

## SEW WHAT???

August 2006

**An e-newsletter for the contemporary quilter  
by Elaine Quehl**

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## SEW WHATS NEW???

Ottawa continues to be an exciting place for contemporary quilters this fall and winter. If life seems a little dull after Quilt Canada, wait until you hear about the inspiring series of art quilt lectures and workshops being organized by local quilter, Jody Taylor, owner of Bravo Show Management. A brochure and a registration form are attached, and you can read about Jody in my "Featured Student" section to the right. The Art Quilter Lecture & Workshop Series consists of a Friday night lecture and limited-enrolment workshops on Saturday and Sunday. This is a tremendous opportunity to study with world-renowned quilt artists Ellen Ann Eddy, Melody Johnson, and Barbara Olson. Registration begins September 15, 2006. These workshop spaces will fill quickly so don't delay in registering.

Wendy Foster and I will be vending at the Quilt Co. Quilt Show (more information about this show under the "Events" section of this newsletter) at the Glebe Community Centre, September 30 and October 1. I have been busy dyeing fabric all summer so I expect to have my best selection of hand-dyes ever available for sale. Along with the old favorites, there are many new colour combinations. Wendy has been increasing her stock of Yenmet and Madeira threads and will share my booth. At the moment, this is the only public retail opportunity for both of us this fall. You are always welcome to shop at my or Wendy's house by emailing or calling us and arranging a time, or we are happy to make a visit to your group or guild, either individually or together. My contact information appears at the top of this newsletter. Wendy Foster can be contacted at [fosterwen@yahoo.ca](mailto:fosterwen@yahoo.ca) or 830-5636.

## Quilt Canada

I hope you all had an opportunity to attend Quilt Canada 2006 at Algonquin College. I was awed by the caliber of quilts exhibited at the National Juried Show, and the quilts were beautifully displayed. The winning quilts can be viewed at:

<http://www.canadianquilter.com/events/quiltcanada2006.htm>

Quilt BC 2007 takes place in Kamloops, BC, May 2-5.

Quilt Canada 2008 will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, June 2-7.

## Featured Student: Jody Taylor



"What the Dog Sees" by Jody Taylor

Jody and I first met when she was organizing programs for the Almonte Quilt Guild, and she invited me to deliver a trunk show. Immediately I was struck by her warmth and quirky sense of humour. Since that time Jody has appeared in my classes a number of times, and I am now happy to count her among my friends. I think she is off to a great start as an art quilter. With only two years of quilt making experience under her belt, Jody created the work "What the Dog Sees", depicted above, as a challenge quilt for the Almonte Quilt Guild, and walked away with a prize too! You can view the quilts Jody made in my classes on my Student Gallery at:

<http://www.equarelle.ca/EQStudentGallery.htm>

A mover and a shaker in the quilt community, Jody loves to organize events, and has extensive experience doing so as the owner of Bravo Show Management, responsible for the Baby Boom Show ([www.babyboomshow.com](http://www.babyboomshow.com)). Jody discovered the wonderful world of quilting in 2004 and is now applying her event planning passion and communications experience to this industry. On September 15, 2006 Bravo Show Management will begin accepting registrations for **The Art Quilter Lecture & Workshop Series** featuring Ellen Ann Eddy on December 1-3, 2006, Melody Johnson on January 26-28, 2007, and Barbara Olson on March 22-24, 2007. Having been approached by a few art quilt enthusiasts, Jody responded to the demand for art quilt workshops and is excited and honoured to be working with such accomplished talent on this project.

Jody is married, and together with her family (husband Rob, daughter Broughan, son Tavish, dog Macduff, and cat Tibby) lives in Nepean.

## Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival

In May 2006 the Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival held all of its events under one roof for the first time. The Ontario Juried Show, World Piece Show, Merchant Mall, and classes were held at RIM Park, a new facility on the northeast side of Waterloo. Classrooms are large and bright and just upstairs from the show and merchant mall. You can view the winning quilts of the Ontario Juried Show at: [http://www.waterlooquiltfestival.com/juried\\_show.asp](http://www.waterlooquiltfestival.com/juried_show.asp)

The World Piece Exhibit show brings together a diverse grouping of quilts. Each year a different country and a province of Canada are chosen and invited to exhibit their work. The 2006 show featured quilts from the UK and Alberta. On the day I was teaching Beyond Stippling, textile artist Janice Gunner from the UK was teaching Log Cabin With Attitude in the classroom next door. Students emerged from that class with some very cool work! You can view Janice's work at <http://www.janicegunner.co.uk/index.htm>

The Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival also operates a year-round Quilt Gallery in St. Jacobs. Should you find yourself in the area this Fall, be sure to visit the Gallery to see the work of Ottawa fibre artist Karen Goetzinger and Chelsea fibre artist Carmella Karijo Rother. Their show will be in the Gallery October 4 - December 31, 2006. For more information: [http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com/quilt\\_gallery\\_main.asp](http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com/quilt_gallery_main.asp)

## Quilting by the Lake

Although a sick cat conspired against me, I did manage to make it to Quilting by the Lake ([www.quiltingbythelake](http://www.quiltingbythelake)) this summer. I studied "Designing from Nature for Applique" with Gabrielle Swain ([www.gabrielleswain.com](http://www.gabrielleswain.com)). Gabrielle produces beautiful hand-applied and hand-quilted works of art. Hand-work is not my forte, but Gabrielle was gracious enough to let me use my preferred technique of fusible appliqué. What a treat to have a few days to devote to starting a quilt that has been in my head for months. Under Gabrielle's tutelage, I took a little bit of a different direction than I had planned, isolating areas of my original hosta photograph with a viewfinder, rather than depicting the entire hosta patch. Gabrielle spoke a lot about how she approaches design and the way she views colour. We were given an overview of how to use Prismacolor Art Pencils, Neocolour II water-soluble wax pastels, Portfolio water soluble oil pastels, and Shiva Paintstiks. These are great surface design tools to alter the colour or value of fabric when you need to. For example, I am using the Prismacolor pencils to add more shading and highlights to my hosta leaves. All of these pencils and crayons can be heat set with a hot dry iron, but fabric must be pre-washed prior to applying the colour in order for it to adhere. Prismacolor Art Pencils can be purchased

at Wallack's Art Supply in Ottawa or at any Michaels store, while Neocolour II pastels are available at Wallack's. I am not aware of any place that sells Portfolio pastels and Shiva paintstiks in Ottawa, however, they are both available at Curry's Art Supply stores around Toronto. You can also order on-line at [www.currys.com](http://www.currys.com).

Recently, I was forwarded a copy of Valerie Hearder's ([www.valeriehearder.com](http://www.valeriehearder.com)) e-newsletter, which contains a great deal of valuable information about using artist pencils in your work. You can read about it at [www.threadlink.typepad.com](http://www.threadlink.typepad.com).

Many of the students in my class at Quilting by the Lake expressed concern about using artist pencils on a quilt they might wash. Gabrielle couldn't understand why they are washing their quilts so often, and quite frankly, neither can I. These techniques are not meant to be used on a bed quilt that will be washed frequently, but rather for textile art that will be hung on the wall.

I was struck by the widespread use of hand-dyed fabrics by students at Quilting by the Lake, and the merchant's mall there affords the opportunity to purchase lovely hand-dyes.

## Out of the Dye Pot

**G&S DYE - 9th Annual Storewide SALE**  
August 21st-26<sup>th</sup>  
Visit [www.gsdyer.com](http://www.gsdyer.com) for more information.

## Dyeing and Surface Design in Canada

I am always amazed at the number of opportunities that exist to learn about dyeing and surface design in western Canada. Opulence Silks and Dyes, operating out of North Vancouver, sell a wide variety of surface design supplies and offer an extensive list of workshops. [www.opulencesilksanddyes.com](http://www.opulencesilksanddyes.com)

Maiwa operates both a retail store (Maiwa Handprints) as well as the Maiwa Foundation, which was established to help fund practicing and re-emerging artisans in the craft sector. The Maiwa Foundation has carried out numerous charitable activities for the benefit of artisans and craftspeople in developing countries. A non-profit organization, Maiwa Foundation's mandate is to relieve and eradicate poverty in rural villages by promoting the economic self-sufficiency of the artisans living in these villages.

While visiting Vancouver's Granville Island this summer, I also learned about the Textile Workshops and Symposia organized by Maiwa Handprints. Classes on synthetic and natural dyeing, blockprinting, screenprinting, and batik are delivered

by experts from around the world. For more information, visit <http://www.maiwa.com/>

### **Interested in a dyeing workshop?**

I will be teaching a dyeing workshop at the Inspirations Needlework Show on Saturday, October 28, 2006. For more information, visit the Inspirations website at <http://www.inspirationsneedlecraft.com/>.

### **Art Quilt Workshops in Western Canada**

The Sugar Pine Company, a quilt shop in Canmore, Alberta, runs the Canadian Rockies Quilt Art Conference that takes place annually in March. This year's line up of teachers includes Phil Beaver, Joyce Becker, Laura Cater-Woods, Joan Colvin, Cynthia England, Ann Johnston and Lorraine Torrence. <http://www.thesugarpine.com/>

### **2006/2007 Teaching Schedule**

My up-to-date teaching schedule is available at <http://www.equarelle.ca/TeachingSchedule.htm>  
This site is updated regularly.

### **New Wearable Art Group**

A new wearable art group has been founded in the Ottawa Valley by Wendy Fraser. Wendy is a Past President of the Almonte Quilt Guild. Although the group began meeting in Kinburn, Ontario, a new more central location has been found at the Masonic Lodge, 3704 Carp Rd. in Carp, just 7 minutes northwest of the Corel Centre (ScotiaBank Place). The group meets the first Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information contact Wendy Fraser at [wfraser@sympatico.ca](mailto:wfraser@sympatico.ca)

### **Featured Websites:**

Check out the websites of the instructors of the The Art Quilter Lecture & Workshop Series:

<http://www.ellenanneeddy.com/>  
<http://www.wowmelody.com/>  
<http://www.barbaraolsonquiltart.com/>

### **Books, Books, Books:**

#### **Journey of an Art Quilter**

by Barbara Olson

Since Barbara Olson will be delivering a lecture and workshop in Ottawa in March 2007, I decided to feature her book in this issue. Motivational in style, this book takes us through Barbara's personal journey from traditional quilter to art quilter. She shares both her inspiration and her techniques for creating intuitive images, radiating spirals, mystical castles, and prismatic flowers. Creative exercises are provided to help you get in touch with your inner artist and find your own unique creative style. Instructions are detailed and comprehensive and the photos inspiring. The joy that Barbara describes in being able to express herself through her art quilts is one that I'm sure many of us can relate to. This joy shines from every page of her Journey.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **"Fibre Expressions: Elements"**

by the Out of the Box Fibre Art Group  
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum  
Almonte, Ontario  
November 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007  
[www.out-of-the-box.org](http://www.out-of-the-box.org)

#### **Quilt Co 2006 Quilt Show**

Glebe Community Centre  
September 30 and October 1, 2006  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
<http://www.quiltco.ca/>

#### **Tiny Textile Treasurers Kick-off Fundraiser**

October 5, 2006  
For more information, visit Aunt Beth's website at: <http://www3.sympatico.ca/auntbeth/>  
While attending the International Quilt Association show in Chicago this past April, Beth Cunningham (of Aunt Beth's Quilt World in Navan, Ontario) was inspired by Virginia Spiegel's "Fibreart for a Cause" <http://www.virginiaspiegel.com/NewFiles/ACSFundraiser.html> fundraiser. Aunt Beth is organizing a similar project in Canada to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

#### **Inspirations Needlecraft Show**

October 27 & 28  
Centurion Centre  
170 Colonnade Rd., Ottawa  
<http://www.inspirationsneedlecraft.com/>

**Waterloo County & Area Quilt Festival**

May 23 – 26, 2007

RIM Park, Waterloo

<http://www.quiltcapitalfestival.com/>

**The Grand National 2007: Fantasy**

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KW/AG) and the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum invite quilt artists from across Canada to explore the idea of Fantasy and participate in a thematic exhibition of quilts which celebrates imaginary worlds and dream-like visions.

May 12 – July 1, 2007

[www.grandnationalquiltshow.ca](http://www.grandnationalquiltshow.ca)