



Fired Up!

Next Meeting: March 10, 2026
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
 1064 Wellington Str W, Ottawa

President's Message



March arrived as a Creative Lion. May it continue as an Inspirational Lion, become a Generous Lion, and depart as the Creative Learning Lion it stormed in as.

Welcome, new members.

What a month to be an Ottawa Guild of Potters member. There is something for everyone. Rave reviews from the two Sarah Pike demonstrations at Loam Studio. Thank you, Carmen Gervais, for organizing this demonstration and hosting Sarah Pike as well.

Great Bowls of Fire is on March 14 at the Glebe Community Centre. The beloved OGP event that supports the Ottawa Food Bank sold out in under 24 hours! Congratulations and thank you to the feature artists and those who have donated 1 or 2 bowls. Thank you to all the wonderful local restaurants and bakeries for your delicious donations. Many thanks to Jackie Lyons and her dedicated team. If at all possible, I encourage you to volunteer for this event. Such a great vibe.

Joanna Richardson has organized our first in-person Celebrating Clay in over 6 years. Congratulations to those members who will be exhibiting their Floral Vessels at the beautiful Scrims Florists on Elgin Street from March 16 to 29, 2026. Vernissage is on March 16th from 5 to 7 pm, and everyone is invited.

We finish the month with a hands-on workshop given by Joan Bruneau. She will also be giving an artist's talk. Please join us at the Dempsey Community Centre on March 27th at 7 pm. Thank you, Carmen Gervais, and the Programs team. You deserve to put your feet up.

Thank you to the Communications team for all the wonderful Social Media posts. I'm sorry to miss all these amazing events. This is exactly what I have envisioned for our Guild.

I am in Brisbane, Australia, visiting my son and his family, and I have found a studio to play in the mud a couple of times a week. Look up Samford Pottery Collective. It's a beautiful, well-equipped studio with lovely members. I have never been in a pottery studio with such a well-stocked kitchen of tea and coffee, mugs, wine glasses, and champagne flutes.

Have a wonderful time at the General meeting on Tuesday, March 10. Doors open at 6:00 pm, meeting starts promptly at 6:30. See you all in April.

by Liz Fournier

SALE COMMITTEE

Spring Pottery Sale

May 1-3, 2026

Horticulture Building, Lansdowne Park, Ottawa

Friday, May 1st, 3 pm-9 pm

Saturday, May 2nd, 10 am-6 pm

Sunday, May 3rd, 10 am-5 pm

The OGP Spring Sale Application will be online shortly. We are making some improvements to the application, specifically for shared booth spaces.

Please ensure you have read the Sale Handbook and are familiar with all requirements.

A GuildForum will be sent to all members to inform them when the application is going live.

Remember that Membership renewal is April 1st, 2026, and you must have your 2026-2027 OGP Membership paid in full to participate in the Sale.

****Shared Booth Space****

If you are planning to share a table for the Spring Sale 2026, please make sure the two of you decide in advance who will complete the registration and submit payment.

Only one registration and one full payment are required per shared table. Any reimbursement arrangements between you should be handled privately.

Once we receive the registration that includes the second member's name, we will send them a link to complete a separate form to submit their photos for social media and provide their vehicle information.

 *by Liz Fournier*

Activities & Programs

UPCOMING MEETING ACTIVITIES

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 and members will be encouraged to bring a friend and raise awareness among members that monthly meeting activities are open to everyone. Liz Fournier will lead the activity with support from Nicole Bijkerk.

WORKSHOPS

Sarah Pike: March 3rd – demonstration

Sarah Pike spent the day with OGP and LOAM Clay Studio members and gave a demonstration at LOAM Clay Studio of her process. Sarah has agreed to return in 2027 for either a two-day workshop or a five-day masterclass/retreat!

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

Registration opened Feb 4th and sold out quickly. 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. Over two days, Joan will provide guidance on throwing and altering forms as well as slip application in surface decoration. This workshop is for potters who are at the intermediate or advanced stage at the wheel.

Artist talk: on March 27th at 7 pm Joan will give an artist talk at the new City of Ottawa Studio being opened by Amy Bell at Dempsey Community Centre, 1895 Russell Road. It is open to all and has been advertised through the guildforum and OGP social media. This is a great chance to see the new studio space and meet Joan!

Colette Beardall: June 6 & 7 – Raku

Long standing OGP member and former executive committee member Colette will hold two, one day raku workshops. Participants will learn how to glaze, fire and decorate the surfaces of their pots. The workshop will take place in Chelsea, and is being hosted by OGP member Martine Campeau at her home studio. More information coming in April.





COMMUNICATIONS

Follow us on social media, and tag us @ottawapotters:
Instagram @ottawapotters
Facebook @ottawaguildofpotters

Contact us at:
communications@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Lisa Butler, Nancy Riggs, Kyla Tyson & Dawn McLeod

Happy melting March!

New Event Signage

The proposal to create new fabric banners, vertical floor signs, sandwich boards, and paper bag stamps for events, such as the Clay Festival, Great Bowls of Fire, exhibitions, and sales has been approved by the executive. We will also be able to use these signs at other popup events. The signs *may* be available in time for Great Bowls of Fire. If not, you will definitely see them at the Clay Festival.

Here is a sneak peek of the new look and feel. These examples show two of the vertical floor signs (approx 2 x 6 ft) and the paper bag stamp (approx 4x4 inch). Additional images and labeling will accompany these themes.





 cont'd

Communications

Great Bowls of Fire

Did you know that GBoF sold out within 24 hours! That's a record. There were also 3,293 views (total hits) and 1,858 total viewers looking at the GBoF webpage (during Feb). That's a lot of clicks! Hope you continue to enjoy the social media highlights of the amazing signature bowls, participating artists, and restaurant participants.

As a related aside, the other top-visited pages on the website are Events, Events-Sales, Events-Workshops, Member Gallery, Get Started, and About Ottawa Guild of Potters. People want to know what we are up to and how they can be part of it.

Interested in Communications?

Nancy and I have had a good run, and it's time to pass the Communications Chair role (or Co-Chair roles) to someone keen to help contribute to OGP media activities. Nancy has been brilliantly leading Comms for four seasons, and it's my third season. We plan to continue in these roles for the rest of this season, and then hopefully hand over duties to the next person at the end of June. Typically, candidates are nominated and voted into executive and chair roles at the Annual General Meeting in June.

In the meantime, if you are interested or merely curious about a day in the life of a Comms Chair, please reach out to one of us to learn more. We will attempt to publish a role description on GuildForum in the near future.

And you won't be alone! We are currently a team of four people; we take turns promoting events, we support each other, and we learn from each other. And we have a team chat group! It's a good team. And I will be available to train and consult.

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

We are thrilled to announce our Celebrating Clay Exhibition, Vessels for Spring, opening on March 16th at Scrim's Florist!

This exhibition features the work of 12 artists: Amy Bell, Jane Bryttan, Martine Campeau, Gaia Chernushenko, Jordan Danger, Elizabeth Davies, Carmen Gervais, Barb Minish, Joanna Richardson, Nancy Riggs, Isobel Salole, and Lucy Willemsen.

Join us on March 16th from 5 to 7pm to view their pieces, adorned with flowers and greenery! There will be light refreshments, voting for "People's Choice", and the announcement of "Scrim's Choice"!



Annual Juried Exhibition

The Annual Juried Exhibition is fast approaching! The exhibition will be held during the Spring Clay Festival, May 1st-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!

 by Joanna Richardson



Membership Committee Report

I'm pleased to announce that we now have 192 paid members! Please welcome the following new members:

Melissa Henderson
Caroline Sheppard
Ishtar Warda
Diana Cooke

HEADS UP! Membership renewal begins April 1st. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of the early bird fee of \$55, available only April 1st to April 30th. After April 30th the membership fee will be \$65.

Please note also that you must have renewed your membership to be eligible to participate in sales.

by Carol Holmes-Kerr 



A Note from the Website Administrator

Online membership renewal will open on April 1. Members are encouraged to log in to the website in advance if they have not already done so at: ottawaguildofpotters.ca.

If you have any difficulty accessing your account or resetting your password, please contact bernadette@dragonflywebcreations.com.

 *by Bernadette Lapierre*

Trinity Gallery: Ada Brzeski - About Womanhood

Date: March 26 to May 5, 2026

Opening: Thursday, March 26, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Shenkman Art Center

By looking at her role in society as a woman, wife, mother, and artist, Ada Brzeski has created a series of clay sculptures exploring womanhood, addressing the everyday realities and frustrations women face. Through these works, she hopes to foster a deeper understanding among both men and women of these often-overlooked experiences.

Ada Brzeski is a ceramic artist with over twenty years of experience. Largely self-taught, she continues to refine her practice through courses and workshops. Drawing inspiration from her Polish heritage, she works from a shared studio in Ottawa.

Submitted by Ada Brzeski

Workshops at Céramique LaFab in Chelsea, Quebec

Some very interesting workshops, presented by renowned ceramists such as Raymond Warren, Don Goddard, and Lisa Creskey, will be offered in the coming months at Céramique LaFab in Chelsea, Quebec.

APRIL 2026 - Intensive clay sculpture workshop with Raymond Warren

JULY 2026 - Conversations with Clay: Movement and Gesture - weeklong intensive workshop with Don Goddard

AUGUST 2026 - Shaping Stories in Clay: Ceramic Sculpture and Narrative with Lisa Creskey

Check out the website for more information and to register:

<https://lafabsurmill.ca/ceramics/pottery-classes/>

Submitted by Martine Campeau

On Fire! Wood Firing for Cone 6 Potters with Mike Doxey

Stone Manor Studios is delighted to introduce a new workshop experience this fall that brings potters directly into the elemental world of wood firing. On Fire! Wood Firing for Cone 6 Potters is a small-group, hands-on kiln experience led by respected local potter Mike Doxey. The workshop focuses on the collaborative act of firing a wood kiln, where participants bring a small group of pre-made pots and work together through preparation, loading, and sustained firing, returning later for the kiln opening and the reveal of what the fire has created.



This workshop is designed especially for potters who already work in clay and have access to bisque firing and glazing in their own studios. No previous wood-firing experience is required. The goal is to introduce makers to the rhythm and decision-making of the kiln in a supportive environment. Participants will explore how flame, ash, and placement affect the final surfaces of their work while gaining confidence in the shared process of a wood firing.

A distinctive feature of this program is its focus on cone 6 clay bodies and surfaces, the materials that many potters already use in their studios. By firing slightly cooler, the workshop demonstrates a more accessible and sustainable approach to wood firing while still achieving the atmospheric effects that make the process so compelling.

The workshop takes place in the lakeside village of Portland, about seventy-five minutes from downtown Ottawa. The drive is easy and scenic, travelling through Carleton Place and Smiths Falls before arriving in this quiet Rideau Lakes community just off Highway 15. Our gathering space at the Portland Hall overlooks Big Rideau Lake, in the heart of a heritage village. Mike's studio is just steps away! Some participants choose to stay overnight in nearby accommodations, while many find the drive comfortable enough to make the trip each day.

The program begins with an artist presentation where Mike will introduce the history and tradition of wood firing, sharing insights into kiln design, firing cycles, and the mechanics that shape the final surfaces of wood-fired pottery. Participants will explore how kilns are built, how flame moves through the chamber, and how potters make decisions about placement, stacking, and atmosphere.

From there, the workshop becomes a fully collaborative kiln experience. Participants work together to prepare and load the kiln, learn wadding techniques, placement strategies, and the rhythm of building and maintaining the fire. This is a hands-on, all-hands-in-the-kiln firing where each participant contributes to the shared work of the kiln and gains a deeper understanding of the process from within the firing itself.



On Fire! Wood Firing for Cone 6 Potters with Mike Doxey

For participants in the On Fire! workshop, refreshments, snacks, and lunches are included, along with a special Saturday evening gathering at Stone Manor Studios. Guests will enjoy a private tour of Newboro Manor and the Studios, followed by a sit-down dinner in the grand dining room, giving time to continue conversations that begin around the kiln and extend into the region's wider creative community.

Stone Manor Studios, located just a few minutes away in the heritage village of Newboro, is owned by Kim Lulashnyk, a long-time member of the Ottawa Guild of Potters. Set on a beautiful 1860s stone manor estate, Stone Manor Studios offers diverse workshops and creative retreats built on the belief that art making flourishes through thoughtful hospitality, shared meals, and a welcoming community of makers. Kim often credits her years serving on the Guild executive and her work as a director for the POPULACE project as inspiration for imagining and building Stone Manor Studios.

The workshop is led by Mike Doxey, a highly respected potter whose work reflects decades of dedication to wood-fired ceramics. Mike's practice is rooted in careful craftsmanship, curiosity about the firing process, and a deep respect for the relationship among clay, kiln, and landscape. A member of 260 Fingers, his work can be found at General Fine Craft, The Tipped Ship, Obsidian Gallery, and Riverguild, and he regularly shows at Art in the Park and other fine craft exhibitions. Widely regarded as one of the most knowledgeable and sought-after potters working in Ontario today, Mike's particular expertise lies in the art and discipline of wood firing. His pottery and approach were recently featured in a profile in *The Humm*, highlighting both his work and his contribution to the local ceramic community.



You can view *The Humm* online [here](#) or pick up a copy locally, and you can also explore more of Mike's work on his website [here](#).

This workshop is intentionally small, allowing participants to experience the kiln up close and to learn directly from the process as it unfolds. For full details, preparation guidelines, and registration information, please visit the Stone Manor Studios website: www.stonemanorstudios.ca.

We look forward to meeting you! Create. Connect. Reset.

Dates: October 24 & 25, 2026

Time: Saturday, October 24: 9:30 am - 7:30 pm, with an optional kiln night watch, and Sunday, October 25: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Kiln opening and reveal: Saturday, October 31: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Cost: \$559 per person

Submitted by Kim Lulashnyk
