OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

2024 | December

Next Meeting: December 10, 2024

Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

Message from the President

by Liz Fournier

Hello All,

It is looking like a Winter Wonderland.

I would like to welcome Robyn Bragg to the guild. She is our 160th member.

I know everyone has been working hard through the Holiday sale season. The Holiday Sale at the Horticulture Building December 13 – 15, is full, with 53 participants.

Our Program Coordinator, Carmen Gervais had a wonderful virtual presentation on Pricing by well-known Canadian Potter, Naomi Clement. We will have access to this presentation until the end of December. If you could not attend the Zoom meeting, I urge you to watch it.

The December General Meeting is the annual Christmas Pot Luck on Tuesday December 10th at the Hintonburg Community Center. Sweet or Savoury, we love it all. See you there.

A reminder that the General Meetings for January 14th and February 11th 2025 will be virtual. Zoom coordinates will be emailed to you. We'll meet again in person in March 11, 2025

I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and all the best for the New Year.

Guild Holiday Celebration!

Join us to for a holiday pot luck to celebrate our community and the end of a very successful year!

Where: The Hintonburg Community Centre
Date: Tuesday December 10, 2024
Time: 6:30 - 9:00

Cookies

Finger Foods

Chocolates!

Desserts

Please bring your drinking vessel, a plate and utensils, so you can sample all the delicious things!!

THE OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS
LA GUILDE DES POTIERS D'OTTAWA

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Spring Sale

Spring Sale &

Annual Exhibition and Clay Festival

May 2, 3, 4 2025

COMMUNICATIONS
Contact Nancy & Lisa by email–
communications@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Tag us on Insta
@ottawapotters

Follow us on social media:
Instagram **@ottawapotters**
Facebook **@ottawaguildofpotters**
And join our MEMBERS ONLY Facebook group:
The Ottawa Guild of Potters Members Group
It's a place for Guild members to connect and share.

We have been working away at promoting our Holiday Sale, focusing on social media. Every participating potter is featured with one of their images, posted 4 at a time.

Participants were supplied with a blank template to use in their own social media. We also have ads in local newspapers– OSCAR and Glebe Report and a MailChimp promotion was also recently emailed to our 1,000+ email subscription list.

We are currently running a paid social media advertising campaign, up until the date of the sale. Some stats of note from this campaign:

Instagram post views: Nov 1 789 ~ Nov 12 1.1K ~ Nov 26 1.2K
Ad reach 19,569 accounts
Engagements 10,408
Link clicks 1,070
Cost to date $112.80

We believe that is good visibility for the cost

Your Communications Team,
Nancy Riggs & Lisa Butler
Email us: communications@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Exhibitions Committee

by Elizabeth Davies & Joanna Richardson

The Exhibition Committee invites members to a Zoom INFORMATION SESSION (to be held in January, date and time TBD) on two events for the new year:

- the launch of Pot Talks. In this new initiative for the Guild, members will be encouraged to meet in groups, and under the guidance of a facilitator, be encouraged to provide positive critiques/feedback to artists wishing to present a work in progress for review and dialogue;

- the March Celebrating Clay group show (maximum 18 pieces) on the theme of Rebirth. Those interested in applying will have the opportunity not only to give the application form a trial run, but also to discuss how their piece might reflect the theme.

Celebrating Clay – Group Show – March 1 – 31, 2025

Theme: Rebirth

Submission window: February 9 thru 15, 2025

The next Celebrating Clay will be a group exhibition with the theme of Rebirth. Think of how the world wakes up again in spring, or maybe how your pots go through the kiln firings and come out transformed. We're hoping this exhibition's theme sparks pots that tell stories of life, renewal, and joy!

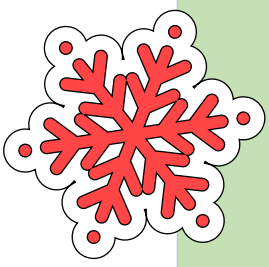
More details: https://ottawaguildofpotters.ca/virtual-celebrating-clay/

Annual Exhibition, 2 – 4 May, 2025

The Exhibitions Committee is delighted to announce that Sequoia Miller, Chief Curator for the Gardiner Museum, Toronto, will be our juror for the 2025 Annual Exhibition. Meet our juror.

Sales Committee

by Liz Fournier



Holiday Sale

Date:	December 13, 14, 15, 2024 at the Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park.
Setup:	Friday, Dec 13th from 9:15 am to 12 pm
Standards Committee:	12 pm to 2:45 pm
Sale Times:	Fri, 3 to 9 pm **&** Sat, 10 am to 6 pm **&** Sun, 10 am to 5 pm
Take down:	Sunday from 5:15 pm to 6 pm
Message:	This is an unprecedented Holiday Sale. We reached the maximum number of participants the building will hold and as a result had to close our online application early. This has never happened before. In future sales we will clearly state the maximum number of booth spaces and that the online applications will be closed when that number is reached. The Communications Committee has done a wonderful job promoting the Holiday sale on Social media. Thank you all for sending in your beautiful photographs. The trio, Lost Keys, will be adding their jazz stylings to the ambiance on Friday night. Our customers will be swinging and swaying as they shop. Bob Petch will be playing his piano on Saturday. A tremendous thank you to the Sales Committee members Ileana Tierney, Erin Ryan Morgan, and Jane Bryttan. They have done a world-class job. Thank you to everyone who has filled out the JotForm survey with regards to the December 2025 Holiday Sale I hope to see all of you this upcoming weekend at the Holiday Sale.

Membership Report

by Carol Badenoch

We have 160 members. A hearty welcome to our newest member: Robyn Bragg.

Robyn Bragg: I am a two-dimensional mixed media artist who works primarily in collage and encaustic (painting with melted beeswax). I fell in love with clay in art school and have been taking lessons off and on for many years. Since the pandemic, I have been working in clay regularly and honing my skills. I am at the point where I am treating pottery as a serious aspect of my creative practice and am working towards selling my clay pieces alongside my two-dimensional work.

Artist Inspiration: I am in love with pattern, texture, and surface decoration. I'm inspired by art nouveau and art deco patterns, and I often carve and decorate my pieces with organic, botanical motifs. As well, I'm exploring ways to use underglaze transfers like collage, cutting them up and putting them back together in new ways. I am also interested in bringing the colour and texture from my wax pieces into my ceramics, working with underglazes to create a painterly effect.

Katherine King

Activities & Programming

by Carmen Gervais

I'm very interested in your **ongoing feedback and ideas** – you can reach me at activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

On November 12th we had a great in person meeting on **preparing for the OGP Holiday Sale** in December (standards, displays, social media/marketing, etc.). The presentation is a great quick reference tool for members, was shared via the GuildForum on November 18th.

Pricing our work! Naomi Clement gave a riveting virtual workshop on pricing on November 27th that was attended by over 40 OGP members. The video is available to all members until the end of December.

Coming up in 2025: **Nerikomi Workshop** with **Eiko Maeda** and **Throwing Large** with **Kiefer Floreal!**

Standards Committee Report

by Jocelyn Jenkins

November was a busy month for Standards. There were two more meetings with new-to-sale guild members, both at my home. The first meeting on November 2nd gathered 5 new potters while the second meeting on November 25th scooped up the last two. The work presented at these meetings was uniformly of great quality and there were lively Q&A sessions.

Email communications with new-to-sale potters was an effective way to sort out a lot of the issues that cropped up over the month. Because these potters have an easy email contact for Standards, due to our meetings, we can easily act as a clearing house to direct inquiries to the right inboxes. We appreciate how efficient and prompt all inquiries to the Sales Committee were. Thank you!

Standards team members also attended the November Guild meeting to present some of the most common issues seen by the teams at the sales.

Early in December Standards sent this checklist below to the 12 new-to-sale potters for the Holiday Sale. (I'm appending it here as other potters might want to check things off in their preparations.)

1. Don't forget to bring an extension cord whether you have lights on your table or not. The handbook says 10' but 12' is better. An extension cord **and** power bar are necessary if you have a few lights on your table.

2. Labels: After much back-and-forth discussion, the sales team **strongly** recommends printed labels. I think they would like to say that they are mandatory however the handbook does not state this at present…therefore there is some leeway.

Make sure your labels are in accordance with the handbook. Remember that the cashier has to remove them from your pots and stick them on a sheet of paper if you are to get paid!

No prices below $8; sets must be labeled in accordance with the handbook.

3. Do not forget you will have a job at the sale in addition to your shifts. It will be noted in the material you have received from the SaleS committee. Make sure you check, and know when and where you are to show up for said job!

4. Re your work: sand those bottoms if they need it; look carefully for small cracks around handles so we don't have to pull them; no bare clay on surfaces in contact with food. Test teapots and mugs with boiling water. Test vases to ensure they are watertight.

5. Your table must have a covering that reaches the floor and covers up your nether regions. If your spot is not against a wall, nothing on that table can exceed 6' off the floor.

6. Don't forget to leave a copy of your inventory sheet with the Sales committee. You will be told where to drop it off Friday morning.

7. All set-up must be completed by the time the Sale Committee by noon. Standards will make their pass when you are all out of the building.

Wishing everyone a great time at the Holiday Sale! And an even better holiday later in the month!