2025 MARCH

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting: March 11, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

President's Message

Spring is in the air. Perhaps wishful thinking. Don't feel too sorry for me, I'm in Australia in Northern Queensland. It is HOT and humid and I'm spending every day with my 6 month old Grandson. I'm exercising great restraint and not sending you a barrage of photos of Angus.

A hearty welcome to our new members. March is turning into a very busy month for the Ottawa Guild of Potters.

Carmen Gervais has been very busy organizing not one but two amazing hands-on workshops. The Nerikomi workshop lead by Eiko Mazda at the Nepean Visual Arts Centre. Thank you Megan Pethic for firing all the amazing work.

The second workshop, 'Throwing Large' with Kiefer Floreal, a finalist in The Great Canadian Throwdown. Thank you, Gladstone Clayworks, for partnering with us.

Carmen has also secured Kiefer to do an Artist Talk for Guild members at the March 11th General Meeting!

The Spring Sale online application sold out in 12 hours and 20 minutes!

The much loved OGP annual fund raiser for the Ottawa Food Bank, Great Bowls of Fire is March 22 at the Glebe Community Centre. Thank you Jackie Lyons, Barb Minish and team.

A big thank you to the Communications committee. They have been busy keeping everyone informed about all the OGP Events. As well, I would like to welcome Dawn McLeod to the Comms team and thank her for volunteering.

April 1st is Membership renewal day.

Good luck to the Fusion 2025 Conference OGP Bursary applicants.

It's a full month. See you in April.

by Liz Fournier

Membership Committee Report

Membership has reached 171!

Lael Morgan

Elizabeth Ritzema: Artist Bio: I am a Registered Early Childhood Educator(RECE) with an education background in Recreation Therapy. During my first year of work as an RECE, I decided to enroll in a pottery class about 9 years ago. Ever since, ceramics has become my hobby and passion.
Artist Inspiration: I find inspiration through meeting other potters in my current pottery class, taking the occasional pottery class at another studio, and during my yearly summer travels to various countries. Additionally, I love to watch the Great Pottery Throwdown from the UK. The pieces the potters are tasked to make often inspire me to try new techniques or explore ways to make different pieces either with hand building or using a wheel.

Patricia King: Artist Bio: My name is Trish King and I love all things clay. I have a passion for teaching and been teaching throwing since 2020.
Artist Inspiration: I am inspired by those around me! Watching others learn and play with clay.
Studio Name: I work out of LOAM and Hintonburg Pottery.

Christine Roach: Artist Bio: I make bowls, vases & functional pieces mostly. I like exploring various textures, clay bodies & glaze combinations.
Artist Inspiration: Pottery is a tactile exploration for me. It is a creative escape, that brings endless possibilities & constant learning opportunities.
Studio Name: Studio Space Ottawa

Alexandra Noreau: Welcome back!

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

OGP Library Update

As you know, since COVID hit in 2020, we have not had access to our library, which was a major part of our in-person meetings. Since things opened up, the executive has been looking for ways to bring the library back to the Community Centre but the city is no longer interested in allowing us to keep our materials on site.

We have been looking for solutions to this issue for the past several months, and are really excited to tell you that we think we have found one.

The Ceramic Arts Network offers an online resource they call the iCAN Silver membership. This includes all of their subscription products: Ceramics Monthly, Pottery Making Illustrated, CLAYflicks and Ceramic Recipes. This membership will be for Guild members only, and will give you access to unlimited streaming of video workshops, glaze recipes – all the exclusive benefits to improve your art and build your skills.

Pending the financial approval of the executive, we will have this in place in the next few weeks. Click this link if you want more information: https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/ican-membership

by Natalie Gosselin

Sales Committee

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

The application for the Spring Sale opened online on March 1st to 25th OR until we reached the Maximum booth spaces of 40.

The Spring Sale SOLD OUT in 12 hours and 25 minutes. I have started a waiting list on a first-come basis.

Historically, the Spring Sale has always had fewer spaces, as we share the space with the Annual Juried Exhibition.

Thank you to everyone who applied.

Holiday Sale December 11-13 2025.

by Liz Fournier

On April 1, your guild membership status will change from "member" to "needs renewal." **Beginning April 1**, you can renew your membership using our automated system on the web site. Because it is an automated system, you cannot renew early.

Closer to the date, I'll send out the convenient link to the renewal form, with a few more details. Just a reminder that your participation in the OGP Spring Sale will be contingent on renewing your guild membership before the sale.

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

Pottery Equipment *for sale by Arthur Petch*

As many of you know, I have repaired my backyard studio following the fire. While I am going to keep my hand in pottery-related activities like making custom-coloured transfer decals and molds, I am no longer going to produce ceramic vessels and have equipment that I need to get out of the studio.

Everything I have can be had for free but I will accept donations for some equipment. Most is now in the studio but some (kiln stilts mostly) are in the storage shed which is not accessible until the snow melts.

The studio is located at 1002 Alpine Avenue (across Queensway from IKEA) and, if you wish to drop by, my cell phone number is 613-406-5536.

The available pottery and office equipment (kilns and vent master have been sold) is mostly listed below:

- Exhaust fans
- Kiln venting collector cups & flex hoses
- Numerous books
- Spray nozzles
- Alphabet stamps
- Vessel glazing prongs
- Frema clay gun
- Talisman Rotary Sieve
- Many kiln stilts
- Thermocouples
- Pyrometer (analogue)
- Various clay cutting tools
- Bailey Extruder and dies
- Cyclonic dust separator
- D-Link Internet router
- Audio speakers (2)

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.

Great Bowls of Fire
The primary communications focus for March continues to be the launch of Great Bowls of Fire. The bowls look great! I'm having a hard time deciding which one I want.

Getting Ready for the Spring Sale
There was a flurry of activity during the early morning hours when the vendor applications opened for the Spring Sale. Wow! The spots filled up fast! As a result, many applicants did not include pictures in their online applications.

If you would like to see your pottery highlighted in our Instagram and Facebook social media posts, please send us a few photos via email. When you send the pictures, please ensure that your name is included in the filename, for example, lisa_butler_mug.png.

We plan to start advertising the Clay Festival and Spring Sale in early April. We will highlight each vendor in the order of their application submission. However, if you didn't submit pictures, we will slot you in the lineup based on when you send pics to us.

Also please know that we try our very best to include all the potters in the highlights, however, it is sometimes not possible. As such, we also plan to send out branding templates that you can use with your own media posts.

Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler & Dawn McLeod

Activities & Programs

Nerikomi Workshop

The nerikomi workshop on February 15 & 16 was a great success! Talented ceramic artist Eiko Maeda gave a sold-out, two-day workshop to OGP members at the Nepean Visual Arts Centre. A HUGE shout out to Wendy He and Liz Fournier for running the workshop and making sure everyone had a great time and healthy snacks! Participants can pick up their bisqued nerikomi pieces at the March 11 OGP monthly meeting at the Hintonburg Community Centre.

March 8 & 9

On March 8th & 9th, we will have renowned potter Kiefer Floreal (finalist in the Great Canadian Pottery Throw Down) at Gladstone Clayworks giving workshops on “throwing large”. All hands-on and observer spots sold out quickly; however, read on for another opportunity to interact with this amazing artist!

Pizza night with Kiefer Floreal

On March 11 Kiefer Floreal will give an artist’s talk at the monthly OGP member’s meeting. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm at the Hintonburg Community Centre. There is a registration process to attend the meeting so we can ensure we abide by fire regulations regarding the maximum number of people in the room. This is also how we’ll take pizza orders! If you plan to attend, please fill out this registration form.

As always, there’s no fee to attend the meeting. If you choose to have pizza, we’re charging $5 / person. Vegan, vegetarian, and pepperoni pizza options are available, and you will be asked for your preference when you register.
Coffee and tea will be provided as usual, make sure you bring your mug.

Preparing for the Spring Sale

At the April 8 monthly OGP meeting, 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.

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

Carmen Gervais

Exhibitions Committee

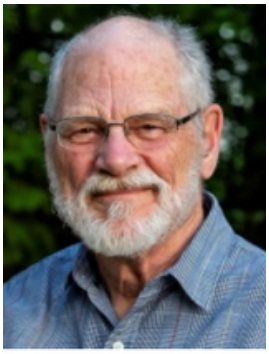
The Annual Juried Exhibition is coming up! We are so honoured to have Sequoia Miller, the Chief Curator of the Gardiner Museum, as our juror this year.

Submissions are open from April 13th to 22nd.

We will also be hosting a Pot Talk on Sunday March 30th from 2-4pm (in-person or virtual, to be decided). The Pot Talk is an opportunity for you to talk about your projects with other potters and get constructive feedback or help clarify ideas. This could be extremely useful when thinking about drafting your artist statement for the Annual Exhibition!

If you are interested in joining the Pot Talk, have an opinion on whether it's hosted in-person or virtually, or have any other comments, please don't hesitate to contact your friendly Exhibitions Committee: exhibitions@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Elizabeth Davies, Joanna Richardson



Long-time Guild member Bruce Jones passed away in December 2024. There was a celebration of life in late January.
Here is the obituary.

submitted by: Alexis Shotwell