

CBBAG - OTTAWA VALLEY

Minutes

October 11, 2017

Theme: Hidden in "Full View"

Chair

We have our exhibition in November at the Shenkman Centre. Gayle was collecting works.

Website

Steve asked if anyone had looked at our new website. Several hands went up. He asked for criticism. All was good. Roxanne wanted people to get into the habit of checking it weekly, as it is being continuously updated. The website is not accepting comments at this time, however, if people wish it, she will reconsider the matter. Since the website is content-driven, please send her pictures of what you are working on and an explanation in English or French. That way, people can see things between meetings. More developed content (essays, instructions, online exhibit, etc.) that may also require more than one page, can be submitted for the Omega site.

The question was raised about members teaching their own workshops, that were not CBBAG-OV sponsored. No problem! Bookbinding is the thing. Steve commented that if we did not like it, we would not put it up.

There is a difference between the Facebook page and the website. A Facebook button to "share" or "like", and other such social networking sites, are available on the website, which anyone can use to promote our website posts and/or get notifications of changes. Susan Ross will be in charge of managing our Facebook page. Facebook is another way of promoting our posts, but it is not a website in the sense that it does not include our web page content, which includes our list of meetings, workshop policy, how to become a member, etc.

Treasurer

We have lots of money.

Workshops

The list of workshops is not ready yet, but will come soon. Spike is getting lots of confirmations. It was noted that Nancy Trottier has loaned some of her things for workshops.

The line up so far is:

Date	Workshop	Instructor	# days
Nov 11	Boxes / Enclosures	Spike Minogue	1
Dec 9	Linocuts	Larry Thompson	1
Jan 13	Miniature Leather	James Spyker	2
Feb 10	Multi Stitch text blocks	Spike Minogue	1
Mar 10	Marbling	Nancy French	2

Minutes - October 2017

Apr 14	Alum Tawd Wood Books	Paul Champion-Demers	2
May 5	Endbands	Geneviève Samson	1 - not-confirmed

Two classes will be given next spring, Bookbinding I, to be offered over two weekends in April, and Bookbinding II, in May with Dan Mezza. Spike will be going to London in November, to audit Dan's class in Bookbinding I, to observe his teaching method. All will appear on our website.

Exhibition

Gayle collected recipe books and other things for the exhibition. In answer to a question, she stated that we have never had too many things to in the cases, which are large. Steve said they will take anything to do with Canada; that the show is not restricted to books only. Setting up will take place on October 30.

Connection with the Calligraphy Society of Ottawa

Madeleine mentioned the November workshop being offered by our sister guild, the Calligraphy Society of Ottawa. It will be held November 4-5, given by Loredana Zega, on embossing and design layout. There are some spots left. CBBAG-OV members would pay the same fee as CSO members. More can be seen on the CSO's website. We can ask Susan Ross to make sure the CSO outreach message and link to their site go on our website. A general link to CSO's website is found on the website on the *About* page: <http://cbbagottawa.ca/about>

Monthly Challenge

The topic selected this month is to complete a project from a You Tube video that you had not done before. We can collect the urls afterwards, so that everyone could explore the projects, if desired.

Show and Tell

Efforts from September's challenge, "block print", were shown first. Spike had 26 linocuts, of the alphabet, cut in reverse. She made a little book, entitled "Rough Cuts", with a box to hold it. Nancy Trottier had a block print sampler in a case. Susan showed the prints she had made, in fall colours, using a piece of wood, found outside her home, dabbed in acrylic paints. Gayle and Steve had also done the alphabet in a linocut, and produced several copies, which were handed out to those present. Steve had bound two of these books, one in a pamphlet stitch and the other with a stab binding.

For the regular show and tell, John Holmes showed the book he had started 15 years ago, with a Canadian theme. He used to do binding professionally, and this book recognized his connection with Gerry Brender à Brandis. Roxanne had a dummy book, sewn boards binding with unpasted chain-link stitched signatures, that she is investigating for a book featuring folding, cutting and embossing. The aim was to have the book lie flat when open. Spike and Gayle gave some advice, as she is having trouble with the tension. Mary had recommended more sewing stations, which Roxanne will try for the prototype, ready hopefully by December.

Nancy French had miniature books. Val's book shows recipe cards. It was a challenge to organize them. She decided to make one section on food, one on wisdom and handmade paper. Nancy Trottier had recipe cards, assembled with stab binding, in reverse alphabetical order. Spike had mini books as well, made with Nancy French, and showed the mini cradle used for punching holes. What was very interesting was the device with 5 needles in it, which would punch all the holes at once. She recommended the video online by Amos Kennedy.

Minutes - October 2017

Rebecca Cowan, a printmaker from Kingston, who does not get to our meetings very often, showed how she had used old family photos in collages. This book was offered for the exhibition. In addition, she had a series of small dry point books, in the shape of houses, that told stories of what went on in the neighbourhoods she lived in as a child. They are double accordion folds that stand up on their own. For her, bookbinding is a labour of love. She hopes to have 20 such books in a few years, and to have a show of them. All the neighbourhoods had United Churches. She had a rough model for a church, and said what would go inside it. It was suggested that perhaps she could come to meetings with Hugh Barclay, who drives to Merrickville, then comes in with Holly and Larry.

Deidre had prints, forming postcards of Lanark.

Announcements

Spike had some tools, available for purchase, to be used in Bookbinding classes, that were hard to get and expensive. One such was a brass triangle with a handle. She will make 50 of these, to be sold for \$20. Dividers will be \$14. She has 30 awls for \$5 each. As well, she has scalpel handles and blades. She is in need of more cigar cases to carry the awls in. Advertisements will appear on our website.

Program

John Holmes gave a very interesting presentation entitled, Hidden in "Full View", an introduction to fore-edge painting. This practice started mainly in the 17th-18th centuries, although some have been found dating from the 12th century. Previously books were stored flat, and volume numbers were put on the edges. Some fore-edge paintings are viewed only when the pages are fanned. The paintings do not necessarily correspond with the contents of the books. Wealthy patrons commissioned these, and often had family portraits. Some paintings do not match the date of the book. Many were not signed, so few names of painters exist. One lady in England kept a catalogue of the ones she produced.

How were these paintings created? A jig would hold the fanned pages. Watercolours were used, as they were not sticky, thus allowing the fanned pages to resume their original shape. The Boston Public Library has a collection of over 200 such books. Fore-edge painting is still being done today.

John had a book of Browning's poems, which had two fore-edge paintings. The pages could be fanned in either direction, giving two different paintings. The edges of such books were normally marbled or gilded, thus hiding the painting. John acknowledged the sites he had consulted, and whose images he had used in his presentation.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fore-edge_painting

<http://foreedge.bpl.org>

<https://www.foreedgepainting.com/gallery>

<https://www.foreedgefrost.co.uk>

Next Meeting

November 8, Book review, by Hugh Barclay

18 in attendance

Minutes - October 2017