

Why So Crafty, MAWA?



Crafternoon in *Miselijou* (an embroidery technique from Mali) taught by Kadidia Coulbaly Esp Sidibe (centre) *en français*, October 2019

MAWA first started exploring craft as part of contemporary art practice in 2008, as part of the Aboriginal Women in Mentorship Program. From 2008 to 2010, regular “Stitch ‘n Bitch” sessions were held, to encourage an exchange of skills and conversation. Since then, MAWA’s interest in craft has expanded to include international craft practices, many of which are disappearing with globalization and industrialization. The New Canadian Craft Program was born in 2011, renamed the Indigenous and International Craft Program in 2013, and then renamed again, becoming the Cross-Cultural Craft Program in 2015. Why so crafty, MAWA?

For centuries, in the West, women were excluded from the profession of artist through various means. Women were not allowed to study. Women were denied access to nude models. Women could not join guilds. But beyond that, women were not seen as “masters,” the corresponding term being “mistresses,” which has entirely different connotations. In an economic system that exploited women’s labour and denied them full participation and advancement, women artists could create but were largely limited to the realm of functional craft. And even here there was a gender divide, in terms of material and value. For example, carpentry and metalwork (traditionally masculine) were valued as professions far more frequently than needle arts such as knitting, sewing and embroidery (traditionally feminine). However, examining *any* artform at its highest level, including traditionally feminine craft, takes the breath away: the skill, the innovation, the

transformation of materials and the embedded cultural meanings.

At MAWA, we believe that all materials and techniques should be available to us as creators, to express ourselves and articulate the ideas that possess us, whatever our gender. That’s why we offer craft workshops—to expand artists’ toolkits and to value traditional craft practices.

In collaboration with all of the provincial and territorial Craft Councils, the Canadian Craft Federation has declared 2020 “Craft Year.” There will be many special events across the country, including here at MAWA. In this newsletter you will see workshops featuring techniques from around the world and across Turtle Island, lectures about contemporary artists’ use of traditional craft techniques, a Theory and Beer devoted to feminist embroidery, critical writing focusing on a craft-based artist’s project, and a community beading exhibition.

In January, MAWA’s *Dura Mater: Reflections on Neurofeminism* program also begins. This year-long partnering of artists and neuro-scientists encompasses a wide range of artistic practices, including fine craft.

MAWA is crafty because MAWA believes in providing skills and tools to artists, and craft is among them. MAWA also values the feminine. In a world still dominated by patriarchy, let us not forget the full spectrum of creative tools available to us.

—Shawna Dempsey and Dana Kletke

inside

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 First Friday Lectures | 7 Over the Top | 13 MAWA News |
| 3 Critical Discussion | 8 Groups | 14 Critical Writing |
| 4 Cross-Cultural Craft Practices | 9 Art-Making Opportunities | 16 Heads-Up Calendar |
| 5 Learning Opportunities | 10 What You May Have Missed | |
| 6 Exhibits & Donors | 12 Fall Social Report | |



All are welcome to attend these free noon-hour lectures on art theory and criticism.

Diasporic Asian Women Artists: Changing Cultural Narratives

with Sabrina Sethi

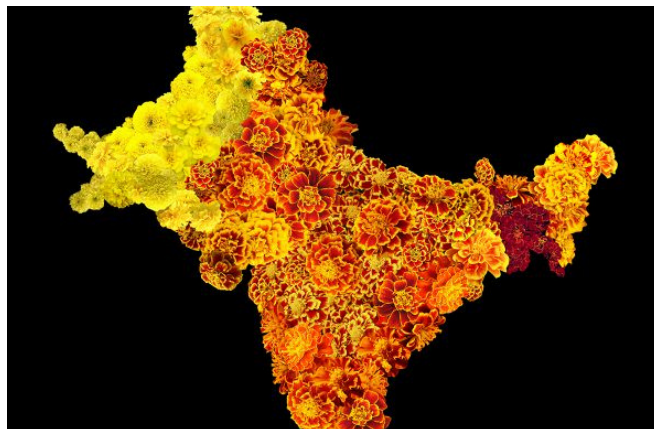
Friday, December 6, 2019, noon-1pm at MAWA, followed by our Holiday Party



Photo by Greg Hance

Through the lens of critical race feminism, Sabrina Sethi will present her research on the use of storytelling and personal narratives in the work of diasporic Asian women artists to counter hegemonic representations of Canadian culture and history. She will investigate the relationships between identity and place, and how location, geography and family stories impact identity and belonging. Her interest stems from her experiences navigating identity as a mixed-race South Asian/Scottish Canadian growing up as the child of immigrants in the Canadian Prairies.

Sabrina Sethi is an emerging writer and curator. She has recently returned to academia to pursue her MA in Cultural Studies, Curatorial Stream, focussing on concepts of belonging and Othering in Western culture, and exploring how cultural production within diaspora groups in the West is consumed, presented and critiqued.



Sarindar Dhaliwal, *the cartographer's mistake: the Radcliffe Line*, chromira print, 2012

Craft Is Political

with Seema Goel

Friday, January 3, 2020, noon-1pm at MAWA



Photo by Kira Koop

The project of re-connecting craft with its political potential is coalescing into a varied and layered movement. The desire for the handmade transcends aesthetic interest and includes a demonstrated eagerness on the part of the public to re-learn skills not only for the pleasure of making, but also in opposition to the homogenizing effects of global production and marketing. Craft invites its posse to counter and interrogate the many ills of contemporary society and reclaim their agency through making.

Seema Goel is an artist, writer and craftivist. She draws on her dual background in arts and sciences to focus on the relationship between humans and the natural world, often highlighting contradictions within this relationship and noting the ways in which nature is used to advance human thinking. An eclectic range of materials from wool to projections on buildings allows her to combine high and low tech to engage her viewers through touch, humour and play.



Seema Goel, *Carbon Footprint* project, 2010. Photo by Nick Hand

Hands On: Contemporary Indigenous Beading

with Jennifer Smith

Friday, February 7, 2020, noon-1pm at MAWA

Presented in partnership with the Manitoba Craft Council



Hands On will look at the way artists are using beads and are inspired by beading in their contemporary practices. The featured artists are all exploring unique ideas with beading as the jumping-off point for discussions on colonialism, family, pop culture, community, the cosmos and much more.

Jennifer Smith is a Métis curator, writer and arts administrator from Treaty One territory. She has curated exhibits and video programs for the Manitoba Craft Council, Video Pool Media Arts Centre, Open City Cinema, MAWA, the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library, and the Winnipeg Arts Council; in 2018 she was the Indigenous Curator in Residence at aceartinc.

As part of the *Beadings Symposium: Winnipeg 2020*, MAWA is hosting this special lecture. *Beadings Symposium: Winnipeg 2020* is a



Whess Harman, *Tell Me About First Contact*, Potlatch Punk Series, 2018

multi-venue beading symposium organized by the Manitoba Craft Council in partnership with Urban Shaman Contemporary Art Gallery. The symposium will be hosted at the Manitoba Museum, February 6 to 9, 2020.

Theory and Beer at The Royal Canadian Legion, 227 McDermot Ave.



melannie monoceros (left) leading a Theory and Beer on Meme Activism, October 2019

It's fun! It's theoretical! And you don't have to drink beer! MAWA presents informal critical discussions led by guest facilitators. Each meeting has a text-based focus, with PDFs or weblinks to readings provided in advance (go to mawa.ca to click on the links). Do the

readings beforehand or come to the Legion at 6:15pm and pick up a copy of the text(s). The more familiar you are with the readings, the more the conversation will "cook!" The Legion is accessible. People of all genders welcome.

The Feminist Power of Embroidery

with Heidi Eigenkind

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 6:30-8pm



E. Tammy Kim's article opens a discussion about why feminist artists use embroidery and how subversion in embroidery can be defined. Please come and share your own connections with this needle-craft and stories of subversive strategies involving embroidery in your family and/or culture of origin. Bringing a piece of your own work is encouraged.

Heidi Eigenkind is a self-taught feminist artist whose fascination with embroidery started in the early 1970s, when she took two crewel embroidery courses from Leonida Leatherdale, an accomplished Winnipeg embroiderer and teacher. She is interested in issues of female identity and sexuality, gender, and the nature of cultural and individual memory.

Reading: E. Tammy Kim, "The Feminist Power of Embroidery"
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/29/opinion/sunday/feminist-embroidery-korea.html>



Heidi Eigenkind, *Spiny Ovule* (detail), 2018

Why We Need a Feminist Climate Science

with Bev Pike

Thursday, February 20, 2020, 6:30-8pm



In 2007, artist Katie Paterson made audio recordings of retreating Icelandic glaciers into ice records and played them until they melted. Her work expanded knowledge about the kinds of data that patriarchal science considers important. Artist Bev Pike will facilitate a discussion about methods of knowledge-making in climate science.

Bev Pike is a Winnipeg artist known for gigantic immersive paintings of architectural utopias amid climate catastrophe, based on her research into historic shell grottos. Pike's work is in public art galleries across Canada. She also creates humorous Agony Aunt columns in artist books that are included in international collections.

Reading: Lady Science, "Why We Need a Feminist Climate Science and How We Might Get It"
<https://www.ladyscience.com/features/why-we-need-a-feminist-climate-science-and-how-we-might-get-it>



Bev Pike, *Chill: Languorous swimming under Arctic ice provides hope for safe comfortable harbour*, gouache on paper 2.4 m x 6.1 m

Crafternoons feature instruction by Indigenous and New Canadian women artists. They provide a cultural context to help you understand how and why the craft developed. Traditional practices have origins that can be spiritual as well as material, and many have histories

that are thousands of years old. Everyone is welcome, at any age and skill level. Materials, childminding and snacks are provided! Because these techniques take time to learn, we ask that you plan on attending for the duration (1-4pm).

Piscuchas (Kites)

with Albyn Carias

December 14, 2019, 1-4pm at MAWA

Free! No need to register; just come!



In El Salvador, the making of *piscuchas* (kites) is an enduring tradition, taught generation to generation by family members. *Piscuchas* fill the skies in the windy season of October, each one unique, reflecting individual makers. The practice of flying a *piscucha* requires great aerobatic skill. It is a battle, as you maneuver the wind and out-strategize your opponent. These kites are colourful, creative objects in and of themselves. Make one to hang in your home or in anticipation of spring! This craft is appropriate for all ages.



Albyn Carias is an interdisciplinary artist. He immigrated to Canada from El Salvador at the age of 13 and has a BFA from Brandon University *Ishkabatens waasa Gaa inaabateg*, Visual and Aboriginal Arts Department. Carias's process focuses on experimentation with unconventional materials, pushing against imposed social and artistic borders. He is also an avid craftsman and is currently working at Manitoba Craft Council.

Moose Hair Tufting

with Kanina Terry

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 1-4pm at MAWA

\$10 for materials; to register and pay, go to <https://mawa.ca/workshops/crafternoons>



Moose and caribou hair tufting has been used by Indigenous artists in the far north for almost 100 years to make beautiful floral works of art. This workshop will provide an introduction to the technique used in moose hair tufting. Using moose hide, moose hair and sinew, participants will create a moose hair tufted pendant.

Kanina Terry is Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) from Obishikokaang (Lac Seul First Nation) and lives in the traditional territory of Obishikokaang in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. She is passionate about her son, food, hide tanning and creating things with her hands. Kanina began creating as a youth and has been learning and defining her technique since then. She draws inspiration from her teachers, ancestors, bush life and other Indigenous artists. Check out her work on Facebook: KaninaMade.



Beaded Glasses Arms

with Bobbi Lee Proulx

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 1-4pm at MAWA

Free! No need to register; just come!



This class will include flat beading (an off-loom beading technique) and the wrapped stitch, as well as how to make your own custom pattern. The result? A one-of-a-kind sleeve for the arm of your eyeglasses! Don't forget to bring your shades or spectacles to decorate.

Bobbie Lee Proulx is an artist/owner at Cree-Ations and Artist Showcase, located at 586 Main Street. She designs beaded jewellery, purses, journals and a variety of accessories. Creating custom contemporary custom design is her specialty.



The Cross-Cultural Craft Program is supported by Indigenous Initiatives and Municipal Relations of the Province of Manitoba.

Cross-Cultural Beading Group

Mondays, every other week, 6-8pm at MAWA
Free! No need to register, just come!

Everyone is invited to share their skills, learn and work independently in a welcoming atmosphere. No experience necessary. Novice and experienced beaders alike are welcome. Some free materials are provided (beads, thread, cloth and leather) or you can bring your own. Frequently, a guest beader joins us to share their skill and cultural and beading traditions. The group will meet on the following dates:

December 9: guest Karen Smith, *peyote stitch*
 January 13: guest Bronwyn Butterfield, *brickstitch earrings*
 January 27: guest Kanina Terry
 February 10: (no guest)
 February 24: guest TBA



Cross-Cultural Beaders showing off their earrings in-progress, October 2019

Artist Boot Camp Workshop

Grant Writing

with Diana Thorneycroft

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 10am-4pm at Creative Manitoba, 245 McDermot Ave.

\$30 for members of MAWA or Creative Manitoba; \$55 for non-members

To register and pay, contact: admin@creativemanitoba.ca
or call 204-927-2787

Spaces are limited

Presented in partnership with Creative Manitoba



In this dynamic, fun, participatory workshop, you will learn how to write a grant for your individual art practice, including how to prepare a budget, résumé, artist statement and project proposal. There will be important discussions about how to best present yourself as an artist and your proposed idea to a panel of unknown assessors: what to do, what not to do and how to select the best possible support materials. As this workshop aims to be as relevant as possible, please come prepared to share a general introduction to your art practice and your project idea with the group. Many of the elements of good grant writing are the same for exhibit/project proposals, so this workshop will be invaluable in helping you prepare for those as well. Get yourself organized and promote your practice! Learn from an experienced grant writer!

Diana Thorneycroft is a Winnipeg artist who also teaches workshops and mentors emerging artists. She has received numerous grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council and Winnipeg Arts Council. Currently Thorneycroft is producing her first stop-motion animation, stemming from her touring exhibition *Black Forest (dark waters)*.

Tough Love

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 6:30-9:30pm at MAWA

Guest critic hannah_g

Free! Artists of all genders welcome

To register for a crit, email Adriana at programs@mawa.ca
with "Tough Love Jan. 2020" in the subject line



This group is perfect for those who need feedback or want to discuss art and art issues with a group of peers. Feel like you are working in a vacuum or without community context? Want the feedback of a professional curator? Join other artists and a special guest for a 3-hour discussion, during which artists receive a focussed and constructive group critique. If you have already received several Tough Love critiques at MAWA, perhaps consider giving someone else the opportunity. Every-

one is welcome to attend and participate in the dialogue, whether you are sharing work or not.

hannah_g will be the January guest critic. Up until 2018, hannah_g worked for the artist-run centre aceartinc., first as the Programmer and then as Director. She was also the editor of the gallery's in-house annual publication, *PaperWait*. At ace she co-founded Flux Gallery, The Cartae Open School and the gallery's first Indigenous Curatorial Residency, as well as directing the annual program of exhibitions, talks and activities. She is approachable and insightful, with experience in the local, national and international art scenes.



Allison Moore, *Untitled; in progress*, 2019

Interior Investigations

An exhibition of works by the 2019 Focussed Mentorship Program at aceartinc., 290 McDermot Ave., 2nd floor

Thursday-Saturday, December 19, 2019 - January 3, 2020, 12-5pm

Closing reception: Friday, January 3, 2020, 6-9pm

Presented in partnership with aceartinc.

Interior Investigations brings together recent work from 6 artists in Manitoba who took part in MAWA's Focussed Mentorship Program, a 3-month intensive development opportunity with mentor Barb Hunt. This program provided an opportunity to be introduced to the work of new artists, new artwork, new ideas and new media. Artists experimented with using unusual media, created and discussed new work,

explored ideas, networked, supported and challenged each other.

Interior Investigations focusses on each artist's exploration of material research as an avenue to express a theme that is important to them. This exhibition features the work of program mentees Allison Moore, Dawn Knight, Barb Bottle, Melanie Matheson, Loricia Pacholko-Matheson and Briony Haig.

Community Beading Exhibition

Wednesday-Friday, February 7-28, and Saturday February 29, 2020

10am-4pm at MAWA

Opening reception: Friday, February 7, 6-9pm

As part of the *Beading Symposium: Winnipeg 2020*, MAWA is hosting a community beading exhibition coordinated by Niamh Dooley. Come see the projects created by MAWA's Cross-Cultural Beading Group!

Beading Symposium: Winnipeg 2020 is a multi-venue beading symposium organized by the Manitoba Craft Council in partnership with Urban Shaman Contemporary Art Gallery. The symposium will be hosted at the Manitoba Museum, February 6 to 9, 2020.

Right: *Tiny bear boots* by Catriona Dooley, one of MAWA's Cross-Cultural Beaders



Thank you to our recent donors. We really appreciate your support!

Anonymous, Jean Altemeyer, Deborah Challis, Alfred Chorney, Ditte Cloutier, Corrine Danard, Elise Dawson, Helene Dyck, David & Diane Johnston, Vivian McLean, Susan Scott, Jennifer Smith, Sue Stewart, Reva Stone, Iris Yudai

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art encourages and supports the intellectual and creative development of women in the visual arts by providing an ongoing forum for education and critical dialogue.

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art encourage et appuie le développement intellectuel et créatif des femmes impliquées dans les arts visuels en mettant à leur disposition un forum continu qui vise l'éducation et le dialogue critique.

Over the Top Art Auction and Cupcake Party

Opening party and bidding: Friday, March 20, 2020, 6-10pm; free!

Bidding: Saturday, March 21, 2020, 12-5pm; free!

Cupcake party and final bidding: Sunday, March 22, 2020, 1-5pm

\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door; first art auction lot closes at 3pm

Once again, MAWA is offering the fantastic mix of art and cupcakes at MAWA and the Edge Gallery. Where else can you find artworks from over 150 amazing artists, jaw-dropping raffle baskets, over 1,000 delicious cupcakes and more? To get you in the mood, here are the answers to a few frequently asked questions:

Where can I buy tickets?

Advance tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online at mawa.ca. Or you can visit us at MAWA, 611 Main St, Wednesday to Friday, 10am-6pm, with cash, debit, credit card or cheque. Tickets can also be purchased from a MAWA board member prior to the event. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$12. Note: the number of tickets is finite, so act fast to avoid disappointment! Tickets provide entry to Over the Top on Sunday, March 22 and all the cupcakes you can eat. Attending the bidding kick-off on the evening of Friday, March 20 or on Saturday, March 21 is free, but you will need a ticket to bid on the artworks.

Can I bid on artwork if I can't make it to the cupcake party on Sunday?

To bid, you must purchase a ticket. Art Auction bidding begins on Friday, March 20 from 6-10pm and continues on Saturday, March 21 from 12-5pm. You are also welcome to send a proxy bidder to the event on Sunday, or we can provide one for you. Note: Bids placed on Friday and Saturday are secured with a credit card. On the early bidding dates, you will also be able to buy advance raffle tickets and, if you win, we will call you.

I'm not a MAWA member. Can I still donate artwork?

Yes, MAWA welcomes donations of one piece of art from artists of all genders, members and non-members alike. Works in all media are accepted. We regret that we cannot accept children's work, but kids are more than welcome to munch on the cupcakes on the day of the auction, and we always have at least one fantastic kids' raffle basket.

How can I donate art?

If you want to donate artwork, please email Alison at info@mawa.ca. Thank you so much! We couldn't do this fundraiser without our valued artist donors.

Do I have to submit anything with my artwork?

Please fill out a MAWA contract and submit it with your artwork. This allows us to keep track of your work, hang or install according to your instructions and title accordingly. You can fill out a contract at MAWA when you drop off your submission or you can download a contract from our website, mawa.ca/events/over-the-top-art-auction/. When you drop off your donation, we will give you a free ticket to the event (the ticket has no cash value).

Is there a minimum bid?

Yes! Each artist will be able to set a minimum bid on their work at a level they are comfortable with, from \$50 up. We want to ensure that each artwork is auctioned for an appropriate value. Wondering how to set your opening bid? Ask yourself at what price point you would rather have your work back than see it go for less.

Will I receive a tax receipt?

Yes! Artists will receive a charitable tax receipt for the percentage of the sale that they choose to donate to MAWA.



Art, cupcakes and more! Over the Top 2019. Photo by Lindsey Bond

Can I donate the proceeds?

Artists can choose how much of the sale of their artwork they want to donate to MAWA: 100%, 75% or 50%. MAWA is grateful to everyone who has donated over the years. You have made so much possible!

Where and when can I drop off my work?

We accept submissions at MAWA, 611 Main St, from 10am to 6pm on:

Wednesday, February 19

Thursday, February 20

Friday, February 21

Wednesday, February 26

Thursday, February 27

Friday, February 28

Wednesday, March 4

Thursday, March 5

Friday, March 6

Are there evening and weekend drop-off dates?

Yes! We will also be open and accepting artwork donations:

Monday, February 24, 6-8pm

Saturday, February 29, noon-4pm

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30pm

What if I miss these dates?

If we do not receive your artwork by March 6, we may not be able to include your work in the auction. If none of these times work for you, contact MAWA's office at 204-949-9490 to make an appointment.

Can I contribute to raffle baskets?

We are also asking our members to collect new retail items for our raffle baskets. Please, no corporate swag! A charitable tax receipt will be issued to the individuals or businesses for the retail value of the donation of products (as per Canadian tax law, charitable tax receipts cannot be issued for services or gift certificates.) Please email info@mawa.ca with "raffle donation" in the subject line.

Can I bake cupcakes?

Yes, please! MAWA bakers contribute 84 dozen sugar-bombs that make the event each year! If you would like to make cupcakes, please email mawacupcakes@gmail.com. You'll get a free ticket and will be entered into our cupcake bakers' draw. Plus there will be a prize for the most creatively decorated cupcake!

Artist Mothers at MAWA

Facilitated by Sandra Brown
Free! Open to all artist-mothers

The acts and demands of childrearing are exhausting and challenging. While caregiving, it can feel like we are not taken seriously as artists. Some women give up artmaking completely. Others refuse to choose, believing that artmaking is an oxygen mask one must put on before assisting little ones. The Artist Mothers Group at MAWA extends an invitation to all artist-mothers to come and meet other women who embrace both mothering and artistic production. This peer-based group usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are relaxed and informal. Participants experiment with art materials, critique each other's work and share snacks, concerns, ideas, inspiration, strategies and support for those who juggle the tricky demands of artmaking and mothering. If you can't make the meetings, please consider participating in the Artist Mothers at MAWA Facebook page, Artist Mothers at MAWA.

Watercolour Card-Making

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 6:30-9pm at MAWA

Sandra Brown will lead this watercolour workshop, and will share a simple method to create your own unique set of watercolour greeting cards mounted on coloured cardstock, just in time for the holiday season.

Collage and Conversation

Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 6:30-9pm at MAWA

Join us for a relaxed gathering of collaging and conversation. We'll talk about what's near and dear to you, as well as share ideas about artwork for our upcoming spring exhibition. Bring collage materials you'd like to contribute or work with and art you've been working on for feedback.

Art Dolls

Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 6:30-9pm at MAWA

Sandra Brown will lead us in creating art figures using paper doll templates, watercolour paint, photographs and mixed media. Create your own personae for use in greeting cards and mixed media art. Bring along some of your own photos if you'd like to create self-portraits.



Last year's *Collage and Conversation*, with collage by Mary Ferguson, January 2019

Desire Change Reading Group

Tuesdays, January 14 and February 11, 2020, 6:30-8pm at MAWA

Facilitated by Helga Jakobson

Free! Everyone welcome, including first-timers; no need to register, just come!

In 2017, MAWA co-published *Desire Change: Contemporary Feminist Art in Canada*, edited by Heather Davis. This groundbreaking book documents our history and our present as feminist visual art practitioners. Join multi-disciplinary artist Helga Jakobson at a monthly reading group to explore it, one chapter at a time. *Desire Change* is guaranteed to spur discussion!

Participants are asked to read Chapter 11, "From Mentorship to Collaboration: Art, Feminism and Community" prior to the January meeting, and Chapter 12, "How to Review Art as a Feminist and Other Speculative Intents" prior to the February meeting.

Copies of the book are available for sale at MAWA for \$45.



Participants at the *Desire Change* reading group, led by Helga Jakobson, delving into feminist art theory, September 2019

Indigenous Art Nights

Facilitated by Niamh Dooley

Free! All Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people welcome

Try new things, learn about Indigenous art and get inspired! Join us for art activities in the MAWA space and explore a variety of artistic techniques through hands-on art experience. If you want to participate, check out <https://mawa.ca/groups/indigenous-art-night> for information and registration details. Please come and bring your friends!

Painting and Mixed Media Workshop

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 6:30-8:30pm at MAWA

Join us for an art night of painting and integrating different techniques and materials onto the canvas, such as beading, adding textiles and other materials to create unique patterns. All materials provided. To register, go to <https://mawa.ca/groups/indigenous-art-night>, call 204-949-9490 or contact dooley@mawa.ca.

Acrylic Pour Workshop

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 6:30-8:30pm at MAWA

For this session, we will be learning to create fluid art with the acrylic pour technique. Learn how to utilize a pouring medium to experiment with colour and pattern on canvas. All materials provided. To register, go to <https://mawa.ca/groups/indigenous-art-night>, call 204-949-9490 or contact dooley@mawa.ca.

Diorama Sketch Night

Friday, January 3, 2020, 7-9pm

at the Manitoba Museum, 190 Rupert Ave.

\$12 general admission; \$10 seniors; all genders welcome

You can pre-purchase tickets at

<https://tickets.manitobamuseum.ca> or buy them at the door

Presented in partnership with the Manitoba Museum

Come sketch a vast array of nature and culture, all conveniently located under one roof. The Manitoba Museum offers everything from mammalian specimens to dinosaur skeletons, and sailing ships to rocket ships.

Diorama Sketch Night will include a brief introduction to the museum and its many diorama installations. This will be followed by unguided time to sketch, reflect on and interpret the collection, concluding with time to share and discuss your work. Admission also includes access to additional First Friday programming at the Museum!

Limited drawing materials are available for use, although you are encouraged to bring your own pencils, sketchbook and hard-backed board. Please note that out of care and respect for the artifacts, only pencil can be used in the exhibitions; photography/filming/sketching must be done outside of the security barriers; and photos may be used for personal purposes only.

Figure Drawing

Tuesdays, January 28 and February 25, 2020, 7-9:30pm at MAWA

\$10. All women and non-binary artists welcome

Do you miss drawing live models? Want to practise drawing the human body but need the time and space? MAWA offers figure drawing with live models in a feminist environment. No need to register, just show up. Doors open at 6:30pm to give you time to set up. The model begins at 7pm for quick gesture drawings, followed by longer poses. Participants are asked to bring their own materials. Drawing boards are provided.



Jen Storm leading a MAWA Indigenous Art Night about graphic novels at Gallery 1C03, September 2019



Liz Garlicki drawing in the Manitoba Museum at MAWA's last Diorama Sketch Night, May 2019



Figure Drawing, September 2019



A bevy of birds at the Ornithology Lab Drawing Session, led by University of Manitoba STEAM Coordinator Seema Goel (right) and graduate student Evelien de Greef (second from right), with MAWA Artist in Residence Anne J. Steves from BC (left), September 2019



Mentorship Essentials workshop participants in the MAWA members' exhibition *Roots and Tendrils*, September 2019



Artist Boot Camp presenter Amanda Jordan and the team from the RBC, leading *Maximizing Your Money*, September 2019



Participants Rowan el-Bialy (left) and Christina McKay in the performance workshop led by Artist in Residence Natasha Jozi from Pakistan, June 2019



Sold-out Moccasin Workshop with Carole Frechette (standing), September 2019



Christine Brouzes leading the *How to Teach an Art Workshop* Artist Boot Camp, October 2019



Geri Pangman teaching participants of all ages how to make pins in commemoration of Orange Shirt Day, September 2019



Artist in Residence Demelza Watts (second from right) from London, England delivering her artist talk, August 2019



Following the First Friday talk by Lita Fontaine, MAWA launched *Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards and Teaching Guide*, containing an educational resource developed by (left to right) Elder Albert McLeod, Yvette Cenerini, Dawn Knight and Lita Fontaine, October 2019



Senator Patricia Bovey (with ASL interpreter) delivering her talk *Beyond Barriers: Arts Accessibility*, in partnership with Arts AccessAbility Network Manitoba, October 2019



Cross-Cultural Beading Group guest beader Jake Freeman (left) sharing her skills, October 2019



Climate Change Strike sign-making bee, September 2019

1984 Thanks

On Thursday, October 17, MAWA supporters danced the night away at The Good Will Social Club, in their spandexed, sequined and otherwise 1984 attire. The Social raised over \$3,800 (net) for MAWA's Legacy Fund. This amount will be matched by the Winnipeg Foundation and Canadian Heritage, bringing our Legacy Fund at the Winnipeg Foundation to approximately \$120,000 this year. Congratulations, everyone!

This event would not have been possible without our host, The Good Will, and DJs Callie Lugosi and *Mensrea*. Their generosity made

this event rad!

Special thanks to Skills Auction donors: Amanda Abrahams, Adriana Alarcón, John Anderson, Barb Bottle, Mac Horsburgh, Julie Gendron, Riley Grae, Briony Haig, Katie Haig-Anderson, Lindsay Joy, Elissa Kixen, Colleen Leduc, Fenton Litwiller, Callie Lugosi, Francine Martin, Stefanie Pielahn, Bev Pike, Lara Rae, Kris Snowbird, Etoile Stewart, Tricia Wasney and Tracy Woodward. We couldn't have done it without you.



Alison Davis (right) and sparkly friends (left to right) Jason Simonson, Heather Bristow and Meg McMillan



Amanda Abrahams, keeping the crimper hot!



Artist in Residence Daniela Leal from New Orleans (right) with Adriana Alarcón



Fundraiser committee chair Briony Haig (left) doing the robot with event MC Tracy Woodward on the dance floor



Weight training skills donor Francine Martin (left), with Cheryl Martens (centre) and Karen Cornelius



Party girls Tricia Wasney (left) and Sarah Crawley in front of the skills auction display

Tiny Gallery

The 45"-wide "bump" on the north wall of our program space is dedicated to showcasing work by MAWA members in any 2D or 3D media.

Coming up in the Tiny Gallery this winter:

December 2019 Alerry Lavitt

January 2020 Courtney Smith

Holiday Party

Friday, December 6, 2019, 1-2pm at MAWA

Immediately following December's First Friday lecture, MAWA will be hosting a holiday party. Come and enjoy the food and festivities. Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and help the MAWA community grow.

Holiday Closure

MAWA will close for the holidays at 4pm on Friday, December 20 and reopen at 10am on Thursday, January 2. See you in 2020!

MAWA Gifts

Still haven't decided what to give to your favourite art feminist? How about a copy of *Desire Change*, the first book about feminist art in Canada, for just \$45? Or the recently released *Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards and Teaching Guide* for just \$40? Last but not least, MAWA T-shirts are still available in sizes S-XL for \$20. We've got you covered!

Members' Show Thanks

Many thanks to the 89 artists who participated in MAWA's annual members' exhibition, *Roots and Tendrils*. A total of \$985 of artwork was sold and 100% of the proceeds went directly to the artists. Plus, over 500 people saw this month-long exhibition! Congratulations, everyone!

New Team Member

Each year, MAWA is assisted by a Programming Intern through the generosity of the University of Manitoba Women's and Gender Studies Department, financed by the Margaret Laurence Fund. This year, Atreya Madrone is joining our team. She is an undergraduate in Women's and Gender Studies. She will be working on *Resilience* distribution, the Cross-Cultural Craft Program and Over the Top.



Jane Gateson with her work in the Tiny Gallery, July 2019



The launch of *Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards and Teaching Guide* was celebrated with a few words from lead writer Yvette Cenerini (left), a lecture by co-writer Lita Fontaine (centre) and smudging by Elder Albert McLeod (standing right). MAWA is sending a copy of this publication to every public school in Winnipeg, every rural and northern school district in Manitoba and every Manitoba band school... free of charge!



Programming Intern Atreya Madrone (left) on her first day, being trained by last year's intern Shay Stoneback, October 2019



The opening of the MAWA members' show *Roots and Tendrils*, September 2019

Tapestry of Spirit: Stitching as an act of re-enchantment

by Helene Vosters

At a recent visit to Toronto's Textile Museum (one of my favourite haunts), I came upon *Tapestry of Spirit: The Torah Stitch* by *Stitch Project*, a monumental cross-stitch work collectively crafted under the creative leadership of textile artist Temma Gentles. With *Tapestry*, Gentles does more than celebrate the spiritual texts that form the content of the work — the first five books of the Bible alongside selections from the Qur'an and the Christian Scriptures. She also pays homage to over 1,400 volunteer stitchers from 46 countries who collectively laboured for more than 140,000 hours to produce project's 1,464 panels.

Organized into four-verse vertical sections, the panels of the exhibition have been painstakingly sewn together to form a continuous scroll-like display that winds its way through ten of the museum's galleries. Interspersed among the panels of text are hundreds of smaller illuminations bearing individual stitchers' creative interpretations of the text.

As a queer, monolingual-Anglo, non-Jewish, pagan-leaning, feminist artist-scholar, the cross-stitched text of the Hebrew (Torah), Arabic (Qur'an) and Greek (Scriptures) panels are largely incomprehensible to me except through the information cards that run along the bottom of the scroll and offer a brief synopsis of the vertical sections they accompany. It is their materiality and the process of making that captures my imagination. As arts scholar Paula Owen writes, "The object links us to thoughts, memories, sensations, histories and relationships, rather than being an end in itself with a predetermined meaning. It is instead a catalyst for any number of unpredictable effects." Sitting amidst the hundreds of thousands of stitches, inscribed with the everyday — familiar materials and durational labours — *Tapestry* sings like a hissing chorus of thread through cloth messages of spirit, memory, celebration and resistance.

Tapestry's collectivized and cumulative *stitch-by-stitch-by-stitch-by-stitch-by-stitch...* reverberates with centuries-long struggles by women and their allies of many faiths to have their voices included within orthodox religious structures and institutions, stirring memories of my discontent growing up as a girl in the Catholic faith. *Tapestry's* place in this lineage of struggle dates back to 2013, when Gentles launched the project as a creative response to being excluded from an exhibition of women's religious art in Israel on the grounds that it was for Orthodox women only. Gentles brilliantly refused this rejection by extending an affirming invitation to anyone of any faith (or gender) who wished to engage with the Torah through the act of stitching its verses.

The project's steadfast *stitch-by-stitch-by-stitch-by-stitch-by-stitch...* hums with histories of women's affective and material labours of care. A monument to women's contributions to gift economies, *Tapestry* offers a glimpse into the everyday generosity of the affective labour that goes into crafting. Each stitch is a gesture toward the millions of hands that sew, knit, bead and crochet and then give away objects of comfort and care, sweaters, scarves, moccasins, afghans.

Though its content is focused on the production of spiritual documents from Abrahamic faiths, *Tapestry* points to a myriad of



Temma Gentles, *Exodus 35:3-6 For weaving the tabernacle curtains the people were commanded to bring gifts of "blue, purple and crimson yarns, fine linens and goats' hair"*, embroidery, 2019

collectively crafted tapestries of spirit, memory and resistance — Christie Belcourt's *Walking With Our Sisters* and its 1,763+ pairs of vamps beaded in memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls; Marianne Jorgensen's *Pink Tank* constructed of 4,000 pink squares knitted and crocheted by a transnational collective of volunteers as a protest against involvement in the Iraq War; or the thousands of handkerchiefs of *Bordados por la Paz* (Embroidery for Peace) embroidered by families and communities in memory of the missing and murdered in Mexico.

Like many feminist artists, I am caught in the tension between the struggle for women's right to be compensated for their creative and affective labours and a respect for the role that women's unmonetized craft plays in stitching tapestries of refusal to the demoralizing and disenchanting effects of capitalism's intersecting logics of commodification, exploitation and extractivism. *Tapestry's* spirit extends beyond the textured, faith-based texts of the exhibition. It lives through the generosity of its many makers, whose inter-(in)animating threaded labours stitch a tapestry of re-enchantment across place and time.

Helene Vosters is an artist-scholar-activist whose work focusses on issues of state violence, social memory, and the role of performance and aesthetic practices in mobilizing engagement. A multi-disciplinary artist—performance, craft and relational arts—Vosters utilizes a task-based labour aesthetic in her practice. She is the author of Unbecoming Nationalism: From Commemoration to Redress in Canada.



Gentles with her installation

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

You'll be inspired by the artists and activists featured in each issue of *Herizons*.

Subscribe to *Herizons*, proudly made in Manitoba!

ORDER ONLINE \$28.50
WWW.HERIZONS.CA



Like Jenel Shaw, participant at MAWA's Climate Change Strike sign-making bee, MAWA is ever mindful of reducing our impact on the planet

THE EDGE

AN URBAN ART CENTER
ALSO HOME TO THE CREATIVE CLAY CENTER

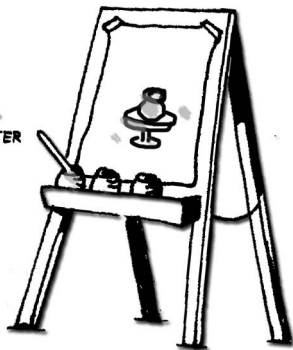
Affordable venue rental rates

www.edgevillage.com

611 Main Street R3B 1E1

Studio - 947-2992

Clay Center - 880-0771



Thinking of buying
or selling?
Call Chris Krawchenko
your 'Alternative Realtor'

MAXIMUM
REALTY

serving Winnipeg's alternative and
arts communities for over 17 years



204-777-9999

**MAWA
MEMBERS
RECEIVE
15% OFF
ALL CUSTOM
FRAMING**

Gallery Framers (Wholesale) Ltd.

operating as

FLEET GALLERIES

T: 204.942.8026

65 Albert Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba - R3B 1G4

mawwa
MENTORING ARTISTS *For* WOMEN'S ART

611 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 1E1
(204) 949-9490 info@mawa.ca www.mawa.ca
Wednesday-Friday, 10am-4pm and some Saturdays

Current Board of Directors

Amanda Abrahams, Barb Bottle (Vice Chair), Julie Gendron (Treasurer), Briony Haig, Jesse Jannuska, Lindsay Joy (Secretary), Colleen Leduc (Chair), Callie Lugosi, Francine Martin, Kris Snowbird, Etoile Stewart, Tricia Wasney, Tracy Woodward
Honorary Board Mentors: Cathy Mattes, Sheila Spence

Staff

Dana Kletke (Co-Executive Director)
Shawna Dempsey (Co-Executive Director)
Alison Davis (Administrative and Communications Coordinator)
Adriana Alarcón (Program and Outreach Coordinator)
Niamh Dooley (Program Associate)
Debbie Girard (Bookkeeper)
Atreya Madrone (Programming Intern)
Mariana Muñoz Gomez (Practicum Student)
Susan Chafe (Newsletter Design)
Sue Stewart (Newsletter Copyeditor)

MAWA and its projects are generously funded by Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, The WH & SE Loewen Foundation, Winnipeg Arts Council, the Winnipeg Foundation, The Government of Canada, Assiniboine Credit Union, Indigenous Initiatives at the Province of Manitoba, donors and members.





The MAWA team looking very 1984—the year that MAWA began! Pictured from left to right: Alison Davis (Administrative and Communications Coordinator), Niamh Dooley (Program Associate), Adriana Alarcón (Program and Outreach Coordinator), Shawna Dempsey and Dana Kletke (Co-Executive Directors), October 2019

DECEMBER

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Wed, Dec 4, 6:30-9pm | Artist Mothers at MAWA Sandra Brown: <i>Watercolour Card-Making</i> |
| Fri, Dec 6, noon-1pm | First Friday Lecture Sabrina Sethi: <i>Diasporic Asian Women Artists</i> |
| Fri, Dec 6, 1-2pm | Holiday Party! |
| Mon, Dec 9, 6-8pm | Cross-Cultural Beading Group Guest beader Karen Smith, <i>peyote stitch</i> |
| Sat, Dec 14, 1-4pm | Crafternoon Albyn Carias: <i>Piscuchas (Kites)</i> |
| Thurs, Dec 19, 12-5pm | Interior Investigations opens works by the 2019 Focussed Mentorship Program at aceartinc., 290 McDermot Ave. (runs to Jan 3) |
| Sat, Dec 21-Wed, Jan 1 | MAWA closed for holidays |

JANUARY

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Fri, Jan 3, noon-1pm | First Friday Lecture Seema Goel: <i>Craft Is Political</i> |
| Fri, Jan 3, 6-9pm | Interior Investigations closing reception works by the 2019 Focussed Mentorship Program at aceartinc., 290 McDermot Ave. |
| Fri, Jan 3, 7-9pm | Diorama Sketch Night at the Manitoba Museum, 190 Rupert Ave. |
| Wed, Jan 8, 6:30-9pm | Artist Mothers at MAWA <i>Collage and Conversation</i> |
| Mon, Jan 13, 6-8pm | Cross-Cultural Beading Group Guest beader Bronwyn Butterfield, <i>brickstitch earrings</i> |
| Tues, Jan 14, 6:30-8pm | Desire Change Reading Group (Chapter 11) |
| Thurs, Jan 16, 6:30-8:30pm | Indigenous Art Night Niamh Dooley: <i>Painting and Mixed Media Workshop</i> |
| Sat, Jan 18, 10am-4pm | Artist Boot Camp Workshop Diana Thorneycroft: Grant Writing at Creative Manitoba, 245 McDermot Ave. |
| Wed, Jan 22, 6:30-9:30pm | Tough Love guest hannah_g |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Thurs, Jan 23, 6:30-8pm | Theory and Beer Heidi Eigenkind: <i>The Feminist Power of Embroidery</i> at the Legion, 227 McDermot Ave. |
| Sat, Jan 25, 1-4pm | Crafternoon Kanina Terry (Sioux Lookout): <i>Moose Hair Tufting</i> |
| Mon, Jan 27, 6-8pm | Cross-Cultural Beading Group Guest beader Kanina Terry |
| Tues, Jan 28, 7-9:30pm | Figure Drawing |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Wed, Feb 5, 6:30-9pm | Artist Mothers at MAWA Sandra Brown: <i>Art Dolls</i> |
| Fri, Feb 7, noon-1pm | First Friday Lecture Jennifer Smith: <i>Hands On: Contemporary Indigenous Beading</i> |
| Fri, Feb 7, 6-9pm | Community Beading Exhibition opening |
| Sat, Feb 8, 1-4pm | Crafternoon Bobbi Lee Proulx: <i>Beaded Glasses Arms</i> |
| Mon, Feb 10, 6-8pm | Cross-Cultural Beading Group (no guest) |
| Tues, Feb 11, 6:30-8pm | Desire Change Reading Group (Chapter 12) |
| Thurs, Feb 13, 6:30-8:30pm | Indigenous Art Night Niamh Dooley: <i>Acrylic Pour Workshop</i> |
| Wed, Feb 19, 10am-6pm | Over the Top art drop-off begins (see p. 7) |
| Thurs, Feb 20, 6:30-8pm | Theory and Beer Bev Pike: <i>Why We Need a Feminist Climate Science</i> at the Legion, 227 McDermot Ave. |
| Mon, Feb 24, 6-8pm | Cross-Cultural Beading Group Guest beader TBA |
| Tues, Feb 25, 7-9:30pm | Figure Drawing |

MARCH (save the date!)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sun, Mar 22, 1-5pm | Over the Top Art Auction and Cupcake Party |
|--------------------|---|