



Fired Up!

Next Meeting: February 11, 2026

✦ **Time:** 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

President's Message

Happy Heart Month!

Welcome new and returning members.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our February Zoom meeting. Carmen Gervais has arranged a virtual tour of our member Maria Drolet's Murai Céramique Studio located in the beautiful Gatineau Hills on Wednesday February 11th at 6:30 pm.

In the upcoming months, we have so many opportunities to learn and create. Sarah Pike's demonstrations and Joan Bruneau's workshop. Joanna Richardson and the Exhibition committee have been working on the Celebrating Clay Exhibition at the beautiful Scrim's Florist shop on Elgin Street, and our Annual Juried Exhibition at the Spring Sale part of the Ottawa Clay Festival.

Stay warm. Happy Heart Day.

by Liz Fournier



Membership Committee Report

I'm pleased to announce that we now have 188 paid members! Please welcome the following new members:

Geoffrey Brown
Kim Bosch
Dawn Carson
Toni Pederson
Kate Cook

Quinn Fortier
Bhajan Cooke
Jamie Gubbins
Denise Sarazin
Caroline Agnew

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

SALE COMMITTEE

Spring Pottery Sale

May 1-3, 2026

Sale hours:

Friday, May 1st, 3 pm-9 pm
Saturday, May 2nd, 10 am-6 pm
Sunday, May 3rd, 10 am-5 pm

Spring Sale applications will go online in March. You will receive notification of the exact date by GuildForum email.

Prior to completing the application please ensure you are able to log on to the [Ottawa Guild of Potters website](#), that your profile is complete and up to date, and you have read the [Sale Handbook](#).

The Spring Sale has many fun volunteer opportunities at the Ottawa Clay Festival. Details to follow.



Dempsey Community Centre - Pottery Studio Opening

I'm excited to announce that the City of Ottawa is reopening the Dempsey Community Centre Pottery Studio. I will be starting pottery classes at Dempsey Community Centre this spring! Registration is part of the City of Ottawa Spring Registration on February 12, 2026. Look online at Register Ottawa: <https://anc.ca.apm.activecommunities.com/ottawa/home?locale=en-US>

April - June course offerings are Introductory Functional Handbuilding (Wednesday 9:30 am-12 pm or Saturday 11:30 am-2 pm), and Kids 9-12 Handbuilding on Saturdays 9:30 am-11 am.

Additional courses and studio time will be offered starting in the fall of 2026.

Dempsey Community Centre is located at 1895 Russell Road, not far from the Museum of Science and Technology.

Stay tuned for more news and our opening event!

by Amy Bell

Activities & Programs

UPCOMING MEETING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, February 11: Murai Ceramique studio tour!!! No need to leave your cozy home to visit the creative, beautiful space of **Murai Céramique** in the glorious Gatineau hills. Join Marie Drolet as she shows us her space and talks about the activities she organizes at her studio. The link to join the Zoom meeting will be provided through the GuildForum in early February.

Tuesday, March 10: Artist statement “speed dating”. Whirlwind, interactive workshop on honing your artist statement. Great prep for the upcoming Exhibition and to up your ceramics cred. This will be the return to Tuesday evening, in-person meetings.

Tuesday, April 14: The power of templates! Hands-on activity to hand-build a vessel. **Bring a friend!** This is a fun activity, and it’s open to everyone. Will also learn about how to make templates and a brief exploration of the materials that can be used (tar paper, craft foam, Cricut, etc).

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Sarah Pike: March 3rd – demonstration

Registration opened Feb 3rd and sold out Feb 4th!
Sarah Pike will spend a day with OGP and LOAM Clay Studio members and give a demonstration at LOAM Clay Studio of her techniques and tips on the technical features of her pots. There are two demonstration times: 1-4 pm and 6-9 pm.



Activities & Programs

Joan Bruneau: March 28 & 29 – Throwing and altering workshop

Registration opened Feb 3rd and sold out Feb 4th! Renowned, award-winning Canadian potter Joan Bruneau of [Nova Terra Cotta Studio](#) in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia is coming to Ottawa to give a two-day workshop on altering thrown forms.

In this two-day, hands-on workshop, participants will make a thrown and altered dip bowl (using the cut and paste technique) and a slab and coil thrown platter set. Joan will demonstrate a coil-thrown platter and pitcher body, cutting and pasting floral bowl and pitcher forms. She will also demonstrate slip decoration and discuss how she glazes her pieces. If time allows, she will demonstrate assembling a flower brick body, and spouts and handles.

This workshop is for potters who are at the intermediate or advanced stage at the wheel.

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



by Carmen Gervais 



February 2026

Happy February! Well, at least it's not January, and we have a bit more daytime, right? And there is plenty of fresh snow and ice for Winterlude enthusiasts. Hope you are staying cozy and warm in your studio spaces.

Workshops

Now that we are done with the holiday sale promotions, our communications attention has focused on promoting upcoming workshops. And it didn't take long for those to fill up. Kudos to Carmen and her Activity & Programming team for lining up inspiring artists and learning opportunities.

New Event Signage

Nancy has also taken the lead to design new signage for the sales, exhibitions, and Clay Festival events, such as banners, sandwich boards, and a logo stamp for the paper bags. We will have a fresh new look at those events.

Great Bowls of Fire

Next up is our social media campaign for Great Bowls of Fire. We've seen the list of contributing artists and restaurants, and it's going to be another talented and yummy event. Keep an eye on our socials during the next few weeks for more info and artist spotlights.

Social Media Collaborations - Try It!

We love collaborating with our members on Instagram to share what you're up to. If you have work in progress, behind-the-scenes moments, or an interesting post, let's collaborate.

It's easy! When you create a post or reel, tap **Tag people**, select **Invite collaborator** and search for ottawapotters. Once we accept, your post will appear on both your own and the guild's Instagram profiles, helping your work reach a wider audience.

We also encourage you to share your Facebook and Instagram posts with ottawapotters. When you create a post or reel, tap the Share Post icon, and search for and select ottawapotters in the list. Your post will show up as a 24-hour story on the guild profile.

♥ Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler, Dawn McLeod, and Kyla Tyson

Exhibitions Committee

Celebrating Clay: Vases and Flower Vessels- March 2026

Applications are still open for Celebrating Clay: Vases and Flower Vessels, in person at Scrim's Florist! Apply here: <https://ottawaguilddofpotters.ca/exhibition-celebrating-clay-application-march-2026/>



Submissions close on Wednesday, February 11th at 11:59 pm. You can submit up to 3 pieces for this opportunity. The submission fee is \$20 for the first piece, and \$5 for each additional piece you submit. We will be able to accept around 20 pieces for the exhibition. You can list your vases for sale in the exhibition! Sales will not be rung through by Scrim's, instead customers will be advised to contact you to arrange for purchasing and pick-up. The benefit of this arrangement is that Scrim's is not charging any commission on sales!

Scrim's is also enthusiastically offering some exciting opportunities, like the option to show your vase with a floral arrangement (priced at wholesale cost), and a prize for the "Scrim's Choice: Best Vase"!

The selected vases must be delivered to Scrim's Florist by Sunday, March 15th, for set-up. The exhibition will open on Monday, March 16th, with an opening reception in the evening, and will close on March 29th.

As a thank you to our wonderful partner, please show them some love by following them on social media. @scrimsflorest

Annual Juried Exhibition

Begin thinking about your pieces for the Annual Juried Exhibition! The exhibition will be held from May 1st to 3rd. Applications will be open from April 10th to April 21st. Our juror this year is Mat Karas, a ceramic artist and Assistant Professor from Concordia University. Happy making!

If you have any questions, please email us at exhibitions@ottawaguilddofpotters.ca

submitted by Joanna Richardson

