2026 OCTOBER

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting: October 13, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington St. W, Ottawa, ON

President's Message

Happy fall, Happy Thanksgiving, and welcome to our new members!

The first of our OGP Masterclasses, held on October 8th, was a tremendous success. Thank you to Joe Seregelyi and Wade Vienneau for leading the slip casting course and to everyone who attended. A huge thanks also goes out to Carmen Gervais for organizing it and Amy Arts for facilitating the program. I'm hoping everyone involved can plan to have this masterclass again in the future.

On the topic of the Holiday Sale, registration is full and **a wait list has been opened.**

The October general meeting will cover information for **people participating in the Holiday Sale.** The Standards and Education Committee will go over common pottery problems and how to address them, such as labelling and price tags. There will also be info on table and booth space set up requirements, how to handle extra stock and how to go about labelling it.

The meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30 p.m.** at the Hintonburg Community Centre. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Thank you,

Liz Fournier

Membership Committee Report

We currently have a total of 181 members. We were pleased to welcome the following new and returning members in September:

- **Andrée Hogue Reynolds**
- **Sharon Chisholm**
- **Debbie McLeod**
- **Jayna Moar**
- **Marie-Josee Levesque**
- **Mackenzie Stewart**
- **Ethan Adelaide**
- **Julie Hale**

Recently a new member, Janice Bellington, suggested **a get together for new members** to meet other new members, as well as more long term members, should they wish to attend. The first meeting will be at Bridgehead at Wellington and Fairmont Ave. at **5 p.m., Tuesday, October 13.** This is prior to the monthly OGP meeting. Janice is happy to share more information by email at janice.bellington@comcast.net.

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

Sale Committee Report

The Ottawa Guild of Potters Holiday Sale is **THURSDAY, December 10 to SATURDAY, December 12, 2026** at the Horticulture Building in Lansdowne Park.

Registration for the 2026 Holiday Sale is full. **There is a wait list.**

Thank you for your patience on the matter. The website crashed with the volume of applications, but our Webmaster Bernadette Lapierre got it back up and running.

The Sale Committee will be working on the floor plan and shift schedule in the coming month. **If you know that there is a time or day that you absolutely can not take a shift please let me know.** We will try our best to accommodate your requests.

All new sale participants must meet with Jocelyn Jenkins and the Standards and Education Committee at least one month before the Holiday Sale. Please contact her to arrange a time for the information session.

by Liz Fournier

Exhibitions Committee Report

We've been busy the last month! After re-tooling our proposal process, we reached out to nine businesses and three responded!

We are in talks with:

1. **Split Tree**, a cocktail supply shop and workshop space in Westboro, for the next Celebrating Clay in March 2027.
2. **Modmop**, a hair salon in the Byward Market, for the October 2027 Celebrating Clay exhibit.
3. **Niche Gallery**, an exhibition space, in Orleans for 2028.

For **Celebrating Clay March 2027**, the theme for **Split Tree** will be "**Celebratory Drinks!**" Prepare your best goblets, rocks glasses, wine decanters and chillers, bitters bottles, copitas, tiki mugs, shot glass sets, muddlers, and anything else you can think of for a celebration! **Applications for this exhibition opportunity will open in February.**

We're also pleased to announce that Suzanne Carte, the Senior Curator of the Art Gallery of Burlington Art, will be our juror for the 2026 Annual Exhibition! The Art Gallery of Burlington houses the largest collection of Canadian ceramics in the world and touts itself as "an institution at the intersection of contemporary art and craft". Suzanne Carte has also held the curator position at the Art Gallery of York University, and served as a juror for Fusion Clay and Glass.

Lots of exciting opportunities coming up, and more details to come! Happy making!

by Joanna Richardson

Activities & Programs Report

MEETING ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, October 13: Preparatory meeting for Holiday Sale participants - and those who are considering participating in future sales! Come and learn more about the guild's standards, presentation, pricing and many more tips. **This is mandatory for those participating in the Holiday Sale in December** and a great opportunity to learn from your fellow guild members on how to prepare for future sales.

Tuesday, November 10: * ***To be announced!***

Activities & Programs Report *(...continued)*

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Workshops are delivered by invited artists outside the OGP, Masterclasses are delivered by OGP members.

Earlier this month, we had OGP members Joe Seregelyi and Wade Vienneau deliver the first masterclass on Oct 8th, and it sold out fast! They guided six OGP members through a hands-on slip casting workshop, demonstrated the process and provided expert advice on how to make a two piece mold, sharing their knowledge to help participants expand their own practice. We'll be considering offering it again in the coming months.

Masterclasses coming up:
We have several OGP members who are going to share their expertise in the coming months, including **Maria Moldovan** (whimsical decoration) and **Sue-ann Blakely** (glazing techniques). I'm reaching out to get a couple more OGP members to work with Sue-ann so we can cover a variety of glazing techniques! Once again, more information will come as dates and plans firm up.

Workshops coming up:
April 17 & 18, 2027 - Design and construct a multipart vessel: Join Etty Anderson, an emerging artist we are inviting this year, on a journey of intentional design and vessel construction. Etty will share their expertise in a multi-step process that starts with designing and throwing large elements on the wheel using coloured clay, trimming and attaching elements into a multipart vessel that can be either functional or sculptural depending on each participant's unique design. **Registration will open in March** and will be announced in the Guild Forum.

Sue-ann Blakely

We have confirmation from Toni Losey, Sue McLeod and Lesley McInally that they are interested in delivering workshops for the OGP! More information coming as dates and plans firm up.

Carmen Gervais & Amy Arts

Standards Committee Report

With the sale registration complete for the holiday sale, Standards will be busy for the next two months.

Two members of the Committee will attend the upcoming Guild meeting to cover the kind of problems that Standards picks up during the pre-sale inspection.

Some of these problems include:

- Rough bottoms
- Matte or crazed glazes on food surfaces
- Due diligence when using commercial glazes
- Interpreting the terms food safe, dinnerware safe and durability as they
- relate to glazes
- Labelling of pots that are not food safe or water-tight

To date the sale registrations have yielded 13 new to sale members. **Only three of these have been in touch with Standards at this point.** The first Standards meeting for new-to-sale potters will take place October 18th at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be a week later on October 24th. A third meeting will be organized as needed to accommodate potters who may not be able to make those meetings. **Since new potters have been slow to contact Standards, we will contact them early this week and start trying to fit them into these time slots.**

STANDARDS' PRE-SALE PITCH 2026!:

The following is a brief hodgepodge of ideas that the Standards Committee would like you to keep in mind in the next two months, as everyone switches into high gear, preparing for the holiday sale in December. Our list starts off with two of the most common problems that Standards sees when we're making our rounds prior to the sale and rounds off with a couple of ideas we should bear in mind when we're making pots for sale.

1. Please ensure the bottoms of your pots are smooth.

The Standards team spends a lot of time with sandpaper addressing this problem for potters who are pressed for time. We're so busy now we have less time for this. Make sure the foot of your pot will not scratch the finish on any surface it might be used on. (We have a little varnished piece of wood we'll use to test questionable pots.)

Standards Committee Report *(...continued)*

The smoothest pots are tended to at trimming time. Push the grog back into the clay with a finger or a rib when you're trimming, especially if you are using a heavily grogged clay. Then, wet-sand any pots that need more attention after firing using a diamond-grit abrasive or a silicon carbide wet/dry sandpaper.

2. Ensure that surfaces in contact with food are neither too matte or crazed.

We will be looking at your pots very carefully. You should too before they get to us! We will reject work with glaze defects on surfaces in contact with food. Some matte glazes, those that are not durable (prone to staining, leaching or cutlery marking) will be considered unsuitable unless you can demonstrate an understanding of the concepts involved and show us the testing you have carried out.

3. Understand the concepts of food-safe, dinnerware safe and durability as they apply to your work and the glazes you use.

This is really important to the guild if you choose to sell your work at our sales. There are great discussions of these concepts online. We expect you to know what they mean to you, in terms of the due diligence you must exercise. We expect that work that could be used for food is food safe and dinnerware safe and durable. If you are using commercial glazes and the label says dinnerware safe, you need to understand the limitations of that claim, and you also need to know that layering dinnerware safe commercial glazes does not guarantee that the finished piece remains dinnerware safe. There are lots of ideas to unpack in those statements.

Standards Committee Report (...*continued*)

4. Please don't forget to label pots that look like they could be used or food or liquid but cannot safely do so.

This is particularly true for unglazed surfaces!

After all these warnings I feel like I had better reiterate that **we're here to help!** We are really looking forward to seeing all the fabulous work that will pass through our hands prior to the December Sale. If you are in the sale and have questions, two members from the Standards team will be at the next guild meeting to help you out.

See you then!

Jocelyn Jenkins

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. We try our best.
- 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 100s of 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! See you at the sale.

Communications Committee *(...continued)*

How to Use Social Media Collaborations

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 an Instagram 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 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.

PHISHING EMAIL WARNINGS & UPDATES

Hello everyone,

This is an important communication, so please read carefully. We are aware that some of our guild members have received phishing emails, and the emails are crafted to target guild members, and sometimes pretend to come from guild execs.

What is Phishing?:
Phishing is a form of social engineering in which an attacker masquerades as a trustworthy entity and tries to persuade, scare, or threaten the recipient to take a specific action or reveal personal information that leads to a security compromise. Phishing attacks use email, text messages, social media posts, voice communications, and other media. Often, they contain links to counterfeit websites or email addresses designed to trick them into revealing sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, account numbers, and credit card details.

What Are The Emails?:
The phishing emails in question have:

- advertised a free Brent Wheel
- asked the recipient to verify their password
- asked the recipient to buy gift certificates on behalf of the guild for a charity event
- spoofed a fake Holiday Sale application asking for an e-transfer

Communications Committee *(...continued)*

What Can You Do Now?:
Here are a few things you should do:

- change the passwords for your devices, email, and guild accounts
- notify Liz Fournier (president@ottawaguildofpotters.ca) and Lisa Butler (communications@ottawaguildofpotters.ca) if you have been a recipient of an email pretending to be from an exec or related to a guild event, especially if you have been a financial victim as a result. We will provide you with next steps on how to report it, and it will be confidential.
- be suspicious and question everything. If in doubt, ask an exec.

What Is The Guild Doing?:
We are taking these phishing attacks against our members very seriously, and have initiated the following steps:

- contacted Ottawa Police Services and are in the process of seeking assistance
- removed the public-facing Member Gallery from the website
- streamlined the internal Member Directory to remove phone numbers, email addresses and home addresses
- sought cybersecurity awareness training that we can roll out to members
- stopped forwarding external sale opportunities and sale venue opportunities

What's Next?:
Moving forward, we are preparing a cybersecurity awareness campaign and plan to send out cybersecurity tips to members on an ongoing basis.
We will share updates as we learn more.

Your Communication Committee,

Lisa Butler, Pia Stenhoff, Kyla Tyson & Pauline Conley

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA, AND COLLABORATE WITH US @OTTAWAPOTTERS:
INSTAGRAM @OTTAWAPOTTERS
FACEBOOK @OTTAWAGUILDOFPOTTERS

DISCOVER THE ART OF PAINTING ON PORCELAIN

One of the Fire Arts, porcelain painting transforms finely ground mineral pigments, oil and heat into luminous colour that becomes part of the porcelain itself.

Tradition • Creativity • Fire • Community

Rideau Guild of Porcelain Artists

The Porcelain Canvas *(...continued)*

THE ART OF PAINTING ON PORCELAIN

An ancient art - continually reimagined

On-glaze, or overglaze, porcelain painting is an ancient art form with roots in China. Since the 18th century, porcelain painting has been considered a refined art. Today there are porcelain artists throughout Canada and around the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

Porcelain painting is one of the Fire Arts.

Artists paint directly onto glazed porcelain using finely ground mineral pigments mixed with an oil medium. Transparent colours are built gradually in layers, working from light to dark.

After each stage, the porcelain is fired in a kiln, generally between 1300°F and 1500°F. Through the heat of the kiln, the pigments become glass-like and fuse permanently with the glaze. A finished piece may be painted and fired several times.

THE RIDEAU GUILD OF PORCELAIN ARTISTS

Founded in 1981 by Marlene Eagan and Lorna Maclaren, the Guild is dedicated to preserving, exploring and sharing this beautiful art form. Members range from lifelong painters to enthusiastic newcomers and contemporary ceramic artists.

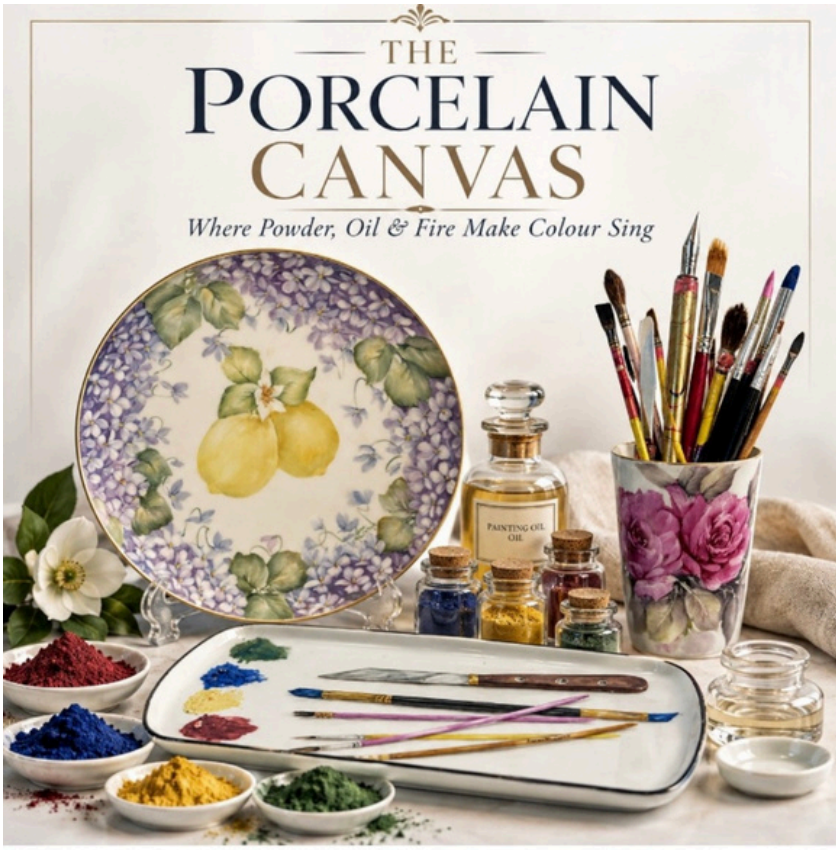
From decorative and functional objects to classical and contemporary art, today's artists combine traditional and modern techniques. The Guild meets to paint together and offers workshops and seminars for beginner through advanced levels.

Porcelain painting is accessible to everyone.

Discover creativity, craftsmanship, friendship and fire.

Lorna Maclaren, President
Rideau Guild of Porcelain Artists • 613-794-4642
lornaamaclaren@hotmail.com

The Porcelain Canvas *(...continued)*



Rideau Guild of

Porcelain Artists

October 10 to 29, 2026

Vernissage Sunday, October 18, 1-4

Carleton Place Gallery

210 Bridge Street, Carleton Place, ON

Open Wednesday to Sunday, 11:00 - 4:00

cpgallery.ca

Information: Paddy Robertson 613-253-6266