



# THE OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS LA GUILDE DES POTIERS D'OTTAWA

Volume: October 2020  
Issue: 22

*Fired Up!*

Next meeting:

Annual General Meeting

**When: Oct 13  
2020**

**Time: 7pm to 9pm**

**Where: Zoom**

## Message from the President

*By Amy Bell*

The leaves are turning, the weather is different every day, and the days are getting shorter. I am dividing my pottery time between my basement studio and Gladstone Clayworks. Sadly, rates of Covid 19 are on the rise. We have had to cancel the Holiday 2020 sale, as you have heard. I have spoken with the Executive, and we are committed to supporting our clay community and making opportunities for us to gather and share our love of clay. We will hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, using Zoom until we are able to meet in person. The business portion of the meetings will be kept to 45 minutes so we can start the program portion of the meeting promptly. You will be able to join in by zoom for all or any part of the meeting.

What is a Bring and Brag? You will see this on the agenda. It is an opportunity to share a bit of pride and joy in something that you have been working on. Seeing what comes out of the kiln and sharing our successes. We will have time for 2 people per meeting, so let Barb or me know if you want to brag a little. Stay tuned for a critique opportunity.

I am looking forward to seeing what you are making for the Exhibition! Marnie McDermott will be an excellent juror, and Isobel and Elizabeth, together with Dave, Ayesh and Kim, are getting ready to launch a first class online Exhibition!



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## Annual General Meeting Reminder

The Guild's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 to 9:00 pm by Zoom. It probably won't take the whole time, and we have a great video presentation in the works. (Related: please send Barb your video clip)  
Please join in!

The proposed Executive for 2020-21 includes:

Natalie Gosselin, VP and Program Co-lead

Barb Minish, Past President and Program co-lead

Michele Macdonald, Treasurer

Carol Badenoch, Membership Secretary

Deborah Lemkow, Secretary

Ayesh Kanani and Kim Lulashnyuk, Communications Co-chairs

Elizabeth Davies, Exhibitions

Sue-Ann Blakeney, Sale Committee Chair

Jocelyn Jenkins, Education & Standards

GBOF position is vacant.

and Amy Bell, President

Nominations from the floor are welcome, of course.

## Exhibition

*By Elizabeth Davies*

### OGP Virtual Annual Exhibition 2020

**General public:** <https://www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca/annual-juried-exhibition/>

**Members:** <https://www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca/annual-juried-exhibition-members-info/>

Thanks to all those who responded to the Exhibition Survey. The Exhibitions Committee is very pleased to see the level of interest shown in our project. Please find a few basic points, below. Further information is available at the link, above.

**Submission fee.** The 2020 virtual exhibition is seen as a significant marketing opportunity for members. Viewers wishing to see more than the exhibited pieces will use potter contact information and links to explore further images of a potter's work. *Any sales will be handled directly between the potter and the buyer. The OGP will not handle sales for this exhibition.*

Following the recent Budget meeting, two decisions were made regarding the Virtual Exhibition:

**The Guild will charge no commission** on sales of exhibited pieces. Please see Guidelines for further

information

**The submission fee** is: \$30 for one piece, \$35 for two pieces, and \$40 for three. To keep things simple, no refunds.

**Submissions will be open as of November 8, and closing at 11:59 p.m. November 19.**

Instructions on how to fill out the online application form are all clearly set out in the **Guidelines**.

**Jurying.** Some things are out of our control, as we all know. However, the plan is that the juror will come to Ottawa on November 22 to decide on the pieces that will be accepted for the Virtual Exhibition, and get first impressions of the pieces eligible to receive an award (that part of her work will come later, using the photographs). Our chosen photographer will be taking the photos, hopefully only of the accepted pieces, but if worst comes to worst - and the juror does not to come to Ottawa - of all the submitted pieces. We will keep you posted, as planning advances.



**THE OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS**  
**LA GUILDE DES POTIERS D'OTTAWA**

## Virtual Annual Exhibition

Dec. 5-19, 2020

Juror: Marney McDiarmid

<https://www.ottawaguildofpotters.ca/annual-juried-exhibition/>

Submission period: November 8 - 19, 2020



Marney McDiarmid

## ZOOM Workshop - Writing Your Artist Statement

Thursday, October 29, at 4 – 5:30

**To register: email [exhibitionquestions@ottawaguilddofpotters.ca](mailto:exhibitionquestions@ottawaguilddofpotters.ca)  
(subject line: ZOOM workshop 29 Oct)**

Moderated by Elizabeth Davies and Puck Janes

*Free of charge to Guild members*

Workshop Overview

Having an artist statement is essential for submitting work to an exhibition, providing context for your work on a blog or website, and for posting to the Gallery/Members page on the Guild's website.

Typically, an artist statement should be between 80 – 120 words. It can include a line or two of bio, but essentially your statement should answer the question:

***What do I want viewers to know about my work?***

Exercise 1: Match Artist Statements to Ceramic Pieces

The purpose of this exercise is to identify how Artist Statements can effectively be used to support the presentation of work.

**Prior to the Zoom meeting, participants will be asked to:**

- Review 16 images of ceramic pieces and 16 associated Artist Statements that will be available on the Google Drive in advance of the ZOOM meeting.
- Study these materials in advance of Zoom meeting and attempt to correctly match each image of a ceramic piece to the corresponding artist statement.
- Note down words and sentences used in the sample statements which might come in handy in drafting statements about the works they are exhibiting.

**During the Zoom meeting, participants will:**

- Join a breakout group (3 people / group) to review and discuss their conclusions.
- Review the correct matches as a full group with the moderator, and further discuss ideas and issues raised in the breakout groups.

Exercise 2: Identify Important Elements and Themes in Your Work

The objective of this exercise is to identify the most salient elements and themes that you want viewers to know about your work. Everyone will take a turn asking questions, responding as the potter, and taking notes. The resulting key concepts can later be used in drafting your artist statement.

**Working in new breakout groups (3 people / group), participants will:**

- Assign one of the following roles to each group member: the potter, the questioner, the silent note taker. The group will rotate through these roles so each participant has an opportunity to act as the potter.
- Access the list of sample questions on Google Drive to guide the discussion.
- Use the sample questions (or your own questions) to lead an appreciative inquiry into what each potter considers the most important elements of their work that they would like viewers to know.

- Upload your breakout group's notes from the discussions to Google Drive, for access after the Zoom meeting.

### Exercise 3: Identify Key Words Describing Your Work

This exercise aims to help you to identify key words to use in drafting your Artist Statement. This is helpful in expanding the terms and concepts we use to describe our work.

#### **Working in new breakout groups (3 people / group), each participant will:**

- Access the sample sheet of key words from Google Drive.
- Review the key word list with your breakout group, briefly discuss the significance or importance of words that interest you.
- Working on your own, circle the words that best describe how you wish others to view your work.
- Narrow the list down to ten words or phrases that you may use in your own artist statement.
- Move onto Exercise 4 as soon as you are ready.

### Exercise 4: Drafting Your Artist Statement

The final exercise in the workshop offers you the opportunity to draft your own artists statement and receive feedback from your fellow potters.

#### **Working in new breakout groups (3 people / group), each participant will:**

- Write a first draft of their artist statement for one of their pieces of work by pulling in and referring to:
  - phrases gleaned from the 'matching artist statement to potter' exercise,
  - important elements and themes that you discussed during your interview,
  - key words that help capture the essence of your work and process.
- Exchange your draft with other participants in your breakout group.
- Discuss your texts with each other and consider:
  - What questions arise that are not answered by your statement?
  - Do you feel like people understand your work after reading your statement?
  - What elements do you need to strengthen or change?
  - Could you improve the flow of the text to make it easier for people to read?
- Edit your statement to respond to your fellow potters' questions and feedback.

### Next Steps

This workshop is intended to help support you in drafting your Artist Statement, and we encourage participants to draw on each other's support and feedback moving forward. If you feel comfortable, we suggest you share your email with other potters in the group for follow-up and refinement of your Artist Statements.

## Sale Committee Update.

*By Sue-ann Blakley*

The Holiday Sale that was scheduled for November 27-29, 2020 has been **cancelled**. As most of you know, all "non-food" sales (in door and out door) in the area have been cancelled due to safety concerns from the pandemic. Our deposit money for the Horticulture Building was returned to the guild.

Our next scheduled Spring Sale is planned for April 16-18, 2021. Mark your calendars. Anyone wishing to help organize the sale, please contact Sue-ann Blakely, ([SueannBlakelyPottery@gmail.com](mailto:SueannBlakelyPottery@gmail.com)) We'd love to have you join the team.

Stay safe and healthy as we live through this next phase of COVID 19, 20 & 21!!!

## Who is who in the Guild:

President: Amy Bell

Vice-President Natalie Gosselin

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Membership Secretary and Sales Registrar: Carol Badenoch

Standards and Education Chairs: Jocelyn Jenkins and Katrhin von Dehn

Exhibition Chair: Isobel Salole

Communications Chair:

Workshops and Monthly Program: Natalie Gosselin

Sales Committee chair:

Past President: Barb Minish

Newsletter Editor: Sarah Hand

This will be updated after the AGM