

Out of the Box

December 2007 Newsletter

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.

Membership

Membership requires active participation. Our yearly membership fee is \$20.00. Please contact Joanne Batchelor for more information about joining our group. For more details, visit us at www.out-of-the-box.org

Program for January meeting

January is shaping up as an important meeting for Out of the Box. This meeting will centre on the focus for our group. A number of issues have arisen and we will discuss them and make decisions. If you want to be part of this decision-making, please do not miss the meeting.

We will be discussing if the programs are meeting the needs of our members, do we want to focus on shows or perhaps other subjects are of greater interest to our members, do we want to keep the name of the group of change it and, finally, what is to be the future of our website, although this was touched upon at the November meeting.

So make sure you attend and make your voice heard.

Meetings

Meetings are 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.**

Contacts

Convenor	Bev Hastings	jmcbey@rogers.com
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Dates of Meetings with Program Topics

2007	
December 17	
2008	
January 21	
February 18	
March 17	
April 21	
May 19	
June 16	

Submission Deadline for the January Newsletter is January 11, 2007.

Planning Meeting report

At the last Planning Committee meeting it was proposed that we have a "garage sale" table at each meeting. Any members wanting "to reduce their stash" are welcome to bring items to meetings. Proceeds from any sales would be donated to the library fund. Joanne brought many magazines to the meeting to launch this initiative.

In view of the number of social events at this time of year, the Planning Committee thought that we would have the annual social at the January meeting instead of December. No one remembered to mention this at the last OOTB meeting and it is hoped that everyone will be in agreement!

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Galerie Ouest

Heather Dubreuil has called our attention to an interesting new gallery. Opening in January 2008, the gallery has as its mission to provide artists and artisans, including textile artists, with a no-commission art exhibition space. Both group and individual shows are welcome. The introductory rate is \$500.00 per week, and shows can be booked for one or more weeks. It is located in the historic Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue. For more information, contact Helena Scheffer at (514) 695-8249 or email Helena@galerieouest.ca.

Thank you

Chantal Davignon would like to extend a big thank to all who participated in the Montreal show. Without everyone it wouldn't have been possible. A great big Thank You to Chantal for organizing this show.

Fibre Art Exhibitions and Shows by our members

Could you put a big thank you note from me to all who participated to the Montreal show, without everyone it wouldn't have been possible.

Heather Dubreuil has a solo show from Tuesday, December 4 to Tuesday, December 18, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., or by chance, at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre, 394 Main Road, Hudson, QC. The vernissage was held on Tuesday, December 4, 8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Heather has another solo show Sunday, January 6 to Sunday, February 17, Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the Beaconsfield United Church, 202 Woodside Road, Beaconsfield. The vernissage will be held on Sunday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For more information on these shows, call Heather at t 450-458-7408, or e-mail: heather@curlylocks.ca. Website: www.curlylocks.ca

Wendy Feldberg - Exhibit of Contemporary Fibre Art, December 1 to 31, at Francesco's Coffee Company, 857a Bank Street. For more information, visit Wendy's website at www.wendyfeldberg.ca or email her at wendyfeldberg@sympatico.ca.

Works by **Wendy** also at Snapdragon gallery for the Two by Two Show starting December 6.

Chantal Davignon will be having a solo show at the Theatre de la Nouvelle Scene, 333 King Edward Street, Ottawa from January 7 to February 29. Vernissage is Friday, January 11th from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm,. The show will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

Fortunée Shugar is having a solo show called "From Sea to Sky" at the Ottawa Bagelshop and Deli on Wellington ending on December 24th.

Fortunée also has another show, "Harmony" at the Tayriver Gallery in Perth ending December 28th.

Minutes of OOTB Meeting November 19, 2007.

1. The meeting began with a discussion of some business issues.
2. Cynthia advised that the current web host is ceasing business at the end of December. There was some discussion about what members want and don't want with a web presence. If we opt for a similar approach to what we have had for the last several years, we can expect an increase in cost. It was suggested that it may be time to reconsider what we want for the web site e.g. an inward looking mechanism or an outward looking/promotional approach. It was decided that Cynthia and Wendy Fraser would seek all members input.
3. Rita Rottman spoke about the library and asked members to submit ideas for new books and magazines to Joan and her. The Planning Committee will be considering a budget for the library at the next meeting. Members were reminded to return books at the next meeting. Some have been out for a while.
4. Many thanks to Heather Dubreuil for a wonderful presentation about her journey with quilting. The slide show and talk gave all present inspiration and much to think about. Heather brought many examples of her art to the meeting, which added tremendously to everyone's enjoyment and appreciation of her explorations.
5. Show and Tell was a great as usual!
6. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30.

Minutes of OOTB Planning Committee Dec 11, 2007

Cancelled due to bad weather.

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BOOK REVIEW

BY SHARON DAWN JOHNSON

Midgelow-Marsden, Alys (with Viv Arthur). 2007. ... **this Lustr'ed cloth ...: a fibre artists' workbook of metals.** (Publisher: Artfully Bound.) ISBN 10: 0-9554048-1-9 and ISBN 13:978-0-9554048-1-8

As well as being a visual delight and therefore instructive in its own right, this thin volume is packed with information and examples of working with metals. I've had the privilege of seeing the author's recent work in person for she owns a store and gallery, The Beetroot Tree, in the small village of Draycott, located between the cities of Nottingham and Derby in the UK Midlands. The place is a treasure trove for supplies, classes, and gallery space for fibre artists, along the lines of Art Van Go, where Viv Arthur is.

Alys's work is always on the cutting edge of fibre-related techniques and materials, as the many examples show. Her creative spark also finds a very witty expression in that Alys uses lines from Shakespeare's sonnets to introduce the page and section headings. For instance, the red box that warns about taking care of fingers and surfaces while cutting is captioned " ... be of thyself so wary ...". This same wit is found in her first book entitled *Between the Sheets with Angelina*®, where she plays with word images for section headings, with examples like "wrapped up in each other" and "Angelina on top", to name but two suggestive phrases!

Working with metals provides intriguing new possibilities for surface enhancement, always a quest with fibre artists. Alys educates her reader-adventurers with a step-by-step introduction to various metals, cutting and cut-out procedures. The fun really starts when she shows the colour changes that occur when metals are treated with a strong heat source. As well as these exciting 'natural' colours, metals can be painted with alcohol inks, acrylic paints, or treated with salt, vinegar, bleach, ammonia, or patinating agents to get a wide range of effects.

Embossing metal surfaces with a variety of specialty or improvised tools brings another treatment process to working with metals. When these marks are combined with painting and wiping the metal's surface, for example, the colour becomes embedded in the grooves and recesses, and creates the most fascinating textures and surfaces. As well, metal beads and metal weaving, using coloured and/or embossed surfaces, are other ways of incorporating shapes into a piece.

With care, one can both hand and machine stitch metal onto fabric, without breaking needles. Alys's samples and instructions are clear and just beg to be tried out. Some of

her most exciting examples use water-soluble backings to create lacey structures between pieces of metal. An elegant and deceptive simplicity is achieved by such a technique and her instructions and visuals are immensely clear. The amount of detail which can be seen in the photos is one reason why this book proves to be so very instructive to a novice wishing to learn to work with metals.

An artist's showcase concludes the book with some unusual and intriguing integrations of metal and stitch. This book is a great service to the fibre arts community and comes with my highest recommendation.

On a practical note, I have spent some time gathering some of the metals and equipment needed to experiment with these techniques for myself. I'll bring my samples to a meeting before too long so OOTB'ers can see the results of my adventures. I purchased them many months ago because I had seen some wonderful samples in a British ezine and wanted to find a North American, or particularly, a Canadian supplier. That information follows:

Supplies: I purchase sheets of metals, embossing tools, spirit inks, etc. from a Canadian supplier, Pauline Hardcastle. She doesn't have a website but is very helpful and sells a range of embossing tools from Ten Seconds Studio at <http://www.tensecondsstudio.com>.

You can check their website and then talk to Pauline about which products she stocks. I believe she also sells small sample packs of metals as well as rolls of aluminium and copper at very reasonable prices. She's located in Ancaster, near Hamilton. Pauline doesn't know about fibre and metals, but she experimented with them for cards and gift items. She's really very helpful, friendly and intrigued by what fibre artists can do with metals. It's worth supporting Canadian businesses.

<mailto:paulinescraftstudio@sympatico.ca>

Pauline's phone number is 905 304 6030