

## 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 2011 Newsletter is August 7, 2011 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).

## Words of Wisdom

Drawing is not what one sees but what one can make others see. - Edgar Degas

## Table of Contents

<i>Words of Wisdom</i> .....	1
<i>Planning Committee</i> .....	1
<i>Planned Program for Summer and Fall 2011</i> .....	1
<i>Open House, August 15 - Sally Rutherford</i> .....	2
<i>OOTB Workshops</i> .....	2
<i>William Hodge workshops</i> .....	2
<i>Stittsville Library Show,</i> .....	3
<i>Members' News</i> .....	4
<i>Not to be missed!</i> .....	4
The Long Road Home – Neera Huckvale .....	4
<i>Worth the visit</i> .....	5
Mississippi Textile Museum .....	5
<i>New FibreArts Alliance</i> .....	6

## Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sally Rutherford
Programs	Nancy Garrard, Marie Anzai & Dorreen Meyer
Secretary	Elissa Wright
Membership	Elena Keen & MaryAnne Toonders
Treasurer	Sandy Goldsmith
Web-coordinator	Elissa Wright
Newsletter	Helen Gordon & Heather Dubreuil
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity	Frances Taylor
Shows	Open
Contacts: <a href="mailto:info@outofthebox.org">info@outofthebox.org</a>	

## Planned Program for Summer and Fall 2011

**July 18** - Expanded Show and Tell - Bring in your latest finished creations or artwork in progress.

**August 15** - Garage sale/ Open House – Please see Sally Rutherford if you are interested in becoming a vendor.

**September 19** - Renewal of membership, special "show and tell" from Sylvia Naylor's workshop held in April.

**October 17th** - Judith Tinkl will talk about her work.

**November 21st** - Speed-dating fun - an opportunity to get to know better all the members of OOTB.

**Open House, August 15 - Sally Rutherford**

There are still a few tables left for vendors. If you are interested please let me know at [srutherford@monachus.com](mailto:srutherford@monachus.com). Tables for OOTB members will be \$5 and for commercial vendors \$20.

*Also, I would appreciate knowing if you plan to 'show and tell' or display your work. Tables and vertical surfaces will be available.*

The event will take place from 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm at the Alexander Community Centre, located just east of Merivale between Carling Avenue and Baseline Road. (Directions: Turn East onto Shillington from Merivale, then North (left) onto Silver at the stop sign.)

**OOTB Workshops**

**October 17** – Judith Tinkl will be doing a workshop on **Additive Colour and Visual Mixing**. Please check out <http://www.worldofthreadsfestival.com/index.html> for an article on Judith Tinkl. The costs of this workshop will be \$90 for members. Please let one of the workshop committee members know if you are interested in attending. To secure a spot in the workshop, you must give the treasurer a cheque.

**William Hodge workshops**

Doreen Meyer

“Good work is full of risk” – William Hodge

Teacher, professor, artist, expert all are apt terms to describe William Hodge, who was a full-time professor at the Ontario College of Art and Design University for 42 years. The Armure Studios website ([www.armurestudios.ca](http://www.armurestudios.ca)), which lists his and partner Robert Wylie’s credentials, has a seemingly unending list of workshop, talks, seminars and gatherings where Hodge has shared his expertise. In June, Hodge brought that expertise to Ottawa for two OOTB workshops on colour and pattern.

Colour is such a vast topic that it was hard to imagine anyone being able to convey its essence in one day but Hodge managed to do just that. He started with an overview of various theories, new and old, and had participants pouring through the best of classic and

contemporary textbooks as well as experiencing the magic of colour as seen through his wonderful collection of kaleidoscopes. While Hodge said it was important to know the rules of colour, we had to keep in mind that “a rule is not a lock.”



Most important, said Hodge, was to remember the light/dark contrast when creating our works of art. He talked about warm/cold contrast, the visual or emotional temperature of the piece, and explained complimentary and simultaneous contrasts. We see complimentary contrast “all of the time” in nature, he said. It was important to know the language; terms such as hue, tint, shade, and tone.



“It’s all about proportion,” he told participants in describing the second most important aspect after light/dark contrast. “How much of colour A, how much of colour B, to keep the intensity. . . Every colour goes with every other colour if you use it in the right proportion.”

He advised us to distil “the colour bias” in the paint stuffs we used so we knew what colour was hiding under the surface colour as “every mixable colour has a bias.” Hodge does a colour chart with each new set of paints. With computers, he said to experiment with Photoshop and use the colour picker to analyze our photos. For example, he said a sunset picture has lots of greys as “they take on the complimentary colour” next to them.

Hodge said he “likes to work from a title as it helps make decisions” on what the work is about. Many participants brought pieces and Hodge turned each examination into a shared learning experience for the group. “What colour is the story?” he asked. “Talk to yourself about the topic,” he said. “Superimpose on factual colour, then add your own emotional colour.”

One of Hodge’s oft-repeated phrases during the day was, “How do I get spectator punch?” One of the most common errors he sees is “fear of the light and the dark. . . I want to go into a gallery and feel it. I want to be moved by a piece, then read about it.”



“Art and design is all about geometry,” Hodge told participants on workshop day two, an exploration of pattern. We were treated to a visual show of different examples showing how simple motifs could be used to create stunning patterns. Through simple exercises, participants created their own pattern experiments, translating a simple motif into their own unique and complex design.

Again, critiques proved a very effective tool for learning as Hodge shared his insights through an examination of pieces participants brought for discussion. “What was your intent? What do you think doesn’t work with it?” Hodge would ask each person. He told us not to be afraid of describing a piece as an experiment.

“Experiments are learning things,” he said, “occasionally one becomes a piece.”

At the Monday evening talk entitled “Stitching it all together,” Hodge showed a piece that he chopped up and put back together creating fifteen layers of fabric. Another piece, Hodge showed was a shirt made with 265,000 delica beads. He and Wylie create custom pieces for clients in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Hodge researches, looks at the past of history of an object and then asks himself, “How can I move it into the future?”

“By digging into our own and the history of life, we deepen our work and give greater meaning to our efforts,” Hodge said. Sage advice from an excellent teacher who had even the most experienced participants still listening with rapt attention at the end of each workshop day, a good reason to think about inviting him back again.

### **Stittsville Library Show,**

November 2011 - Bev Hastings

This is a summer reminder about our impending show at the Stittsville Library in November titled Definitely Not A Square. I was out at the library last week checking details and have some guidelines for the show.

We have 18’ of horizontal wall space with approximately 36” of vertical space we can use. Their hanging method is very similar to that of the Shenkman Arts Centre for those members that took part in that last summer, in other words pieces will hang from plastic wires suspended from the top of the wall. Each plastic wire can display two pieces. This will allow for 24 pieces to be exhibited. There is also a cabinet for those who want to display pieces on a small easel or who have dimensional pieces that can sit on a shelf. There are two shelves, each 21” square which would allow for four or five pieces to be displayed in the cabinet.

The only rule that has to be kept in mind is that your piece should be no more than 12” in diameter. I realize that a ‘diameter’ for an ‘unsquare’ piece is open to interpretation and approximation. Common sense should prevail!!!

The questions arose as to how the piece would hang. If you use a sleeve, please have a divide in the centre

so the hook from the wire can slide under the centre of the dowel. Rings can also be sewn on instead. If you can attach picture wire so much the better. If you still have questions please don't hesitate to get hold of me at [jmcbev@rogers.com](mailto:jmcbev@rogers.com) or 613 247-9169.

Please identify your piece with a name and phone number on the back of the work, also a title if you have one.

Pieces can be any media you wish: felting, quilting, machine embroidery, beading, paper – you are limited only by your imagination (and the size).

Pieces will be handed in at the October meeting (October 17<sup>th</sup>). **Art work will not be accepted after that date.**

Please have fun with this project. That is what this show is all about.

### Members' News

Pat Caffery's work, "A Grandmother's Love", is one of twenty pieces selected from 141 entries in SAQA's Layers of Memory exhibition, designed to represent the human processes of memory. These works will be exhibited at seven Mancuso shows, opening at the Mancuso World Quilt Show, Manchester New Hampshire, August 2011, and concluding with the Denver National Quilt Festival in May 2012.



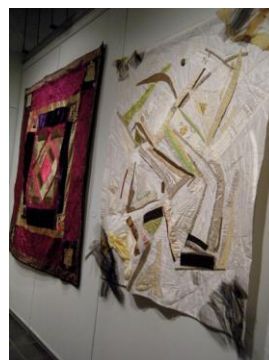
### Not to be missed!

The Long Road Home – Neera Huckvale  
By Doreen Meyer

"The Long Road Home" is Neera Huckvale's show now at the Trinity Art Gallery in Orleans.



In more than a dozen pieces, Neera expresses her love of colour, texture and culture. She combines a wide assortment of delicious silks, lush velvets, lavish braids, linens and other textures into a joyful exploration of a rich cultural heritage.



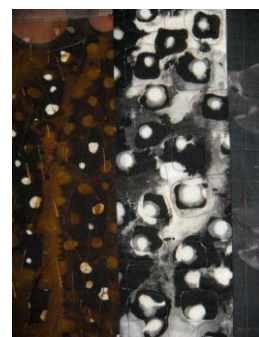


The show is on until July 26 at the Shenkman Arts Centre (lower level), 245 Centrum Boulevard in Orleans.

**Worth the visit**

Mississippi Textile Museum  
Doreen Meyer

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum has updated its floor space and heritage exhibits since Carol Howard Donati and I last visited the Almonte institution.



We'd been drawn by the exhibit "A Common Exploration", featuring work by Jo Fittell and Sara Rockinger (Art and Artifact) and by Cynthia Jackson (Inherit, Inform, Inspire). Now over (see [http://mvtm.ca/museum/?page\\_id=534](http://mvtm.ca/museum/?page_id=534)), the show was excellent, better in the real than the few photographs we took, which can never capture the earthy colour, texture and drama of the pieces.



*Inherit, Inform, Inspire*  
by Cynthia Jackson

*Composing With Fibre: Releasing Meaning from Common Threads*  
by Jo Fittsell and Sara Rockinger

Cynthia Jackson, Jo Fittsell and Sara Rockinger have each been working with textiles and fibre for many years, exploring the many different ways these materials can be used in art. Although each works on her own, these recent works share something in common by looking back at artifacts, techniques and images and bringing them to life in a new and inspiring way. Three different styles, a common exploration.

The artworks by Cynthia Jackson are inspired by a selection of artifacts in the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum's collection—including, but not limited to, the machinery, workers, textiles and the building itself. The chosen objects reflect a collective inheritance, are informed by their historical significance and combine to inspire the art.

Jo Fittsell returns to her birth province after twenty-five years of exploring and experimenting with surface design. She has reinvented the ancient technique of marbling, revived batik—silk-screened layers of dye—and introduced painted canvas to her sewing machine. Multiple techniques are brought together in a collage, creating rich and emotional textures that describe the artist's relationship with nature, wonder and self.

Sara Rockinger creates translucent panels with ghostly images of mill workers from the past, simply using stitch as line, and line as stitch, in graceful and thoughtful remembrances. Hands are really such lovers and when given the freedom to respond to the beauty, warmth and hidden messages embedded in fabric are in full complement with art-making at its most private and intimate.

While each artist brings to this exhibit a distinctive style and personality, together they form a common exploration of the possibilities for creating contemporary artworks with clear links to the past.



For those who haven't been out to the Almonte museum, plan a visit soon. The next exhibit "Woven" runs July 19-September 3 and features juried works by OMMA (Ottawa Mixed Media Artists). For more, see <http://mvtm.ca/museum/?cat=17>.

### New FibreArts Alliance

Hi Everyone...

Just a quick note to advise that a new Fibre Arts related Group has been launched here in Kingston! No monthly meeting at this point - no fees or membership fees, just friends keeping in touch and communicating what is all new in the area. There will be play dates in the future and small "stitching day" opportunities announced on the blog...come play!

Please have a peek at The **FIBREARTS ALLIANCE** blog I have set up - and let me know if you would like to be included in the group. You can access the blog at <http://fibreartsalliance.blogspot.com/> Remember that there are no costs involved, and you can participate when and where you can...no "Offices" to hold or halls to rent... no bosses or leaders - just friends getting together online or in person when we can to have some fun and inspire each other.





## 2011-2012 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 or September meeting.

Questions may be directed to [toonders@gmail.com](mailto: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. In addition, you can purchase a page on the “public” part of the website at an additional cost of **\$20.00 per year**. If you choose this option, either make a separate cheque for this amount payable to OOTB, or one cheque for \$50.00.

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.

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 - available for \$20)**

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 Elissa Wright at [ewright@ripnet.com](mailto:ewright@ripnet.com)**

## How can I volunteer?

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: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Help organize a challenge: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Preside over show and tell at one meeting \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- For the newsletter:
- Write a book review
  - Do a member interview ("Elaine" model in March Newsletter)
  - Shop review
  - Exhibition review
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Other:
- Help contact stores for member discounts
  - Help organize advertising in our newsletters
  - Help the show committee organize shows
  - 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 one book would you like the library to have?

1.
2.  \_\_\_\_\_
3.  I am not likely to borrow books from the library.

What one magazine subscription would you like to see?

1.
2.  \_\_\_\_\_
3.  I am not likely to borrow magazines from the library.

What DVD would be useful?

1.
2.  \_\_\_\_\_
3.  I am not likely to borrow DVDs from the library.

For guest speakers: Is there one fantastic speaker 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.
3.  \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

**DYES & PAINTS  
& FABRICS!**

**41 Years • Since 1969  
Fast Shipping • Low Prices**

*"We've got the Stuff, You make it Art!"*

Silk, Cotton, Rayon, Hemp & Bamboo  
Fabric Yardage all Ready for Dyeing

Tons of Dyes & Paints for  
Cotton, Silk, Rayon, Hemp & Nylon

Tools & Supplies for  
Silk Painting, Tie-Dye, Fabric Dyeing, Batik, Marbling,  
Image Transfer Sheets, Felting, Quilting,  
Stamping, Printing, Screening

Embellishments, Paintstiks, Hot-Fix Crystals,  
Gorgeous Metallic Fabric Paints,  
Stencilling Supplies, Metallic Adhesive Foils,  
Bubble Jet Set, Fabric Markers

Roving, Yarns & Wool Dyes

**Dharma Trading Co.**

Call for a free catalog:  
1-800-542-5227

Or visit our website:  
[www.dharmatrading.com](http://www.dharmatrading.com)




**2679 Alta Vista Dr Ottawa**  
[Alta Vista Shopping Centre—Alta Vista Dr. & Bank St.]  
**613-521-9839**

**Unique fabrics and fibre art supplies**  
PFD cotton, Lutradur, Peltex, Mistyfuse,  
Paintstiks, Angelina, etc.

Books and magazines

Open Monday to Thursday 10-5:30 • Saturday 10-5:00  
Open Fridays 'til 7:00 [except July & August]



**Canada Beading Supply**  
Est. 1984  
Celebrating 25 years

Direct Importer

Great selection of Gemstones, Precious Metals, Books, Tools

Shop online - [www.canbead.com](http://www.canbead.com)

Visit our showroom at: 1A-190 Colonnade Rd. S,  
Ottawa, ON K2E 7J5

Courses on Saturdays