2025 OCTOBER

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting: October 14, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

President's Message

Happy October. What a splendid Autumn we are having!

Welcome new members and returning members.

Kieffer Floreal's "Throwing Large" hands on workshop was a huge success. He guided participants through centering larger amounts of clay taller and wider than they had done before. Carmen Gervais has also organized a Figurative Clay and Scraffito Workshop, a two-day hands-on workshop with the immensely talented Chandler Swain in her studio in Almonte, October 18 and 19. Carmen has been very busy indeed and has a hands-on workshop in November with East Coast potter Joan Bruneau.

Wendy He has a solo Celebrating Clay Exhibition called Echoes of Blossoms. Thank you Joanna and your team. It is a beautiful collection of pottery. Please visit it on our new website: Celebrating Clay

I hope everyone has logged onto our new website to have a look around and also to update your password and your profile details. A huge thank you to Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler, and Bernadette Lapierre for the many hours of work they have put into our new website over many months. Congratulations it looks beautiful.

The OGP Holiday Sale will be held Friday December 12th to Sunday December 13th. The application will be online on Wednesday October 15 at 11 am. The online application includes payment by credit card.

Mark your calendars November 7-9 for 260 Fingers at the Glebe Community Centre.

See you Tuesday October 14 for our General meeting. Meeting starts promptly at 6:30. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Joanna will be leading a Pot Talk on Glaze (and much more).

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Weekend.

by Liz Fournier

Activities & Programs

UPCOMING MEETING ACTIVITIES

October 14: Pot Talk: What Makes a Good Pot?
Discussions around standards and finishing. Bring in a pot you would sell and a pot you would not. What makes something a flaw instead of a design feature? How can we avoid or troubleshoot flaws in clay and glazes?

November 11: Water etching your pottery – hands-on activity
Discover the textural depths that can be achieved with water etching techniques. All materials and tools are provided, and there is no need to be a guild member to participate, so bring a friend! It starts at 7:30 pm at the Hintonburg Community Centre.

WORKSHOPS

Take-away from the September "Throwing Large" workshop with Kiefer Floreal.
Kiefer Floreal was in top form once again, and over two sold-out days helped many potters achieve the largest vessels they had ever thrown. His intuitive process has been honed mainly through self-taught skills, and his guidance encouraged participants to ignore the rules and just try. Many participants threw the largest vessels they ever had, and there were frequent comments on how liberating it was to spend the day with him.

Next up: October 18 & 19 - Chandler Swain "Figurative clay and sgraffito"
(registration is open - $250 for the entire weekend – click here to register)
Join noted ceramic and visual artist Chandler Swain – the "Queen of Sgraffito" - for an exciting workshop in both figurative clay work and sgraffito. This will be held at Chandler's studio, so there will be lots of her work to inspire everyone. Check out Chandler's website for examples of her work.

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

by Carmen Gervais

Follow us on social media: **Instagram @ottawapotters**
Facebook @ottawaguildofpotters

The Communications Committee has been busy! You may have noticed that our social media was somewhat quiet this summer. Well, that's because we had our heads down, working on the new website. But now that has changed because we have a new teammate, and we are excited to dig into our Fall and Winter events.

Introducing Kyla
I'd like to welcome Kyla Tyson to our Communications Committee. Kyla is a relatively new guild member, but that didn't stop her from jumping into a volunteer position and helping create social media posts. She has been the person behind the scenes helping promote recent workshops and upcoming meetings. Kyla is a savvy content creator, and I look forward to working with her to promote the upcoming Holiday Sale.
Welcome Kyla!

Introducing the New Website
It's here! We've soft-launched the new OGP website. If you haven't visited it yet, go to https://ottawapottersguild.ca/ and browse around. Note that the new site is using a temporary URL. We will switch to the original URL once the transition period is over.

But First, Thank You!
Even though there is still work to do, I'd like to take a moment and thank all of the people who've done a lot of heavy lifting during the new website development period. A new website was a gleam in our eyes a few years ago, and it's taken this long and a lot of volunteer hours to turn it into a reality.

Thank you to Nancy, for helping keep the vision alive and enthusiastically working closely with me to create wireframes, design plans and style guidelines, a working proof of concept, and business justifications.

Thank you to the executive team and event chairs for their support and all of their feedback during the whole process.

Thank you to Dave for his transition advice, sandbox and staging site support, technical insights, and currently for keeping the lights going on the old site during the transition period. This doesn't even speak to the years of volunteer service Dave has given to keep the old website running. More on that later. He's not done yet!

And finally, thank you to Bernadette, our incoming Web Admin. She knew it was a big job, and Bernadette enthusiastically embraced the challenge and jumped in with both feet on the ground, running. I'd especially like to thank Bernadette for her patience and good humour while handling all of the content review cycles Nancy and I put her through.

Soft Launch
Speaking of transition, a soft launch implies that the website is still a work in progress and under active development. Over the course of the next month or so, we will continue to add functionality, refine content, and fix issues. Please have patience during this time period.

What Do You Need To Do?
At your earliest convenience, please reset your password, log into the new website, and update your profile data and photos (if needed). Note that since the early days of the launch, we were able to retrieve your profile and cover pictures from the old website and upload them to your account. Also note that these photos are available to the public in the About Us -> Member Gallery.

To log in, go to https://ottawapottersguild.ca/, and
- In the menu, click **Log In**.
- Click **Forgot your password?**
- Enter your username or email address.
- Click **Reset Password.**

To update your profile,
- In the **Member Area**, click **My Account**.
- Review each section and update information and photos as required.

If you have trouble logging in, please contact Bernadette, our web admin, at bernadette@dragonflywebcreations.com.

What About the Existing Website?
Currently, the existing website is still running. We added a message to the site to redirect members and the public to the new site. This is temporary, and we will eventually deprecate the existing website.

Getting Ready for the Holiday Sale
During the month of October, we will be turning our attention to the Holiday Sale. Here are a few media-related points and requests to remember:
- If you didn't have a chance to upload pottery pictures during the application registration, you will still have time to send them to us via email to communications@ottawaguildofpotters.ca.
- We can't guarantee that we will create social media posts for each participating potter.
- Remember to add your first name and last name to your picture filenames, for example, lisa_butler_plate.png. Imagine trying to sort through and organize 290+ files with no telltale names.
- We try to schedule social media posts in the general order that we receive the applications. First come, first served.

We are looking forward to seeing what everyone is making!

by Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler

Exhibitions Committee

We are proud to present our Celebrating Clay Spotlight exhibition, “Echoes of Blossoms” by Wendy He! The exhibition is featured on our website until the end of October. View the exhibition here.

We would like to thank Bernadette Lapierre for all the work setting the exhibition up on the website, and Elizabeth Davies for proofreading the exhibition text.

You too can show your work in a Celebrating Clay Exhibition! The next opportunity will be in March for a group show where members can submit work that aligns with a theme or subject. The theme will be Vases.

The next Pot Talk will be during October’s members’ meeting on October 14th!

Pot Talk: What Makes a Good Pot?
Discussions around standards and finishing.

Bring in a pot you would sell and a pot you would not.
What makes something a flaw instead of a design feature?
How can we avoid or troubleshoot flaws in clay and glazes?

by Joanna Richardson

Membership Committee Report

Welcome to the new members who joined in September. The total of paid members is now 163.

Debbie McLeod
Jodi Fournier
Zohra Mahomed
Karen Ralston
Pat McLaughlin
Cheryl Caswell

by Carol Holmes-Kerr