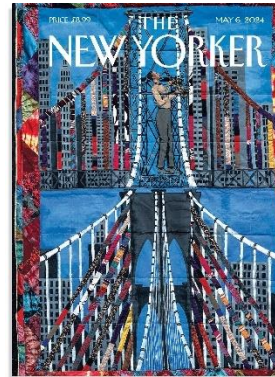
You don't want to miss out on the **Lansdowne Textiles Festival 2024**, happening on one day only, **Saturday June 1, 2024**, from 10:00 to 4:00. With exhibitors spanning from needle arts, quilting, spinning, weaving to project kits and supplies. Come and get inspired for your next project.

Lansdowne is located off of the 401 between Gananoque and Brockville at exit 659. Travel north until you come into our village. We will be in the Community Building located at 1 Jessie Street in Lansdowne, Ontario.

You're sure to get great advice and amazing deals! Lunch will be available for purchase at the show. Admission is \$5.00 with 100% of the NET proceeds going to Lansdowne Association for Revitalization for our local projects.



Textile Art Hits the Big Time!



This quilt, entitled, *Sonny's Bridge*, 1986. appeared on the cover of the New Yorker Magazine, May 6, 2024.

The accompanying article about the artist, Faith Ringgold, can be found at:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cover-story/cover-story-2024-05-06>

New on the Online Collections platform

Go to the [Online Collections](#) to browse and download historical content from the McCord Stewart Museum's collections.

Thousands of new images and descriptions have been added! Access them with a single click and discover images by legendary photographer **William Notman** and from a variety of studios in **Quebec**, works of several **19th century Canadian painters**, **Indigenous belongings**, **clothing** from the last three centuries, **rare books**, **historic archives**, maps, **editorial cartoons**, posters, **toys**, antique weapons, and **scientific instruments**.



Montreal Roadtrip anyone?

A friend and I recently went to Montreal after hearing about an interesting store: **Rix Rax**. It is small but loaded with thousands of old buttons, buckles, trims, hundreds of old fabric flowers and odd things like some scraps of leather, garment findings such as oversized snaps and

hooks and eyes. The merchandise presentation is inspired. Many of the trims are wound on old film reels and artfully arranged on the wall. The proprietor, Juliette, uses the old reel cans as trays which is fun. (The business was started in 1987 about the time movies began to be distributed digitally so there were many reels available at the time.) The two arrangements of flowers were beautiful. The buttons were all arranged by colour in the wonderful button boxes which don't seem to be used very often anymore.

Juliette is an eccentric character and apparently is often late to open her store so if I were to go again I would phone the day before to let her know I was coming. The address is 801 rue Gilford, Montreal and the telephone number is 514 522-8971. There is a Metro station about 1 block away. There are some interviews and photos on her web site: <http://www.rixrax.ca>. If you go, make certain to check the days the store is open before going.

Sure enough, we arrived on a day she was late, so we wandered. There is a wonderful small china store across the street from Rix Rax, **3 Femmes and 1 Coussin**, and their windows are worth looking at just for the superb colours and patterns! They bring in china from Portugal. I checked their web site and the photos are not as impressive as their windows were.

Another shop was **La Maison Tricotée** at 751 Gilford. Their display was beautiful and they had some unusual skeins of wonderfully textured yarns. Also lots of alpaca, including baby alpaca. I had to exercise great restraint.

If you go, these stores were not too far from the Japanese Paper store which is a fun place to visit. And then there are the fabric stores on St. Hubert.

Meredith (Filshie)

Planning Committee

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