



WASOON 2018
Timmins, ON

WASOON 2018 Timmins KEYNOTE SPEAKER & WORKSHOP LEADER

BIOGRAPHIES

Keynote Speaker and Workshop 1:

Deborah Livingston-Lowe – has been involved in many aspects of textiles for about 30 years, both practical and academic. Her initial interest in handloom weaving and spinning grew into historic weaving, historical research, textile conservation and restoration. She currently works with designers to create textiles for fashion and interiors using locally farmed and milled yarn. She produces custom textiles informed by her knowledge and passion for 19th century Canadian textiles.

Workshops 2, 25:

Jette Vandermeiden – has been creating textiles since early childhood. Studying weaving, embroidery, knitting and bobbin lace at college led her to find her strength in weave theory, structure and design of cloth. With her extensive knowledge of fibre related topics, Jette has been a consultant to museums, documentary researchers and developers of weaving curriculum for college fibre arts programs. A prolific writer and teacher, Jette has conducted classes and workshops across Canada, the USA and England. She was a regular columnist for many years, writing *Loom Bench* for “Fibre Focus”. She weaves damask and Scandinavian weaves on her drawlooms and volunteers at several museums, consulting on the Jacquard loom. Her goal is to share weaving skills so that this ancient craft will continue to enrich our lives.

Workshop 3:

Jacqueline Grummett – learned that all baskets are made by hand. Having been taught by a wonderful native woman how to make a black ash basket whetted her appetite to make more baskets and use many different types of materials. Making baskets gives her great pleasure and satisfaction.

Workshop 4:

Marty Gryciuk – has been involved with fibre since the age of 3, first knitting and then spinning. She has finished the OHS Spinning program, is currently working on her Masters and teaches for OHS, guilds and groups around the province. She is the recipient of various awards and participates in both studio tours in Haliburton.

Workshops 5, 15, 29:

Lori Schwehr- is the owner of Lori's Sewing Place in Porcupine. She does alterations in mostly bridal and formal wear, designs original garments and accessories, works with leather and when she has time...quilts. Lori discovered her love for design and patternmaking while attending Fanshawe's Fashion Design Program. Early in her career, she designed Activewear and worked as a tailor. Fifteen years ago, she created programs for Beginner through Advanced Sewing and Techniques. Lori's love for challenge, technique, design and sewing brings interest and experience into every class she teaches.

Workshops 6, 16, 24:

Ralph Johnston – has a four year degree in Textile Design from the Scottish College of Textiles, Galashiels, Scotland. He teaches weekly at his weaving studio in North Bay and lives in Sudbury. Among his current interests are the history of ceintures flechees and using the 8 harness loom to weave short pithy statements on tea towels and placemats.

Workshops 7, 20:

Christine Rickard – An award-winning, First Nation beading enthusiast, she enjoys the collaborative design process and the opportunity to express herself through culture and colour.

Workshops 8, 23:

Meagan Sinclair – has always been an arts enthusiast and taught herself various crafts during summers at the cottage. She completed a degree in Archaeology at the University of Oxford and toiled in the dusty fields before hanging up her trowel and taking a position as the program coordinator for the Timmins Museum: National Exhibition Centre.

Workshops 9, 26:

Heather Portugie – began felting at the last WASOON conference hosted by the Porcupine Spinners and Weavers Guild in Timmins, needle felting flowers and sheep for the conference gift bags. Since then, she has been needle felting 3D sculptures and loving every minute of the process.

Workshops 10, 21, 27:

Ellen Catherwood – has been painting in watercolour since 2004 and has taught many workshops on that medium, as well as lately teaching workshops in silk scarf dyeing, which is a favourite pastime. She is a member of, and Northern Regional Director, of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour, as well as a member of the Portrait Society of Canada and the local Porcupine Art Club.

Workshops 11, 17 28:

Karla Branch – is a textile, mixed media and glass lamp working artist. She developed her interest and passion in Eco print while living in Western Australia, where she taught several workshops and lived as an artist-in-residence in Margaret River, WA. She is now working on mastering her Maple, Oak and Japanese maple leaf print techniques.

Workshop 11:

Katelyn Malo – was born and raised in Timmins, Ontario. She has a degree in international development from the University of Guelph and a diploma in Applied Photography from Sheridan College in Oakville. Katelyn owns and operates Black Spruce Gallery located in downtown Timmins. She loves local art, ringette, foraging and her dogs: Mar, Ben & Ted.

Workshop 12:

Catharine Cribbs – is a “37 years and still learning” printmaker. A retired visual arts teacher, Catharine now works – weather permitting – in her dream come true woodland studio, experimenting with various inks, surfaces and techniques. She delights in the excitement of pulling a fresh print.

Workshops 13, 18:

Mary Ann Sackabuckshkum – is from the Algonquin First Nations along the St. Lawrence and Saguenay Rivers in Quebec. As with most Algonquins, her family was separated from traditional lands, communities and teachings, due to generations of colonization issues. It has been a lifelong journey to seek out and re-learn what was lost, including traditional crafts. Traditional lifestyle and teachings are extremely important to the daily lives of her and her husband.

Workshop 14:

Denise Fortin – began her fibre journey in 1978 when she enrolled in the Fine Arts programme at Northern College, where, for two years, she studied with Sylvia Martin. Over the years, she has developed her love of fibre, attending many workshops in spinning and weaving; for the last thirteen years, she has been teaching classes in both these areas. Currently, Denise is one of the principal weavers for Dream Acres Alpacas in Black River Matheson just East of Timmins, owned and operated by Jo-Anne & Gary Burton.

Workshop 14:

Linda Mitchell – is a long-time member of the Porcupine Handweavers and Spinners Guild. She joined the Guild in the late 1980's to learn how to spin, expanded her learning to weaving and served a 10 year stint as the Guild Secretary. She continues to be a generous and valued mentor to novice spinners in the PHSG.

Workshop 19:

Carol Blue – began spinning with a course taught by Claudia Thompson in Timmins in 1990. She has completed the OHS Spinning Certificate course and enjoys spinning the wide variety of fibres available to her.

Workshop 22:

Anne Spehar – graduated from the Northern College Fine Arts programme in 1996. She has enjoyed many years of involvement with the Porcupine Handweavers and Spinners Guild.

Workshop 30:

Christine St. Pierre – was born in Timmins in 1955. She grew up loving the bush, where she lived and played. This came to influence her entire life in a very powerful way. It made her bold and unafraid in a most positive light. The places that she has travelled and lived, zigzag across this great country and beyond, but she always comes back to this “neck of the woods” in Northeastern Ontario. She hangs her hat in Foleyet and for the past 40 years, has worked with the forestry sector in one capacity or another. She owns and operates a small sawmill these days, which is surprisingly very much like weaving and designing. Her love of textures and creativity have always played a big role in her life.

Workshop 31:

Rebecca Porlier – is the Co-Founder and Director of Programs and Research for the Upper Canada Fibreshed. Her work within the movement explores strategies for building community around local textiles and developing these networks based on ecological regeneration. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology and an M.Sc. in Capacity Development and Extension.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR – LIZ BOHDANEC- has been teaching yoga classes in the Timmins area for over twenty years.