2025 JANUARY

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Monthly Newsletter

Fired Up!

Next Meeting: January 14, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Zoom meeting

President's Message

Happy New Year !
I hope everyone had a lovely Holiday season and a well-deserved rest after the Holiday Sale.

Let me welcome new member Tara Hamilton and returning member Mahnaz Hazeghi.

Carmen Gervais, our Programs coordinator has some announcements for upcoming workshops this Winter and Spring.

January's General Meeting will be in the warmth and comfort of your own home via Zoom. Choose a pot to Show and Tell or ask advise about. I have a set of three pots that I just can't figure out how to glaze.

We will be getting a Ceramics Monthly Institutional Subscription this month. All members will have access to digital Ceramics Monthly, Pottery Illustrated and CLAYflicks. Details to follow.

The Holiday Sale was a tremendous success. 53 Potters and $161,523.34 in Sales!

Hengameh Kamal Rad has volunteered to coordinate refreshments for our Monthly General meetings. Thank you Hengameh!

See you Tuesday January 14th at 6:30 pm.

Liz Fournier

Membership Committee Report

Carol Badenoch

Membership has reached 163!

Tara Hamilton: I am a newer potter that has been practicing for about a year. I am working out of my own little home studio and getting my pieces fired locally until I set up a studio in the summer where I will then have a full functioning studio with firing services. I have taken many courses in person and online to help develop my techniques as well as some good'ol self learning as well. My next step is taking a glaze making course this winter. I came to pottery as a new outlet for my energy after a few knee operations have sidelined me from my favorite outdoor pursuits, so my work is leaning towards making functional pieces with outdoor influences. I am striving to bring in some natural patters like wood grain etc as well as trying to incorporate known outdoor great tactfully and/or abstractly into my pieces and designs.

Mahnaz Hazeghi: returning member.

Kathy Tsui: My work investigates the beauty and destruction that result from the collision of nature and humans - be it the scouring effect of wind and rain on paint, the shapes and textures that land use choices leave on earth and communities, or the twist of rivers on rock and human history. Working in both handbuilding and wheel techniques with mid-fire stoneware clay bodies, I create functional vessels that emphasize form and texture. I am a recent graduate of the Ceramics program at the Haliburton School of Art and Design.

Sales Committee

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated in making this the biggest and most successful Holiday Sale to date! I hope you enjoyed yourself. We had 53 Potters participate with total Sales of $161,523.34. Our booth fees covered all expenses and reduced the commission to 3.5%.

Thank you to all the members that were not vendors, who came and took a shift or two at the Sale.

A huge thank you to the Communications Committee. The Advertising and Social Media Post were amazing. Thank you Nancy and Lisa.

Thank you to Dave our Webmaster.

Thank you to Jocelyn Jenkins and her team on Standards and Education. They make us all look our best.

Thank you to Michele Macdonald our treasurer for all her wizardry with crunching those numbers and getting our cheques to us.

Thanks Linda Taylor for the amazing program and for keeping our Computers running.

Thank you to Kathrin Von Dehn for the beautiful hand made decorations strung at the front of the hall.

Thank you to everyone who brought treats to share with your fellow potters.

Now to the Sale Committee, Ileana Tierney, Erin Morgan and Jane Bryttan who compile all the participants and schedule the Shifts and Jobs and create the Floorplan. Thank you so much.

After every Sale we do a review. What we did right, things that didn't run as smoothly as we would have like, and how to improve.

The Ottawa Clay Festival Spring Sale and Annual Juried Exhibition will be May 2-4, 2025. Application will be available online in early March and close at the end of March or when we have reached our maximum number of sale participants. At this moment, it looks to be 32 to 35 participants. That number will be finalized before the applications go online.

Liz Fournier

submitted by: Carol Holmes-Kerr

The summer courses for Haliburton are listed for anyone interested in taking a pottery course or may want to try something else.

Haliburton School of Art

COMMUNICATIONS

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

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.

Happy New Year! We hope you had a chance over the holidays to take a break from the pottery wheel and drink some nog instead.

We are quickly turning our attention to the upcoming months and planning our communications strategy:

January - there is a social media campaign to help recruit volunteers. If you have time, please consider helping! Stay tuned for that!

February - introducing the lineup of OGP events for the year, starting the Great Bowls of Fire media campaign, and working with the Exhibitions team to start the Celebrating Clay media campaign.

March - continuing focus on Great Bowls of Fire and Celebrating Clay.

Nancy Riggs & Lisa Butler

submitted by: Carol Holmes-Kerr

I can personally vouch for Chris as a teacher having taken several classes with him over the years.

https://www.clayandglass.on.ca/thrownandalteredonline

Standards Committee Report

December 2024 Holiday Sale

The main business of Standards in December was the pre-Sale Standards review as well as mentoring and feedback during the sale. Over 50 potters took part in this sale so of lot of pots were viewed by the team of 6 – (myself, Lucie, Julie, Marianna and Collette with a helping hand from Marie as Elizabeth was away).

More pots than usual found their way into the team's hands, but as a percentage of the pots being sold it's quite possible that the number was in line with other sales.

The most frequent flaw, which fortunately has an on-the-spot remedy, was the smoothing of rough bottoms, with rough spots elsewhere on the pots being a close second. That was followed by visible cracks at attachments on pots, usually on clear glazed pots. Sorry folks! Those cracks matter to us... the rule being that no cracks are acceptable on attachments on functional work. We feel your pain, as some of the cracks were tiny. The topic of glazes or lack of glazes in certain areas on a pot is the thorniest issue for us on Standards. I am going to put it out there...the longer I work on standards the more I love liner glazes. None of us want to pull pots permanently during a sale, but glazes that don't comply with our written standards (yep! – you all know where to find those standard sheets on our website) are one reason we have to do this. Your knowledge of your glazes and your firing schedule as well as rigorous home-testing can help us to make informed decisions. For example: a commercially-available matte glaze may be listed as food-safe but not be suitable for use on dinnerware due to its lack of durability. Your homemade glaze may look matte but perform beautifully over time. We need to be assured of that. On the whole, compliance with Guild standards was high and potters were uniformly considerate in their dealings with us. *Hope everyone's New Year is off to a great start!*

Jocelyn Jenkins

Exhibitions Committee

We have a busy month ahead in January with two events planned!

Celebrating Clay Info Session
Wednesday Jan 15th at 7 pm via Zoom

Interested in submitting to Celebrating Clay but have questions about the exhibition or process? This Info Session is for you!

We'll discuss the group Celebrating Clay exhibition and go through a test run of the application form. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to talk about your projects and how they relate to the theme Rebirth.

Reminder: Celebrating Clay Applications are open from **January 17th to January 30th 11:59 pm,** and the theme is **Rebirth.**

Introducing... Pot Talks!
Wednesday, January 29th at 7pm via Zoom

Do you have a project you'd like to talk through?
Would you like some peer feedback on your pots?
Would you like to show some pieces you've made?
Are you interested in connecting with other potters?
Then you should attend the Pot Talk!

Our Pot Talks are an opportunity for members to talk through a project or a problem they're working on, or simply to get feedback on your pieces. One of the best ways to grow as a potter and artist is to talk about work – yours and others'! This is a great learning opportunity for both the person showing their work, and the people responding to that work.

In the Pot Talk, we'll outline how to look at work based on the Principles of Art and Design, and how to give constructive criticism in a positive and respectful manner. We'll have 4 spots reserved for people to talk about their work, and then free time for others to discuss other topics that come up.

If you want to be sure you'll have time to talk about a project or pot, or if you have any questions about the Pot Talk email us at exhibitions@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

We're hoping to see you at this first Pot Talk! Our biggest goal is to get people together to talk about wonderful projects, and for everyone to leave feeling excited, inspired, and invigorated to get creating!

Elizabeth Davies, Joanna Richardson

Activities & Programs

The new year is ramping up with some amazing workshops and events! Mark your calendars and keep an eye on the Guild Forum and this newsletter for things coming your way:

January 14

Show and Tell!
Login to the monthly OGP meeting at 7:30 (we're virtual in January and February) to talk about pots. Members can share their favorite pot, most epic fail, most irritating issue they're trying to tackle, whatever, and we're going to talk about it! The goal is to have fun, learn from the wise, share the stuff we love and engage as a community of potters.

February 15 & 16 (pending venue confirmation)

Nerikomi workshop with renowned artist Eiko Maeda. Two-day, hands-on workshop open only to OGP members.

You will be guided by Eiko as you make your own beautiful nerikomi vessels. Check out her work on Instagram and her website! Registration information coming soon.

March 8/9 or 15/16 (pending venue confirmation)

Throwing large (hands-on) workshop with Kiefer Floreal (finalist in the Great Canadian Pottery Throw Down!). OGP members only, and you can register for either one or both days. Kiefer will guide potters with demonstrations, expert advice, tips and tricks as they throw own their large vessels.

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

Carmen Gervais

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submitted by: Hengameh Kamal-rad

Wall sculpture, 16 in X 16 in X 5 in.

Great Bowls of Fire

Calling all bowl makers! Once again this year on March 22, the Ottawa Guild of Potters will be hosting our signature fundraising event for the Ottawa Food Bank - Great Bowls of Fire. And once again we are calling on the talent and generosity of our members - we need your bowls.

Whether you are able to donate 25 bowls as one of our featured artists or only a couple of bowls, we would love to hear from you.

In either case, the bowls we are looking for should comfortably hold at least 400ml of liquid and be a bowl that you would expect to sell for a least $30.

If you are donating as a featured artist, your 25 bowls don't have to be identical but they should be reasonably similar to each other. Featured artists will have a picture of their bowls used in our social media advertising and on the event poster.

All bowls donated will be eligible for an "in-kind" tax receipt from the Ottawa Food Bank.

If you are interested in being one of our featured bowls makers or would like more information, please contact Barbara Minish (barbara.minish@gmail.com).

If you would like to donate a smaller number of bowls, please contact Jane Bryttan (jane@bryttan.com)

Barbara Minish

The Great Bowls of Fire Committee is starting to gear up for our Saturday March 22 event. It will be held at the Glebe Community Centre from 12:30 to 5:30.

What's New? This year we are looking at selling event tickets in two time windows. This will allow for a better flow through the event space.

Call for Volunteers: Join Us for Great Bowls of Fire!
We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help during Great Bowls of Fire, happening on Saturday March 22nd. We need volunteers from 12:30 to 2:30 and 2:30 to 5:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to this exciting event and support the Ottawa Food Bank!

We have a few different volunteer roles. You can lend a hand by helping with:

- Guest Checkout: Assist guests by wrapping and bagging their bowls after they make their selections.
- Soup Stations: Hand out to-go soups or and bread at the serving stations.
- Line Management and Wayfinding: Help manage lines and guide guests around the venue.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Alex Noreau at GBoF@ottawaguildofpotters.ca. Thank you for your support!

During this event we also have set up a table with other bowls for sale. These are also donated by guild members as another fundraising stream and a good way for those Guild members who cannot commit to 25 bowls to get involved. If you are interested in donating, please contact Jane Bryttan: jbpottery@bryttan.com

Jackie Lyons