



From the Desk of Emma Quin



October 19, 2010

To all OCC Members,

As I rode the train into Toronto this morning I couldn't help but notice the fabulous fall colours - a clear indication that autumn is here, winter is on its way, and 2010 will soon be coming to a close. It is also the perfect time to reconnect with all of you, provide a little update, and most importantly, to get you ready and excited for our 35th anniversary!

First and foremost I'd like to start by saying thanks to some very important people: our volunteers. In addition to staff, it's the efforts of so many generous people that make this place tick.

This past September OCC Member, Colette Beardall, hosted our 2010 gathering at her home in Metcalf. On behalf of the OCC board, staff, volunteers and members I'd like to extend a sincere thank you. Not only did Colette provide a warm and hospitable venue for the event, but she went over the top to include everyone in creating their own Raku clay pot. I know I had a fabulous time, and I think everybody else did too!

Throughout the summer we also greatly benefited from the volunteer hours contributed by Jen Van Herten. Jen graduated from Sheridan's glass program in the spring of 2010 and has been coming into the office one day a week to help ease the general workload.

With so many people to thank, and in an attempt to not make this letter too long, I'm going to send the remainder of my thanks more broadly. I want to thank all our committee members - thanks for your commitment of time and energy, for your direction and guidance, and for actually rolling up your sleeves and helping to get the job done!

Further thanks to everyone who provides expertise and knowledge to the multiple juries we compile each year, we couldn't possibly function without you. And of course, a huge thanks to the Board of Directors and the OCC Volunteer Committee, two groups intrinsic to the OCC's ongoing success.

Now for the update and a little look backwards at some of our recent activities. Perhaps our most significant undertaking was our involvement in curating the craft component of the Canadian Collection at the Muskoka G8 and the Toronto G20 Summits. Working with individual artists, commercial galleries and design studios, we were responsible for placing over 150 pieces of contemporary Canadian craft at the Deerhurst Lodge, the Toronto Convention Centre, and the Royal York Hotel. We also worked closely with the Ikebana

Society of Canada in selecting hand-made vessels for all of the Summit Ikebana arrangements. The end result was a stunning display that received positive accolades from dignitaries and delegations from around the world.

At the beginning of the summer we welcomed summer interns Amy Wallace, Caoimhe Morgan-Feir and Jasmine Fong, each funded through Young Canada Works employment grants. Amy and Caoimhe provided operational support at our OCC offices, while Jasmine took to the floor helping with sales and merchandising at The Guild Shop. With their help our accomplishments included realizing many long-term goals. Perhaps the most significant was finally tackling our archival storage of old documents, where four skids of files were cleaned and reorganized with the first round of donation material sent to Ontario Archives. They also assisted in sorting five skids of books from our resource library holdings, and the organization of a two week book sale that generated over \$7000 in revenue. Writing was another focus with the preparation of over twelve grants to foundation and government funding agencies to support 2010 and 2011 programming, as well as research on new foundations that focus on the arts and cultural sector. An ongoing task involved the creation of a periodical listing that documents all articles written for Studio Magazine, including all of its previous incarnations dating back to 1976. If you're interested in this impressive document you can access it online at:

www.craft.on.ca/Publications/Our_Publications. We also updated our online presence on Wikipedia, which can be viewed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontario_Crafts_Council

On the exhibition front we mounted Award Winners 2010, an exhibition highlighting the winners from our Awards & Scholarship program; Leather 2010: Containment, a juried biennale exhibition of our affiliate member organization, the Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft; and Expat Report: Five Artists Discuss Life Trajectories, curated by Megan Lafreniere and Lisa Pai, and on display until October 31st.

In September we kicked off our CraftTalks lecture series in partnership with OCAD University, and this year we were supported by the Canada Council for the Arts through a Jean Chalmers Special Projects Grant. If you have the opportunity to join us this coming weekend, we'll be presenting Promiscuous Material - a conversation between Andrew Glasgow (past Executive Director of the American Craft Council) and Peter Fleming (Head of the Furniture Studio at Sheridan College) on the culture of craft in North America. Of course, if you're unable to make it to the lecture it will be available as a podcast downloadable from iTunes, and you can find the link on our website at: www.craft.on.ca/Programs/CraftTalks. The lecture is on Sunday, October 24th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm, open to everyone, at OCAD University in room 190 (the first floor auditorium). Hope to see you there!

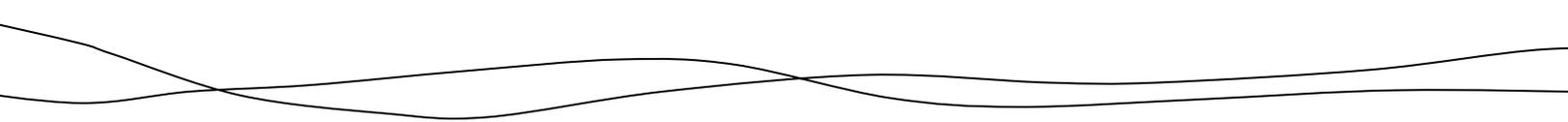
The Quilt of Possibilities, a community arts project supported and developed in partnership with the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, has been busy traveling through Southern Ontario. In the past couple of months it has made public appearances at Harbourfront Centre, Queen's Park, the Alton Mill Gallery, the Pump House Gallery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and is currently on view at the Royal Botanical Gardens. On November 4th it heads back to the OCC Gallery for the opening of the exhibition Fresh, Local, Craft! As part of this exhibition we'll be holding a panel discussion at The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St W, to explore the dynamic between individual and communal processes of making in response to our relationship with the local environment. For more information please visit: www.craft.on.ca/Programs/CraftTalks#freshlocalcraft_panel

Our regional programming continued strong in Southwestern Ontario throughout the summer. Masterworks Southwest spent the majority of the summer at the Art Gallery of Windsor, where it received paid attendance in excess of 8400 people. It's currently on display at the Greenwood Quiltery in Guelph, and on November 12th it opens at the Station Arts Centre in Tillsonburg. As part of our Southwestern programming, we also held the Craft Practical Symposium in Owen Sound with a highly engaged audience. Virginia Eichhorn, Curator/Director of the Tom Thompson Art Gallery recently relayed the message "I'm still hearing from people about what a positive experience it was and that they hope we'll arrange for another one - people definitely want to keep the dialogue going". So, we certainly hope to partner again with the Tom Thompson Gallery in 2011.

The next stage of our Growing Ontario's Craft Community regional programming will be a focused year in Northern Ontario, and to get the ball rolling Caitlin Plewes, our Programs Coordinator, and I are heading up to Thunder Bay, Sault St. Marie, Sudbury, and North Bay November 8th to 12th. We're very excited about the trip, and crossing our fingers that the weather obeys. We'll be setting up a number of meetings, coordinate 'meet and greet' events throughout the week, and will post about our 'Northern Road Trip' on our newly developed Facebook page! Please take a moment to take a look and 'like' us at www.facebook.com/OntarioCraftsCouncil - send us a message if you're going to be in the area.

I promised a little update, and I'm running a little long as per usual - so I hope you're still hanging in...because what I'm going to ask next is incredibly important.

It's been almost five years since our last Members Survey, and the time has arrived again for you to provide feedback and input into the future developments of your OCC - especially as we head in to our 35th anniversary. I'm going to be up front and honest, letting you know that the attached survey is going to take you about 20 - 30 minutes to complete. The survey has been built over a number of weeks, it has been tweaked and re-tweaked, and I know the information we'll garner from it will be very helpful. I urge you to take the time to



complete it and help shape the future of your organization. To access the survey please click the survey button link below or visit

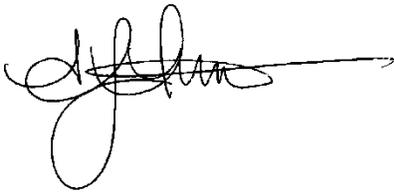
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/361083/2010-Craft-Community-Survey>

We know your time is precious, so as a token of our appreciation for taking the time to complete the survey we're including a draw to win a one-year Craft Professional membership.

I'll conclude with a final request, we're looking for a few volunteers to serve on OCC committees. We are immediately in the need of a Secretary for our Eastern Regional Steering Committee, and if you're interested please contact Caitlin Plewes at cplewes@craft.on.ca. We're also starting up a Marketing Committee and are looking for a few people with great marketing skills – if you think you're that person please let me know at equin@craft.on.ca.

As always, it's a great pleasure to share information with you! I look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the coming months; and I really look forward to receiving your feedback from the Members Survey.

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Quin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emma Quin

P.S. Please be on the lookout for our 2010 Annual Member's Campaign which will launch its appeal at the beginning of November. As a campaign by members, for members, it raises integral funds to support OCC programming. I hope you have the ability to support your organization as it heads into its 35th anniversary. It doesn't matter how big or how small, every dollar and donation helps! If you want to jump-start the campaign you can do so by donating securely online at <http://www.craft.on.ca/About Us/Annual Members Campaign>