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OOTB Program Lineup 2016/17

August 21, 2017, Meeting Members are invited to bring in their favorite art book or magazine articles that have inspired them and tell (and show) the group what techniques they tried as a result. Members show and tell.

September 16-17, 2017, Workshop Dyeing, Printing and Colour with Gunnel Hag. Registration is now open to non-members

September 18, 2017, Meeting Guest speaker, **Gunnel Hag**, Toronto, Ont. Printer, dyer and colour artist and teacher. Members show and tell.

October 16, 2017, Meeting, Intro for new members, volunteer opportunities, FF6 slide show. Members Show and Tell.

October 23, 2017, Playdate Framing Play date with Marie Anzai

November 1-30, 2017, Show, Canadian Landmarks – Stittsville Library Show

November 2, 2017, Playdate Make felt bowls using the balloon method. with Lynn Keeler

November 20, 2017, Meeting Marilyn White and Patricia Caffrey speaking about the City and Guild program based in England that they completed.

November 27 Playdate, Make felt bowls using the balloon method. with Lynn Keeler

January 22. 2018, Playdate Art knitting & crocheting (non traditional) with Lorie Schinko

Beyond Colour Unboxed:

Looking Ahead to New Exhibitions

The following summary details the main points raised at the June meeting about future shows. More discussion time is slated for Oct 16 meeting; those details will go to the Planning Committee in Nov for specific proposals; the details will appear in the Dec newsletter. In the meantime, send other show themes and suggestions to Nancy Garrard and Sharon Johnson.

Discussion Summary about Next Exhibitions

With 10 years of curating experience at Irene's Pub (11 shows/ year), Sharon Johnson strongly underlines the most important point, based on Meredith Filshie's experience as show coordinator with the Textile Museum:

Make it easy for curators, at MVTM or other venues, to approve show proposals – e.g. unified theme or series, colours, uniform size(s) for hanging

Other comments:

Size: dimensions other than 12 x 12 – want other sizes in landscape or portrait mode – some members found Colour Challenge squares difficult to work with
- each year with one standardized size: 1. square 2. portrait 3. landscape

Other show and venue possibilities – City galleries, not limited to Textile Museum
- seek out sponsor and work with wider interests - eg Great Barrier Reef, Riverkeepers, etc.

Possible themes: - art theme expressing social awareness or engagement in the community
- colour by seasons
- gardens
- water
- thanking aboriginal people – but is danger of cultural appropriation

Timelines: lose focus if show deadline too distant; need to build on group camaraderie; aim for 3 years, not 5 years.

Additional themes: Year 1: Colour Wheel: 1. primary
2. secondary
3. opposites
Year 2: Seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter
Year 3: Elements: Wind, Fire, Earth, Sea

Volunteers and Artwork Needed

Almonte Fibrefest: September 9 & 10, 2017

Out of the Box will again have a display at Almonte Fibrefest.

We need volunteers and material to display. Meredith Filshie has kindly offered to take in art work at Canada Beading and will deliver it to the show. Please have the artwork ready to hang on the grids. Except for setup and takedown which require several individuals, the volunteers work in pairs.

There are spaces open for volunteers:
Friday, September 8 at 1:00 pm (set up)
Saturday 10 - 12:30, 12:30 - 2:30, 2:30 - 5
Sunday 10 a noon, noon - 2, 2 - 4, and take down at 4

Almonte Fibrefest is a great show and it is a great opportunity to showcase the great work of members and to talk to appreciative viewers.

Please sign up at the meeting or contact Nancy Leigh-Smith at nancy-s@ncf.ca and bring in some artwork ready for hanging to Canada Beading.

Library show

This year OOTB will have a show again at the Stittsville Library for the month of November. The theme this year is "Canadian Landmarks". You can interpret this however you like. It could be a landscape. It could be an event in Canadian history. Whatever you interpret to be a Canadian landmark. Pieces can be any size as long as no side is longer than 24 inches. And you can use any technique as long as there is some fibre included. Please have your piece ready to hang with wire if it is hard mounted or a rod if it is soft mounted. No alligator clips please because they don't hang well at the library. Three dimensional pieces are also a possibility because we have a glass display case. Pieces are to be brought to the October OOTB meeting. I will send out an email before November asking for information for the label cards to be put on your work. If you are interested in helping with hanging up on November 1st or takedown November 30th let me know. Time to be determined but probably early afternoon. Preparing something for this show is a nice way to practise for a larger show. Let me know if you think you will be making something. Remember that if you make something for the Stittsville show you will already have one piece ready for Fibre Fling in April.

If you have any questions email me at: connietb@sympatico.ca

Playdates

Out of the Box has again organized three members' Playdates for the fall and winter of 2017/18. The dates, topics and leader member(s) are:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017, Framing Play date with Marie Anzai

Have you ever wanted to make a frame to fit your art rather than having to go and buy the size off the shelf? Try your hand at making your own frames and/or refurbish the ones you already have. Marie will have mitres, saws and clamps so that you can make your own small frame. Learn a quick, efficient way of stretching your canvas on this new frame. We will also experiment with paints, tissue paper and PVA glue to re-use your old frames. An opportunity to play – and have your pieces always finished.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, Make felt bowls using the balloon method with Lynn Keeler

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, Art knitting & crocheting (non traditional) with Lorie Schinkel

It is a formula approach, so it is likely I will give out sheets - if you saw my knitting at a show and tell, you know it is kind of wild, but relies on knit and purl only, using different yarn combinations, as well as knitting with more than one yarn at a time. Circular needles are best with how I knit.

What is a Playdate?

A Playdate is a date with your artistic self. It is an opportunity for our members to gather, practice art and share ideas. Each Playdate starts with a practice exercise led by an OOTB member. The exercise consists of design, creativity, and techniques that the Playdate leader uses in his or her art. Playdate participants can choose to participate in the exercises, or work on their own projects.

Where, How Many, Time and Cost

Playdates take place at the Kitchissippi United Church Hall, located at 630 Island Park Drive in Ottawa. There is free parking in designated areas and members can bring a lunch to eat in a communal kitchen. Coffee, tea and milk are provided throughout the day.

Playdate days start at 9:30 am and finish at 3:30pm. The cost of each session is \$10.00 per Playdate or \$25.00 for three. The Playdate leaders donate their time and expertise and allow us to use their materials; therefore, there maybe a small material fee between \$5 and \$10 to replace any materials Playdate participants use.

OOTB policy is that fees are non-refundable but members may find another member or non-member to take their place.

You can register for Playdates at the monthly members meeting or by emailing Veronique Lapierre at verolapierre1205@gmail.com

Rigid Heddle table loom for sale



I have a rigid heddle table loom for sale, might interest somebody who wants to start and practice hand weaving. It is perfect for tapestry and samples too, or scarfs or else.....

**Rigid heddle table loom for beginner weaver :
"Bergere 24" from Leclerc, with flat shuttles
\$ 250.00**

I can be contacted by e-mail:
edithwoods22@gmail.com
Please see picture attached.
Thank you very much!
Ildiko Palfy

New Volunteers Step Up

Two very welcome volunteers will oversee certain crucial OOTB activities:

1. **Fibrefest: Nancy Leigh-Smith** will coordinate the Fibrefest activities: she requires set-up volunteers on Friday, Sept 8, after 1 pm at the Arena in Almonte; take-down volunteers are required for Sunday Sept 10, at 4 pm in the Arena. Also, 2 volunteers are needed for each 2-hour slot on Sat and Sun at the OOTB table, starting at 10 am. Contact Nancy at: <mailto:Nancyl-s@ncf.ca> See Nancy's separate notice.
2. **Fibre Fling: Debbie Boyd-Chisholm** will provide coordinating oversight. She needs an assistant to work with her on this important job. Please consider joining her and its team. Speak to Debbie, Rita (with years of show experience), Nancy, or Sharon about what's involved.

Conversation with... MaryAnne Toonders



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 her/him. It is hoped that it will inspire you in your own artistic journey.

MaryAnne joined OOTB in 2010 and almost immediately joined the Membership Committee with Elena Keen and the Planning Committee along with that position. In July 2017 she handed this position to Val Rochester.

She took over the management of the Colour Challenge in it's second year which included the organization, lists of participants and pieces, collecting artist statement for each piece and arranged display at various exhibitions such as Fibre Fling, Wabi Sabi, and Canada Beading Supply. Additional responsibilities included transportation, storage and return to owners after the Colour Unboxed exhibition at the MVTM. Also, with Helen Gordon, created the Colour Challenge catalogue in preparation for the Colour Unboxed show.

Besides this, she led a Playdate on embroidery stitches along with Helen Gordon. She recently joined the Website/Communication committee and will take on the responsibility of Website Coordinator.

Thank you, MaryAnne for your great involvement!

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

My mother taught her daughters to learn some of the domestic arts even though it wasn't her favored activity. I moved to Calgary after college and after a number of years, I began to cross stitch as a way to relax after work. On return to Ottawa in 1997 I joined the embroidery guild and was exposed to many other embroidery techniques (blackwork, goldwork, crewel, thread painting, etc.). I joined a couple of stitching groups and that's when I was encouraged and learned to create my own designs.

What type of textile art have you been doing, and what is your current preferred technique(s)?

Hand embroidery is the technique I love the most. The fabrics, threads and other bits and pieces appeal to the visual and tactile senses and there is such a variety of

ways to put them together. I like raising the surface as I've done with the Colour Challenge pieces. I've been including needle lace, felt, beads, machine embroidery, and some acrylic paint in a few of my more recent pieces.



6 pieces completed for the Colour Challenge over several years

What inspires you?



Inspiration can come from anywhere but for me, nature and family are frequent themes. A challenge, a textile, a colour or preparation for a teaching opportunity can provide the spark for a piece.

Sibling Rivalry – Needle lace piece of sibling profiles

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

Inspiration comes in many different ways so the process may be different every time as well. I've had pieces that start with just a tiny spark (a moment in time) where I start stitching almost immediately. These are often completed in a timely basis. Sometimes I collect images and ideas: or an idea stays in the back of my mind for a long time or before I can begin a project. I've even created project books on ideas that never went anywhere. Drawings and experimentation may be necessary to figure out the best approach to take. I often charge ahead, then find out I need to backtrack to figure out technical aspect or rethink the details.



Loving Hands Project book, concept never completed

Tell us about your studio space, and how you organize your supplies. a few tips to share?

I have a room upstairs where I keep most of my supplies. I try to keep things somewhat organized and labeled but I work on the main floor. I pull out items I

need or want to check out and often end up leaving around in piles until I'm finished with the project or I need to make space for visitors. On occasion, I know I have an item somewhere in my stash but since it's not been put back in its place or I put it in a "safe place" I can waste a lot of time trying to track it down. Definitely not habits I'd recommended.

Tell us about an artist whose artwork you enjoy very much, or has been an inspiration in your practice.

Cindy Jackson, Pat Caffery, and Margaret Vant Erve are three local artists and teachers who helped me on my journey by providing some of the tools and the encouragement to develop my own voice. A couple of well-known artists I like include Hunterwasser (he said nature doesn't include straight lines), and I like the very simple of expressive lines of Benjamin Chee Chee.

Tell us about your current project.

My weekly stitch group challenged each other to develop a long-term project with weekly or monthly goals. I have a concept for a weekly project but I'm still working out the details. I want to include a continuous line but have 52 hand-stitched rectangles in different fabrics arranged within a larger rectangle.

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

I've taken a number of classes and workshops on a variety of art techniques - drawing, water colour painting and experimented a bit with acrylic paints but not in any depth. I developed classes for the embroidery group on Elements and Principals of Design and design development that proved to be very useful to me.

Any pearls of wisdom or advice for fellow OOTB members?

Take time occasionally to pay attention to the little things, maybe that will lead to something much bigger.

Text and photos: MaryAnne Toonders
Facilitator: Lorraine Lacroix
August 2017

Threadworks – Flashback

Threadworks makes it closest trip to Ottawa this fall. Several OOTB members have pieces in this travelling show,

September 12 to October 31, 2017

Threadworks 2016: Flashback

Arthur Child Heritage Museum

125 Water Street, Gananoqué ON K7G 3E3

Phone: 613-382-2535 for times and details

DVD Review - low-tech metal apps

Mary Hettmansperger (Cloth, Paper, Scissors)



Since joining Out of the Box, I've had the opportunity to learn a lot about how different materials can be integrated into great pieces of art. I've been especially intrigued with Sayward Johnson's work incorporating copper, and the possibilities of combining fabric and metal together.

This Cloth, Paper Scissors workshop from the OOTB library is a follow-up to the DVD "Metal Embellishments." It focuses on specific applications that can be incorporated in art quilts using wire, foil, mesh and screen. It provides a great overview of the tools and materials required to pursue some of the techniques demonstrated as well as ongoing discussions on safety considerations. The DVD is approximately 40 minutes long, and can be viewed by one section at a time if you prefer.

Some of the examples Hettmansperger discusses include using hammered copper and wire in quilts and copper thread as a design feature. Stainless steel mesh can be sewn into quilts and using screening allows the capture of various embellishments. The section on foils was especially interesting. Copper foil can be distressed and hammered into a dapping block to create small domes to integrate into quilts and other projects. Another technique illustrated was embossing copper using stamps, ink or powder on foil.

Books can be created using mesh, screening and collage, fabric, and incorporating brads. There is also a demonstration of how finer meshes can be crumpled and put through a sewing machine. The author also demonstrates how combinations of the techniques identified in the DVD can be combined and notes that they can be used with canvass and other fabrics, book covers and embossing foils. She often uses black fabric and batting as a surface and the combination of techniques inspires interesting art quilt possibilities. This is a well-organized DVD and the demonstrations and explanations were very good.

The techniques do require a wide range of materials, as well as sufficient mobility to work wire and mesh, foil and screen to the forms/shapes/embellishments you are trying to create. However, I would recommend viewing this DVD even if you are not interested in working with metals on an ongoing basis. It definitely illustrates some "out of the box" ideas that can be integrated into your own projects.

Nancy Scott

Planning Committee

PC Convenor	Sharon Johnson & Nancy Garrard
Programs	Madeleine Rousseau, Lynn Keeler, Veronique Lapierre, Cheryl Brooks
Secretary	Nancy Leigh-Smith
Membership	Val Rochester (upcoming)
Treasurer	Sandy Goldsmith
Web-coordinator	MaryAnne Toonders (upcoming)
Newsletter	Helen Gordon
Library	Rita Rottman
Publicity/Marketing	Lorraine Lacroix
Exhibitions/Shows	OPEN
Fibre Fling	Debbie Boyd-Chisholm
Contacts:	info@outofthebox.org



2017-2018 Member Profile Sheet

Renewal

New Member

The annual fee is **\$35.00 due in September of each year** (membership year - Sept 1-Aug 31).

Make cheque payable to OOTB.

- By mail: Complete this form and send to Val Rochester, 7 Veronica Pl., Nepean, ON, K2H 8M3. Please enclose a SASE to receive your membership card by return mail.
- In person: Complete this form and submit to Val Rochester, along with cash, cheque or credit card at **the August, September or October meeting.**

Questions may be directed to: Val Rochester vvjrr@gmail.com

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 and an annual distribution to other members.

Name: _____

E-mail Address: (please print clearly) _____

Home Address: _____

Postal Code _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Member Profile (members only section on website)

The member profile is the place for your photo (a headshot e.g - selfie) allowing members to put a face to a name, and a few words indicating your interests. A website or a blog address can be added here as well.

Please provide 6-7 words about your interests: e.g. **hand-dyeing, hand and machine felting**

Website address: (please print clearly) _____

Blog address: (please print clearly) _____

Please submit a photo of yourself by email to Val Rochester vvjrr@gmail.com

Volunteering

Volunteers are essential to successfully run and enrich our organization. Our tradition is to rely on members to provide program content and artistic support so we actively encourage participation from each and every member.

Volunteer opportunities are listed on the Volunteer Form - Word document (.docx)

Your ideas for programming and organization are always welcome! Raise them at the meeting or send an email to the OOTB Planning Committee (planning@out-of-the-box.org).



How can I volunteer?

2017/18

Volunteers are essential to successfully run and enrich our organization.

Your Name _____

I currently volunteer for OOTB as: _____ N/A

Please check any of the following that you would consider doing for OOTB:

- Join a Committee* Planning Committee
 Communications Committee
 Program, Workshop, and Playdates Committee
 Show Committee
 Chair

***OOTB Committees**

The Planning Committee consists of the co-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and conveners of the key Committees and serves as a coordinating and executive group.

The Program, Workshop and Playdates Committee is responsible for organizing the programs for the monthly meetings, bringing in teachers for workshops and organizing "playdates" which are led by individual OOTB members.

The Show Committee is responsible for organizing the shows and exhibitions of OOTB - currently Stittsville Library (November), Fibre Fling (April), Fibrefest (September), and preparing applications for other potential shows.

The Communications Committee is responsible for developing and maintaining the website, the monthly newsletter, promotional materials, advertising, and arranging discounts with merchants.

Look for 'Job Descriptions' Under "How OOTB Works" in the members only section of the website for more information on volunteer positions.

Let us know your ideas and suggestions for the following:

Library: _____

Guest speakers: _____

Workshops: _____

Program: _____

Playdays: _____

Website: _____

Shows: _____

Challenges: _____

At Meetings

- Coordinate schedule and reminders for setup/takedown at meetings
- Setup/take down room by coming early or staying late
- Coordinate schedule and reminders for setup/takedown of library at meetings?
- Help setup the library books and assist with checkout/takedown
- Help setup electronic equipment for presentations (some knowledge required or obtained)
- Store electronic equipment
- Organize and assist with Show and Tell
- Do a demonstration: Topic: _____
- Organize a hands-on activity on: _____
- Other: _____

Outside of Meetings

- Lead a Playdate on _____
- Develop or contribute Publicity/ Marketing Promotional Materials
 - Rack Cards
 - Newspaper notices
 - Website
 - Facebook
 - Shows
 - Other
- Distribute promotional materials
- Coordinate, assign articles, interviews for the newsletter or community newspapers, website
- Write articles, do interviews for the newsletter or community newspapers
- Write book reviews for newsletter
- Assist in culling the library
- Handle sales of magazines and older books from library
- Contact/verify stores for member discounts for membership & website annually
- Take photography and/or videos at OOTB events
- Coordinate and schedule photographers for events
- Receive and edit photos for website, slide shows, newsletter, Facebook, other?
- Get permissions to use photos
- Maintain OOTB communication with affiliates * ONN, MVTM, OAE

Website (working with the web coordinator)

- Help develop website or sections of website Showcase page Other _____
- Verify links on Members' Only pages
- Verify links on public pages
- Take responsibility for content of pages Sponsors, Members Only, What's New pages
- Keep track of Resources Page and who provides content for each section and get updates
- Validate web connections on a regular basis
- Write content eg. What's New
- Maintain timeliness of web content and delete out of date materials

Shows

- Sit on Show Steering Committee
- Organize a particular show _____
- Organize intake of art pieces for show
- Organize volunteer schedules for: Fibrefest, Fibre Fling, Other
- Organize setup/takedown for: Fibrefest, Fibre Fling,
- Help setup, takedown and docent at shows
- Develop/Maintain promotional material distribution list for shows

*ONN-Ontario Network of Needleworkers, MVTM-Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, OAE-Ottawa Arts East