2025 APRIL

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting: April 8, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

President's Message

Happy Spring!

I would like to welcome new members. I would also like to welcome Carol Holmes-Kerr and thank her for taking on the role of Membership secretary. Carol has held several positions in the Guild, both on the Executive and non-Executive positions. With our great appreciation, Nicole Jones has volunteered to be our Secretary. She brings not only her enthusiasm, but her expertise from being a long-standing executive member of other Not-for-Profit Organizations.

March was quite the month! Thank you, Carmen Gervais, for organizing the very successful Keifer Floreal workshop -- Throwing Large. I want to thank you for chairing the March General Meeting, as well as organizing an Artist Talk with Kiefer Floreal and a Pizza night!

Great Bowls of Fire was another successful, sold out event this year. Thank you to Jackie Lyons and Barbara Minish and all the volunteers and restaurants that made this event such a success.

April is Membership Renewal month.

See you at the April General Meeting at the Hintonburg Community Center on April 8th. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the meeting starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Our Programs Director, Carmen Gervais has convened a great Pre-Sale panel to give advise on all things Sale: setup, table displays, pricing, electrical cords, lighting, and tips and tricks from past sales. We will also show you how to access the Ceramic Arts Network, our replacement for the Guild Library. There are all the current publications but also an archive of past magazines and video.

I'm looking forward to Carmen's program for the May meeting. A hands-on evening of making and attaching handles!

by Liz Fournier

Membership Committee Report

Membership has reached 173! We are delighted to welcome new members.

Maggie Sherwin: Artist Bio: I am a solo amateur potter, having done classes in Ottawa on and off for the past 13 years. Recently, while in Thunder Bay for Teacher's College, I began throwing again and have completely fallen back in love, working as much as I can. I am also interested in learning how to teach ceramics and move beyond throwing into my "discomfort" zone of hand building and attachments. My current work is mostly repeated basic functional forms that aim at consistency, and my decorative style is illustrative with underglazes and my nature-inspired with regular glazes.

Artist Inspiration: In my work, my visual inspiration is mainly simple forms that make functional sense and unite angles and curves. I am more interested in creating works that become parts of people's everyday lives, such as cups, plates, and bowls, than I am in creating decorative pieces. For glazing, I am inspired heavily by nature and flora, as well as gems and minerals. I'm also interested in learning more about recreating historical pots, using techniques that were used in the past to better understand the potters that created the artifacts that still exist today.

Jess Menchions: Artist Bio: I am a returning potter after a 30-year hiatus. Like riding a bicycle, my muscle memory has endured. I have a City and Guilds certificate in studio pottery that I was able to achieve while I was living in London, U.K. My potting journey can now continue with an emphasis on skill-building and mastery.

Artist Inspiration: The tradition of English majolica and the Arts and Crafts movement. Bernard Leach and William de Morgan are my strongest influences.

Membership Renewals

As of Friday, April 4th, 50 members have renewed their membership. Please remember that you must be a member is good standing in order to participate in the Spring Sale.

Also, members who have requested renewal, your request can not be fulfilled until you have sent your renewal fee. And your request can not be fulfilled if you have not indicated 3 areas in which you will volunteer in your profile.

Finally, don't miss out on the early bird fee of $55 during April. As of May 1st the membership fee will be $65. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed and I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to so the same.

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

Sales Committee

Spring Sale May 2-4, 2025 Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park.

Thank you to everyone who has applied to participate in the Spring Sale. We have a full sale with 40 spaces and 45 potters, there are several shared table spaces.

Please remember to renew your annual Membership.

The Job List, Shift Schedule, and Floor Plan will be sent to Sale Participants in the upcoming weeks.

If you know that there are times that you are unavailable to take a Shift, please let me know and we will try our best to accommodate your request.
lizfornier@rogers.com

Please ensure you have read the Sale Handbook and the Shift Description. Remember your Shifts take priority over volunteering for Clay Festival activities.

Members who are not participating in the Spring Sale we would love to have you volunteer to take a Shift if you have the time.

Please ensure that you arrive 15 minutes before your Shift and meet with the Convenor for training on your Shift job.

The April 8th General Meeting will have a Panel Discussion on all things Sale: setup, electrical cords, displays, pricing, labels, Shift jobs, and how to arrange your display.

by Liz Fournier

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.

Lisa and Dawn kept Communications going while I (Nancy) was away, doing a fabulous job with the Great Bowls of Fire campaign. Huge thanks to both of them for their dedication; it takes a team to promote all our Guild activities.

Now that spring is here, our focus has shifted to the upcoming Spring Sale and the Clay Festival. It's going to be busy!

Getting Ready for the Spring Sale
What a great variety of work we've seen in the photos you have submitted!

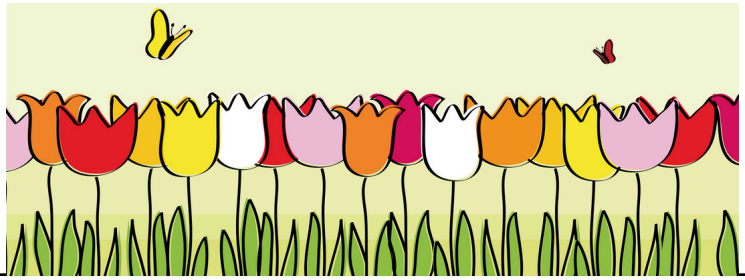
Participants, if you haven't yet done so, please send us a few photos of your work via email. Pretty please, ensure that YOUR NAME is included in the filename ie, lisa_butler_mug.png.

Social media posts have begun. Each vendor will be highlighted with 2 others, in order of application with photos.

We will also shortly send out branding templates that you can use with your own media posts, and we do hope to find time to send you the image we create for you, so you can post it also.

Clay Festival Promotion
Along with promoting our potters in the Spring Sale, we'll be getting the word out about the third Ottawa Clay Festival with all its fun activities, which includes the Spring Sale. Watch our socials and feel free to share.

Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler & Dawn McLeod



Activities & Programs

April 8th meeting will be hybrid!

There was strong virtual participation for the March meeting's artist talk by Kiefer Floreal, and there were requests to continue providing a Zoom link for those who can't attend in person. While it's not perfect because we don't have the capacity to make it interactive, we hope this will be a valuable experience for those joining us remotely.

Activities for the April 8th meeting:

- Preparing for the Spring Sale: A panel of OGP members will share their knowledge, lessons learned, and tips on how to have a highly successful booth at the sale in May.

- Ceramic Arts Network – The OGP has taken out a subscription, and all members will soon have access to the amazing repertoire of resources on this site! Natalie Gosselin will provide a virtual tour of the site so you can see how to access what's available.

Coming up:

- May 13th monthly meeting: Pulling handles hands-on activity! We'll provide leather hard mug bodies and clay so you can try different techniques to make handles under the guidance of some handle experts from the Guild.

- June 10th Annual General Meeting: In addition to the usual pot-luck, we will be organizing a garage sale so you can trade, sell, barter and benefit from the stashes of your fellow guild members. Mark you calendar, you're going to want to be there!

We'll be sending a survey this summer to get your ideas and input on what we should do in the coming year, stay tuned!

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

Carmen Gervais

Exhibitions Committee

The 2025 Annual Juried Exhibition is fast approaching! Our juror this year is Sequoia Miller, Chief Curator and Deputy Director of the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Toronto. Submissions of all sorts are welcome for this exhibition, with prizes available for Best for Use, Best Decorated, Best Design, Best Expression, and Best Sculptural Piece, among other awards! **The Submissions Window will be open from April 13 to 22.**

The second Pot Talk took place on March 30, over Zoom. Two brave members presented projects they were working on, trusting that an in-depth discussion with fellow members would help come up with new ideas and thoughts on how to move their project forward. Both expressed their delight at the variety of comments, saying that they had now re-found their enthusiasm, and were eager to try out the new suggestions. We're very grateful for them for presenting!

The next scheduled Pot Talk will be in June.

Elizabeth Davies, Joanna Richardson

ARTeries

Is accepting applications for our

Holiday Craft Show

43 8x8 Booths Available
27 Aisle Booths $130 + hst
16 Corner Booths $155 + hst
4 potential End caps $310 +hst

November 15-16, 2025, 10am to 4pm
Greely Community Centre
1448 Meadow Drive, Greely

Setup begins 8am on November 15, booths remain in place over night, tear down is between 4-6 on Sunday evening.

Previous shows in this location have drawn foot traffic of 500-1000 people per day.

ARTeries will provide: Security, Advertising, curtained booths, 6-foot table and 2 chairs if requested, Music, and a Safe Selling Environment.

All work offered for sale must be created by the vendor, no resale of items.

Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2025, for a fee of $20 +hst. Email to redgatelivery@outlook.com or dm for a fillable application form.

submitted by Kirstin Davidson