



Art is Powerful



So much to smile about! Eager participants at MAWA and MARCC's symposium, *Who Counts? A Feminist Art Throwdown*, at the Marlborough Hotel, October 2014

## The Power of 30

by Jennifer Smith

In 2014, arts organizations throughout Manitoba have been celebrating the role MAWA has played over the last thirty years. One of the many events was a MAWA members' exhibit called *The Power of 30* that I was lucky enough to organize. An open call invited all MAWA members to submit work to be shown from September 5 to October 3. And submit they did! A staggering 109 artists took part in this exhibition, with work in a range of mediums including painting, craft, sculpture, performance, film and video.

As the pieces to be displayed were being dropped off and installed, I spent time with the word "power" and what it meant for this show.

MAWA held its first members' exhibit August 31 to September 2, 1984, showcasing the works of 42 artists. Almost 30 years later to the day another members' show was opened, featuring some of the artists who were involved with MAWA in the first few years of its existence. Although there are many, many newcomers, some artists have remained involved with the organization for an astounding 30 years!

*The Power of 30* displayed work that has been informed by MAWA in many ways. It included some of the 227 artists who have been part of the year-long Foundation Mentorship Program that has been running since 1985. It included women who have sat on the board and committees of MAWA over the years, and have been crucial

to its continued existence. It included members of Artist Mothers at MAWA. It included current and past employees. It included women from Winnipeg and rural Manitoba. I am sure there are many more points of intersection between MAWA and the artists who participated that I am unaware of. But almost every member I received work from had a MAWA story to tell.

In this way and so many more, *The Power of 30* held power. With 108 works on display and one intimate performance, the exhibition exuded the power of MAWA and the power of the artists involved.

There is the power of making art, the power of learning, the power of community and the power of working together: a collective power and self-empowerment. This power did not just come from the work being displayed. It came from the power of 30 years that MAWA has existed: for and with women artists. If it is any indication, I cannot wait to see what will happen in the next 30 years.

*Jennifer Smith is a freelance curator and Video Pool's Distribution Coordinator. Her curatorial practice focuses on contemporary craft, and she has worked on exhibitions for the Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library, the Manitoba Craft Council and many independent projects.*

### inside

- |   |   |    |                               |    |                            |
|---|---|----|-------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 2 | First Friday Lectures                       | 6  | Artist Bootcamps and Showcase | 12 | Meetings of Creative Minds |
| 3 | Critical Discussion Groups                  | 7  | Critical Writing              | 13 | What You Missed            |
| 4 | Traditional Craft Practices                 | 8  | Symposium Wrap-Up             | 16 | Heads Up Calendar          |
| 5 | Skills Workshop and Artists<br>in Residence | 10 | MAWA News                     |    |                            |
|   |   | 11 | Over The Top is coming!       |    |                            |



## Being Wishy-Washy

by Jenifer Papararo  
Friday, December 5, 2014,  
noon-1 pm at MAWA  
followed by our Holiday Party!

Jenifer Papararo's talk will bring together her curatorial practice and her participation in the curatorial and artist collective Instant Coffee, dwelling briefly on the temporal aspect of exhibition-making in accordance with the instant, makeshift productions of her collective work.

Jenifer Papararo is the incoming Director of Artistic Programs at Plug In Institute for Contemporary Art in Winnipeg. She was most recently the Curator at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver and was previously the Director of Programs and Publications at Mercer Union, Toronto. She is a founding member of Instant Coffee, whose members have been collaborating since 2000.

*Unfortunately, the talk Emotional Mapping by Nisrine Boukhari, originally scheduled for Friday, December 5, is being postponed. As a Syrian citizen, Nisrine was unable to receive a visa to come to Canada at this time.*

## Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 2014, 1-3 pm at MAWA

Immediately following December's First Friday Lecture by Jenifer Papararo, MAWA will be hosting our annual holiday party. Come and enjoy the food and festivities. This will also be an opportunity to thank outgoing Program Coordinator Lindsey Bond for all of her hard work and to welcome back Lisa Wood who is returning to MAWA after her maternity leave. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and help the MAWA community grow. (Note: there will be no silk-screening by the Ephemerals at the Holiday Party, as originally posted. Another time!)

No First Friday Lecture in January!

## An Absent Body of Water

by Natalia Lebedinskaia  
Friday, February 6, 2015, noon-1 pm at MAWA



Natalia Lebedinskaia will share some of her recent exhibition projects at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, tying them together through research into local geological history. Using a loose framework of an absent body of water and a missing continent, this presentation explores creative non-fiction as a methodology for curatorial research.

Natalia Lebedinskaia is the Curator of Contemporary Art at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba. Her research interests focus on the ethics of exhibition and display, especially as they relate to negotiations of personal memory in the public sphere. Lebedinskaia's curatorial approach aims to build communities, both ephemeral and lasting, through exhibitions and programming.

*Free childminding provided at all First Friday lectures!*

FEELING  
SO MUCH  
AND  
DOING  
SO  
LITTLE

Instant Coffee, 2012



Kevin Conlin, Ammonite Urn, stoneware, 2011, 20"x12"

## Theory and Beer!

In order to present wide-ranging points of view and interests, MAWA is organizing Critical Discussion Groups led by guest facilitators. These will convene on the third Thursday of the coldest months. Each meeting will have a thematic focus and weblinks to readings.

Come prepared, so that the conversation really “cooks”.... Goodness knows we need “heated” debate!

Join us in the warm glow of the Legion as we grapple with texts and ideas.

## *On the Abject and Contemporary Aesthetics*

with Jaya Beange

Thursday, January 15, 2015, 6-8 pm

The Royal Canadian Legion, 227 McDermott Ave., wheelchair accessible, sandwiches available for sale



The first installment of “Theory and Beer” will focus on the introduction of Kristeva’s essay. We will consider the concept of the abject and how it informs contemporary aesthetics. Feel free to bring in relevant examples of art or complementary texts to share with the group.

Julie Kristeva’s writing on abjection in her 1982 *Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection* (1982) influenced an entire movement of “Abject Art”. As she describes it, “Abjection is an extremely strong feeling which is at once somatic and symbolic, and which is above all a revolt of the person against an external menace from which one wants to keep oneself at a distance, but of which one has the impression that it is not only an external menace, but that it may menace us from the inside. Thus abjection carries with it an element of crisis or difficulty.” This causes a questioning of the validity of

these boundaries especially when they seem to be socially constructed. For Kristeva, disgust is a bodily feeling, and an association with being “out of bounds”. “The extremely strong feeling raises the subject’s suspicion that psychically established boundaries – as well as those that are socially constructed – are not in fact secure.”

Reading:

*Powers of Horror: An Essay on Abjection* (1982)

[http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/RuttkayVeronika/Kristeva\\_-\\_powers\\_of\\_horror.pdf](http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/RuttkayVeronika/Kristeva_-_powers_of_horror.pdf)

Please read (at least!) the introductory chapter, “Approaching Abjection” (p. 10-31).

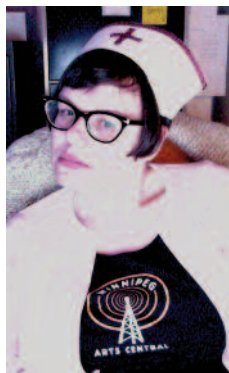
Jaya Beange is a student, teacher, thinker and maker residing in Winnipeg. She is interested in the relationship between ethics and aesthetics, in how a shared appreciation of art in its many forms can serve as a foundation for community. Her background includes studies of Philosophy, Mathematics and Architecture at the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, the Catholic University of Leuven, and McGill University.

## *Let’s go crazy ... and make art*

with Liz Garlicki

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 6-8 pm

The Royal Canadian Legion, 227 McDermott Ave., wheelchair accessible, sandwiches available for sale



“The world’s religions, for all their parochialism, did supply a kind of consolation for this great ache.... This shattering recognition of our mortality is at the root of far more mental illness than I suspect even psychiatrists are aware.”

—Stanley Kubrick

To be an artist is to be depressed ... to be an artist is depressing? Sometimes when an artist’s practice is engaged with philosophical, social, environmental, or existential questions, it can be challenging for the artist not to internalize the anxieties these subjects foster. Even when an artist creates space for an audience to reflect on difficult ideas, she may be no closer to resolving these questions for herself. So why do some artists wade head first into such difficult territory, even at the expense of their own happiness? Is it our choice as artists to think this way? Can depression be harnessed, and is it wise to try to control it in this fashion? Join us as we read and discuss some light (and not-so-light) essays about artists and existential anxiety. Maybe we can even help each other find a happy medium! Feel free to bring in complementary texts to share with the group.

Readings:

<http://talentdevelop.com/articles/CTAAM.html>

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-superhuman-mind/201211/positives-depression-artistic-expression>

<http://talentdevelop.com/1434/too-much-pursuit-of-happiness-part-2/>

<http://www.dailydot.com/society/pictures-for-sad-children-kickstarter-depression/>

<http://penguinrandomhouse.ca/hazlitt/feature/myth-tortured-artist>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-zara/tortured-artists\\_b\\_1605509.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-zara/tortured-artists_b_1605509.html)

Liz Garlicki is neither a doctor nor social worker, and isn’t interested in this discussion as a therapy session! She is a multidisciplinary artist who works primarily in performance and public intervention. She has exhibited in Europe, throughout Canada, and in numerous venues in Winnipeg, including the Winnipeg Art Gallery. In 2008 she was commissioned to create a permanent piece of public art for Winnipeg’s North End neighbourhood. A graduate of the University of Manitoba’s BFA Honours program, Garlicki has put her art practice on temporary hiatus while focusing on working with the community through artist-run centres. Currently, she awaits the Winnipeg winter.

## Gauntlet Making

with Gloria Beckman

Two Saturdays: December 6 and 13, 2014

10am-4pm at MAWA; please bring a lunch

\$75 (includes materials)

Registration and payment deadline:

Wednesday, December 3



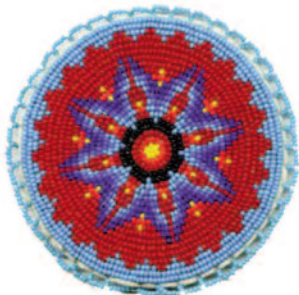
As a continuation of our exploration of beading and leather-work, we have invited Gloria Beckman back to MAWA. Those of you who beaded vamps with her last fall or made mukluks with her last winter know the deep level of craftsmanship and cultural connection she brings to these practices. In this Craft Skills Workshop, participants will learn the art of designing their very own personal style of gauntlet mittens.

You will learn various types of leather and fur that can be used, how to cut the leather and fur, the best type of lining for each individual's needs, ways to save money while creating gauntlets, pattern making

While Beckman is teaching us the techniques, she will share her stories. She will recount her experience of growing up in the bush and explain the traditions she was raised with. Beckman will also offer a little show and tell, revealing many creative possibilities for gauntlet-making. At the end of the two-day workshop you will walk away with new mittens to keep your fingers warm during the winter months!

Gloria Beckman grew up speaking her traditional tongue, Woodlands Cree "TH" dialect. She spent cold days and nights learning how to bead, how to make moccasins/mukluks, how to birch bark bite and how to make birch bark baskets. As she says, crafting and art-making "built strong bonds between the women in my family as they sat sharing stories while creating."

The workshop registration fee includes basic materials for the gauntlets. Feel free to bring your own materials and any special items you would like to add to your gauntlets.



Huichol Beaded Medallions



Wet Felting

## Crafternoons

Free, monthly Crafternoons are back, featuring instruction by North American Indigenous and New Canadian women artists. Each workshop will provide a cultural context to help you understand how and why the craft developed. Traditional material practices have had origins both spiritual and material, and many have histories that are thousands of years old.

Crafternoons are held on the second Saturday of each month and everyone, of all ages and skill levels, are welcome. Plus, materials, childminding and snacks are provided free of charge! Because these techniques take time, we ask that you plan on attending for the duration (1-4 pm).

MAWA thanks the partners and funders who have made this program possible: Neechi Commons, Manitoba Community Services Council, Assiniboine Credit Union, Thomas Sill Foundation and The Winnipeg Foundation.

## Huichol Beaded Medallions

with Breanna Little

Saturday, January 10, 2015, 1-4 pm at Neechi, 865 Main St.

Free! No need to register ... just show up!

Breanna Little will teach the practice of Huichol beaded medallions. The Huichol people are from central Mexico and are known for their psychedelic coloured folk art. Traditionally, they used materials such as clay, stone and vegetable dyes. Even though they now use materials brought by the Europeans, like beads and chemical dyes, they continue to use traditional motifs and designs within their work.

Breanna Little is Oji-Cree from Garden Hill, Manitoba. Little started beading and leatherwork a few years ago, and since then she has been teaching herself a variety of techniques. She has a growing interest in exploring Indigenous crafts from North and South America, with a particular interest in beading. Little brings traditional practices into her contemporary life through craft, cooking and healing techniques and shares these practices with the youth she works with. She currently is working as Drop-in Program Coordinator at the Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre.

## Wet Felting

with Helga Schulte-Schroerer

Saturday, February 14, 2015, 1-4 pm at MAWA

Free! Email outreach@mawa.ca

or call 204-949-9490 to register. Space is limited!

This Valentine's Day workshop will focus on two basic approaches to wet felting. After a brief introduction to wool, Helga Schulte-Schroerer will teach us to make two projects that will provide the foundation for future projects. Participants will be introduced to the versatility of wool and the diverse applications it has found in the revival of the ancient tradition of felting.

Helga Schulte-Schroerer grew up on a bio-dynamic farm in Germany, where she learned to manipulate wool from her grandmother at the early age of three. She took an immediate liking to the endless possibilities of the material and has worked with it ever since. Throughout her life she always had fibre projects on the go, and has taught herself through experimenting and sharing with other fibre enthusiasts. Schulte-Schroerer is showcasing and selling her art at major craft markets in Canada. [www.fibreartistry.com](http://www.fibreartistry.com)

**Craftstravaganza in celebration of International Women's Day with four craftswomen (TBA)**

**Saturday, March 7, 2015, noon-4 pm at MAWA.**

**A light lunch will be served.**

## Clay and Cast Paper: Experimentation and Mixed Medium

with Monica Mercedes Martinez  
Three Saturdays:

January 24 and 31 and February 7, 2015, 1-4 pm

The Clay Centre at the Edge, 611 Main St.

\$75 enrollment fee for MAWA members

Registration deadline: Wednesday, January 21, 4 pm

In this workshop participants will explore the endless, creative possibilities of clay. Learn to combine traditional construction techniques with untraditional finishes to create sculptural possibilities. Participants will utilize conventional plaster moulds to cast fragile paper elements to incorporate into their sculptures. All materials, glazes and firings will be provided.

Monica Mercedes Martinez is an interdisciplinary maker with ceramics playing an intrinsic role in her artistic practice. As a South American who grew up on the Canadian Prairies, she uses her practice to discuss the historical foundations that influence how we define who we are and where we belong.



Monica Martinez, *drawing a line*, ceramic performance, 2013. Photos by Sigrid Dahle

## Artists in Residence, 2015

MAWA is pleased to announce four artists in residence for 2015.

Nisrine Boukhari was selected by MAWA from among thirty-nine applicants from all over the globe. She was originally scheduled to come December 2014, but due to the intricacies of obtaining a visa as a Syrian citizen, her residency is being postponed until April 2015.

Our other artists in residence this year were selected by three partnering organizations. Singithi Kandage will be at MAWA in May, supported by South Asian Visual Arts Centre (SAVAC), Toronto. She will also be working in the Auxillary Space at aceartinc. Lamathilde will be at MAWA in July 2015, supported by Galerie La Centrale, Montréal. An American artist (TBD) will be in residence at MAWA in 2015, supported by Art Centre/South Florida. She is being selected by former guest curators at MAWA, Ombretta Agró Andruff and Tami Katz-Freiman, who are both currently Miami-based.

Each artist in residence will be presenting a lecture about their practices and conceptual concerns. Don't miss this opportunity to broaden your perspective!



Artist in residence Marte Kiessling (right) in conversation with MAWA Board member Acey Rowe after Kiessling's First Friday Lecture, Nov. 2014

## Urban Retreat at MAWA

Are you a rural or northern artist, living in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Northwestern Ontario, who would benefit from a trip to Winnipeg to see an exhibition, attend a lecture or take part in a workshop? Need to do research in "the big city" or buy art supplies? If so, MAWA welcomes your application to our Urban Retreat!

MAWA is offering our urban, loft-style apartment at 611 Main Street in downtown Winnipeg to rural women visual artists FREE OF CHARGE for three days to two weeks in duration. The MAWA apartment is fully furnished and includes a kitchen, a bathroom with shower, a queen bed, a double futon/couch and a designated parking space. All linens and cooking utensils are provided. The apartment is located on the second floor of the MAWA space, and so it is not wheelchair accessible. Because there are two beds separated by a curtain, consider making the trip to town with an art buddy. Free parking is included, just steps from the apartment.

To apply, please send a letter to Lisa at [programs@mawa.ca](mailto:programs@mawa.ca), explaining why you would like to stay at MAWA. Requests will be

accommodated based on availability. Equal consideration will be given to emerging and established artists who have not already participated in an Urban Retreat at MAWA. Applicants must be MAWA members, so join up today! We welcome rural artists and want to support your practices, so don't be shy! Come and see us!

**THE EDGE**  
AN URBAN ART CENTER  
ALSO HOME TO THE CREATIVE CLAY CENTER

Affordable venue rental rates  
[www.edgevillage.com](http://www.edgevillage.com)  
611 Main Street R3B 1E1  
Studio - 947-2992  
Clay Center - 880-0771





## Writing the Grant

with Liz Barron

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 10am-4pm (bring a lunch!)

ACI Manitoba, third floor, 245 McDermot Ave.

\$30 members of MAWA or ACI; \$55 non-members

To register and pay, contact: [admin@creativemanitoba.ca](mailto:admin@creativemanitoba.ca) or call 204-927-2787

Spaces are limited

In this dynamic, participatory workshop, you will learn how to create a grant for your individual art practice, how to create a budget, how to manage and report on the grant once you get it. There will also be a discussion regarding the importance of artist fees and CARFAC. If you don't know about CARFAC, this will be a great opportunity to find out about all of the resources, advocacy and fee guidelines they provide. By the end of the day, you will be ready to create an individual grant application and tools for responding to calls for submissions.

Liz Barron has been self-employed in the Indigenous arts and culture sector in Canada for more than 16 years. She was the Project Director for *Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years*, managing four international curators and over 35 artists, with five installation

locations in Winnipeg, a major publication and an interactive website. Barron also was the Project Manager for *Métis 10*, the VANOC (Olympics) Aboriginal exhibition, which featured a permanent display of contemporary works from 10 Métis artists from across Canada.

With these organizational skills and her outstanding abilities as a presenter, she has motivated and consulted with organizations of all types and sizes. She has facilitated programs including business and community economic development, communication and management in the new economy and results-oriented leadership programs. Active in the arts and culture community, Barron is also involved with business and community development groups and associations.



## Applying for Exhibitions

with Tammy Sutherland

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 7-9:30pm at MAWA

\$10 members of MAWA or ACI; \$20 non-members

No need to register, just show up!

Whether you are ready to apply for your first solo exhibition or simply want to respond to a submission call for a group show, this workshop will help you build some of the basic skills you will need to be successful. The workshop will look at what is involved in preparing an application: what to include in a CV; how to write an artist statement, bio, project proposal and cover letter; and how to prepare support materials. Discussion will include how to know when you're ready to apply and how best to target your applications. Through practical examples and anecdotes from behind the scenes, Sutherland will demystify the "administrivia" of an art practice.

Since 2009, Tammy Sutherland's passion for contemporary craft has found a home at the Manitoba Craft Council where she is the Programme Coordinator. She has received hundreds of responses for calls for submissions, so she is well versed in what works and what doesn't. Sutherland studied textiles, craft history and photography at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and has worked with a number of community-based arts initiatives in Winnipeg. Arts administration and unschooling her sons are the bricks of her life, and knitting is the mortar that holds it all together.

All Artist Bootcamps are presented in partnership with Arts and Cultural Industries Association of Manitoba (ACI)



## Little Deaths

Foundation Mentorship Program (FMP)

2013-14 Showcase

Opening: Friday, December 5, 2014, 7pm at  
aceartinc., 290 McDermot Ave.

Continues until January 16, 2015

//memory//mortality//transformation//reiteration//remediation//transience//degeneration//loss//

Featuring the work of Charlene Brown, Shonnah Heinrichs, Helga Jakobson, Devon Kerslake, Alexis Kinloch, Jen Loewen, Mandy Malazdrewich and Monica Mercedes Martinez.

# Unpacking

By Shimby



Photo of the writer in the era of fortress building

There was a time when intersecting shared identities were all I longed for. I wanted to make sense of and connect my burgeoning experiences with young adulthood, diaspora, gender, sexuality and art. I sought role models to emulate who embodied parts of me that were starting to splinter into separate categories. I searched for hours online looking for artists whose work resonated and shared some sort of resemblance. Web quests led me to the film work of Salem Mekuria and Lucy Gebre-Egziabher, the photography of Aida Muluneh and the print work of Julie Mehretu. Their work was visceral and their practices satiated some of that longing.

My mother went to the School of Art at the University of Manitoba throughout my childhood. I have memories of building small fortresses out of chairs and blankets in the dining-room-turned-studio, casually bearing witness to her brilliance. But I craved more. I searched beyond her practice of ceramics and painting and beyond her experiences. There was room for that in our relationship. I wanted other women to emulate—artists who were established in the mediums I was interested in. I wanted to find printmakers, filmmakers and photographers who resembled me because there was a tangible absence. I needed to find artists who could pacify my budding otherness and offer glimpses of what my arts practice could look like.

I've looked for connections through shared identities for a long time, but I don't think shared identities are enough anymore. Rather, a spark is what's actually desired. Some kind of connection. A subconscious, mutual understanding. Recognition. Trust. Community is always shifting and the changing nature of it in my life can leave me weary. At the same time community can offer access points to these magical moments of creative radiance and comfort.

I met Aida Muluneh who mentored me for a beautiful year. I met Salem Mekuria, too, while working at a women-run gallery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where a triptych of hers was installed. I saw Julie Mehretu's larger-than-life print works at the MoCA in LA and followed her elusive practice for years, but no contact was ever made. Lucy Gebre-Egziabher and I are emailing back and forth, negotiating future conversations. And then there's Sephora Woldu, someone who isn't a generation apart and is making film. Her practice is synonymously poignant and playful.

I look to these artists for inspiration and guidance. I know not to pedestalize them or draw nonexistent connections with their practices. I understand their work beyond their identities but at the same time, having multiple shared identities with other artists is important to me, still. Especially when they've made such broad and differing bodies of work. They are dissimilar, uninfluenced by each other. This dissimilarity—this broad and wide-ranging set of practices—is what influences me. There's a lack of uniformity between them because the category they all fall under is just a social construct.

I'm supposed to be writing about this construct: diasporic Ethiopian/Eritrean women experimental filmmakers. But I can't help but feel that if I unpack all of these categories for you, there will be a level of access that you as the reader will gain that I won't have control over. Do you deserve my hand to hold, guiding you through these realities that aren't your own? I carry these identities, so of course I can write about them. But why? For who? You? (See Gurpreet Sehra's *Native Informant and the Diaspora* in MAWA's spring 2013 newsletter.)

How does our role as artists shift when we have identities in common? Maybe we're meant to build community or maybe not. What if we meet and we don't like each other for some reason or another? Are we really peers across the globe and generations apart? At the same time, I need these artists and the work they've done. How will we go about negotiating our roles? As artist and audience? I guess I don't really know. There was a time when intersecting shared identities were all I longed for and sought to emulate . . . Then I learned that sometimes that isn't enough and maybe mirroring someone else isn't what I'm after anyways.

*Shimby's arts practice is experimental, diasporic and meditative. She wants to create spaces for deep and shallow connections and her arts practice is about dealing with the realities of that questing. Special thanks to Aikaterini Zegeye-Gebrehiwot, Hana Worku, hannah\_g, Shawna Dempsey and Eva-Queen for encouragement and editing. Special thanks to all of the aforementioned artists for unending inspiration.*

Interested in doing some critical writing for the newsletter and our website? Contact Shawna at [dempsey\\_millan@mawa.ca](mailto:dempsey_millan@mawa.ca). It pays!

## Who Counts: A Feminist Art Throwdown

MAWA owes a huge debt of thanks to all of our partners who made *Who Counts? A Feminist Art Throwdown* possible. We truly could not have done it without you: aceartinc., Art City, Arts & Disability Network Manitoba, Artist Run Centres and Collectives Conference (ARCA), Gallery 1C03, La Maison des artistes, Manitoba Artist Run Centres Coalition (MARCC), Manitoba Arts Network, Martha Street Studio, Platform Centre for Photographic + Digital Arts, RAW:Gallery, School of Art Gallery University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg's Women's and Gender Studies Department

(WGS) & the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies (IWGS), University of Manitoba Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery, Video Pool Media Arts Centre, the Wendy Wersch Memorial Lecture Committee, the WH and SE Loewen Foundation and Winnipeg Film Group Cinematheque. It takes a village to stage a throwdown!

Check out [mawa.ca](http://mawa.ca) to watch the symposium proceedings, videotaped by Alison Davis, Oct. 3-5, 2014.

Photos by Lindsey Bond unless noted.



The *What is feminist art?* panel. Left to right Cathy Mattes, Joan Borsa and Sharlene Bamboat.



Opening of *The Power of 30*, MAWA's members showcase coordinated by Jennifer Smith. MAWA Co-EDs Dana Kletke (left) and Shawna Dempsey (right) flank Bev Pike.



Sigrid Dahle (left) and Stephanie Poruchnyk-Butler (right) delivering the intergenerational First Friday lecture, *On Knowing When to Shut up and Listen* at Cinematheque.



Enthusiastic conference goers, Artspace.





Sheila Spence delivering the Wendy Wersch Memorial Lecture at U of M ARTLab.



Canadian feminist artist run centres meeting. Left to right Jen Fisher (La Centrale), Sharlene Bamboat (SAVAC), Anne Dymond (Univeristy of Lethbridge) and Lisa Wood (MAWA).



*Is Art Gendered?* Oxford-style debate, featuring (left to right) Kristin Nelson, Praba Pilar, Diana Thornycroft, Amy Fung and Seema Goel.



Martha Street Studio's DJs "the Spinsters" rocking out at the *Throwdown Hoedown*.



The Ba Da Bing Party Bus that travelled between the many MAWA 30th anniversary exhibitions of Manitoba and Indigenous women's art at partnering galleries.



DJ Wanda and DJ Koop from Art City with Wanda Koop! Photo courtesy of Art City.



One of MAWA's foremothers, Sheila Butler, at her exhibition opening at Martha Street Studio.



aceartinc. shows its love for MAWA! hannah\_g (left) and Jamie Wright (right).

## WAM! Wall now Accepting Video!

MAWA's WAM! Wall is a 45"-wide "bump" on the north wall of our 611 Main Street programming space. This space showcases one work by a MAWA member each month in any 2D or 3D media. This winter we will also begin showcasing MAWA member's videos on our TV! If you are interested, please contact Shawna at [dempsey\\_millan@mawa.ca](mailto:dempsey_millan@mawa.ca). No artist fees are paid for this opportunity.

## Holiday Closure

Please note the office will be closed Saturday, December 20 to Tuesday, January 6, inclusive. See you back at MAWA on or after January 7, 2015.

## Rural Artists Mentorship Program

This year MAWA is partnering with Manitoba Arts Network (MAN) on a mentorship serving the needs of artists in western Manitoba. Thanks to special funding from the Manitoba Arts Council, mentor Barb Flemington will be working with eight rural artists of all genders, in a program based at the Tiger Hills Art Association in Holland, Manitoba, from October 2014 - March 2015. MAWA welcomes program participants Lee Beaton, Wanda Friesen, Robert Greenlay, Annette Henderson, Tammy Hendricx, Sharon Loeppky, Bonnie Rachul and Vance Reed.

## MAWA "Into The Future" Fall Supper Thanks!

On Monday, November 10, MAWA transformed Waves Restaurant into something from a different planet! Weird and wild sci fi outfits clad eager diners, who ate, danced and bid on a bevy of skills being auctioned. The Fall Supper raised over \$3,400 (net). Plus it was so much fun! HUGE thanks to skills donors: Lindsey Bond, John Anderson, Francesca Camella Arfinego, Yvette Cenerini, Elise Dawson, Shawna Dempsey, Tania Douglas, Robin Eriksson, Rosslyn Emmerson, Briony Haig, Alexis Kinloch, Dana Kletke, Dunja Kovacevic and Acey Rowe. Equally heartfelt appreciation to volunteers Yvette Cenerini, Elise Dawson, Darlene Dunn, Angela Forget and Margerit Roger.

## Volunteers

MAWA's programming is made possible by the help of volunteering members. Volunteers gain experience in a variety of areas, rub elbows with fellow MAWA members, build their résumé, support the organization and have a lot of fun while they're at it! Current volunteer opportunities include jobs related to Over The Top, Craft-ernoons, newsletter mailing and bingos. Contact Alexis at [alexis@mawa.ca](mailto:alexis@mawa.ca) if you are able to help us out with any of these jobs! And if you want to become a volunteer, please consider becoming a member.

## Comings and Goings

MAWA is very sad to say farewell to interim Program Coordinator Lindsey Bond. Lindsey will be leaving us in December. It has been such a pleasure to work with her and she will be greatly missed. The only silver lining is that Lisa Wood is coming back to MAWA, after a year on maternity leave, beginning in January! Aren't we lucky to be surrounded by so many capable, intelligent and fun women?



November's WAM! Wall, Monica Martinez, *One Man's Garbage* (detail), ceramic, 2014



Stylin' futuristic fun at "Into The Future", November 2014



Lindsey Bond, hard at work and always smiling!

# MAWA's Over The Top Art Auction and Cupcake Party is back!

Bidding begins Friday, March 13, 2015, 5-8 pm; free!

Bidding continues Saturday, March 14, 2015, 11am-4pm; free!

Bidding ends with all-you-can eat cupcakes! Sunday, March 15, 2015, 2-5 pm

\$10 advance tickets, \$12 at the door

Once again MAWA is offering up the fantastic mix of art and may-hem, sugary goodness and fun! What's not to like about over 1,000 cupcakes, amazing artworks from over 100 artists, stellar raffle baskets and more? And what's even better? This fundraiser contributes over 10% of MAWA's annual budget. That's the entire Foundation Mentor-ship Program!

So pleased get involved. We need you to help make it happen! There are so many ways you can participate: donating artwork, baking, volunteering.... Want to learn more? Here are the answers to a few frequently asked questions.

## ARE THERE ANY CHANGES THIS YEAR?

Yes! Artists will be able to set minimum bids on their work, at levels of \$50, \$100, \$200 or \$400. We want to ensure that artwork is auctioned for an appropriate value.

## WILL IT BE CROWDED?

Once again, we will have an expanded location for the event. We're spreading out along Main Street! Because the event has grown so large and successful, the event will be held in MAWA, at the Edge Gallery to the north and in the home of our neighbours Jennifer Smith and Ray Tara to the south. If you have found it too crowded in the past, please come back and try the event again!

## I'M NOT A MEMBER OF MAWA. CAN I STILL DONATE ARTWORK?

Yes, MAWA gratefully welcomes donations from members and non-members alike. We soooooo appreciate donations of artwork from artists. We couldn't do this fundraiser without our valued artist donors.

## WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU ACCEPT?

Artists are asked to donate one or two pieces of art in any media.

## HOW CAN I DONATE?

If you want to donate artwork, please email [programs@mawa.ca](mailto:programs@mawa.ca). Thank you!

## CAN ONLY WOMEN PARTICIPATE?

No! We welcome all artists to participate in Over The Top by donating artwork and joining in the festivities! We regret we cannot accept children's work, but kids are more than welcome to munch on the cupcakes on the day of the auction.

## WHERE AND WHEN CAN I DROP OFF MY WORK?

We accept submissions from 10am to 5:30pm:

Wednesday, February 25      Thursday, February 26

Friday, February 27          Wednesday, March 4

Thursday, March 5

We will also be open and accepting artwork donations after regular hours, from 5:30-8pm, on Wednesday, March 4. If we do not receive your artwork by March 5, 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.

## DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT ANYTHING WITH MY WORK?

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, [www.mawa.ca/events/over-the-top-art-auction/](http://www.mawa.ca/events/over-the-top-art-auction/). When you drop off your donation, we will give you a free ticket to the event (ticket has no cash value).

## WILL I RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT?

Yes! Those artists whose works are sold will receive a charitable tax receipt. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for the amount the work sells for at the auction.

## I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH MAWA'S OVER THE TOP. WHO DO I CONTACT?

If you'd like to volunteer for one of a number of roles on the day of the event (from greeting folks at the door to selling auction tickets), please call 204-949-9490 or email [programs@mawa.ca](mailto:programs@mawa.ca) with subject line "Over The Top volunteer." Volunteers will receive one free ticket, enabling you to bid on artwork. (New!)

## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?

We are also asking our members to collect new retail items for our raffle baskets. A charitable tax receipt will be issued to the individuals or businesses for the retail value of the donation of products (not services). If you wish to help in this way, please email [programs@mawa.ca](mailto:programs@mawa.ca), with the subject line "raffle donation." Each year we also need our MAWA bakers to contribute 80 dozen sugar-bombs! If you would like to make cupcakes, please email [mawacupcakes@gmail.com](mailto:mawacupcakes@gmail.com).

## WHERE CAN I BUY TICKETS?

Advance tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at MAWA, 611 Main Street, during our regular office hours, Wednesday to Friday, 10am-4pm, with cash, debit, credit card or cheque. You can also purchase tickets 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 15, and all the cupcakes you can eat. Attending the bidding kick-off on the evening on Friday March 13 or on Saturday March 14 is free, but you will need a ticket to bid on artwork(s).

## I'M OUT OF TOWN OR HATE CROWDS! CAN I MAKE AN ADVANCE BID?

Yes! The Over The Top Art Auction bidding begins on Friday, March 13 from 5-8pm. We're also open on Saturday, March 14 from 11am-4pm. Note: bids placed on Friday and Saturday are secured with a credit card. You will also be able to buy advance raffle tickets and, if you win, we will call you. Or send a proxy to the event on your behalf but remember that payment must be received the day of the event.

## WHAT ELSE CAN I PURCHASE AT THE AUCTION?

We'll have a raffle with items and gift certificates donated by generous local businesses and friends. In the past, they have included things like massages, Folk Fest tickets, handcrafted items and more!

Hope to see you there!



One of the avid bidders amidst the madness, OTT 2014

## Cross-Cultural Beading Group

Mondays, every second week, 7-9 pm at MAWA  
 December 8, January 12 & 26, and February 9 & 23  
 No need to register, just come! Free!

New! This fall MAWA launched a cross-cultural beading group at which participants informally work on their own projects together. The beading group meets every two weeks, October - February. Occasionally, during the course of this program, we invite a “guest beader” to share her specific traditions. For example, a Kenyan beader might be on hand at one session, an Anishinaabe beader at another and a Sudanese beader at another, etc. But they are not be structured workshops. Everyone is invited to share their skills and to work independently. Some free materials are provided (beads, thread, cloth and leather) or you can bring your own.

And if you're the type of person who needs a beading goal, here's a heads up ... Gloria Beckman will be back this winter, teaching a day-long gauntlet-making workshop. Just in time to help you create something that will warm those cold fingers! So come to the beading groups to work on your beading in preparation for this workshop. Watch the website and your “Coming up at MAWA” emails for workshop details.



MAWA beadings hard at work, January 2014

## Artist Mothers at MAWA

A drop-in group for artists who are mothers, and mothers who are artists. Each meeting involves group critique of participants' work and a focused discussion or activity. All artist-mothers welcome. Free!

### *One-a-Day Bash*

Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 6:30-9:30pm at MAWA

The Artist Mothers spent the month of November with the goal of making one artwork a day. This is our chance to celebrate what we've accomplished. Bring the pieces you made in November—whether you managed to make one every day or not—for show and tell and helpful feedback.

### *Trophy Moms*

Wednesday, January 7, 2015, 6:30-9:30pm at MAWA

There is an unspoken assumption that mothers naturally put the needs of others before their own. When mothers take time for themselves or take a break from caring for others, they are sometimes judged as being selfish. As artist mothers we need to carve away some personal space and time for creative development and our professional practice. But before we can accomplish this we need to give ourselves a break. In January we will spend time celebrating our artist mother selves, without judgment. We will create trophies for ourselves from found materials, with Mary Ferguson facilitating. Let's pat ourselves and each other on the back and recognize all that we have accomplished. Bring your recent art projects for supportive feedback.

### *Teeter Totter*

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 6:30-9:30pm at MAWA

This month Allison Moore will help us explore the theme of the push and pull between mother and child as they grow. At varying stages children require different supports. As mothers, our relationships with our children change with their growing independence and our own “freedom.” Both mothers and children are moulded, constrained, and set free by one another. To engage this theme artist-



Colleen Leduc, *Banking Memories*, 2014, part of Artist Mothers at MAWA exhibition *Winter Mothering*, May 2014

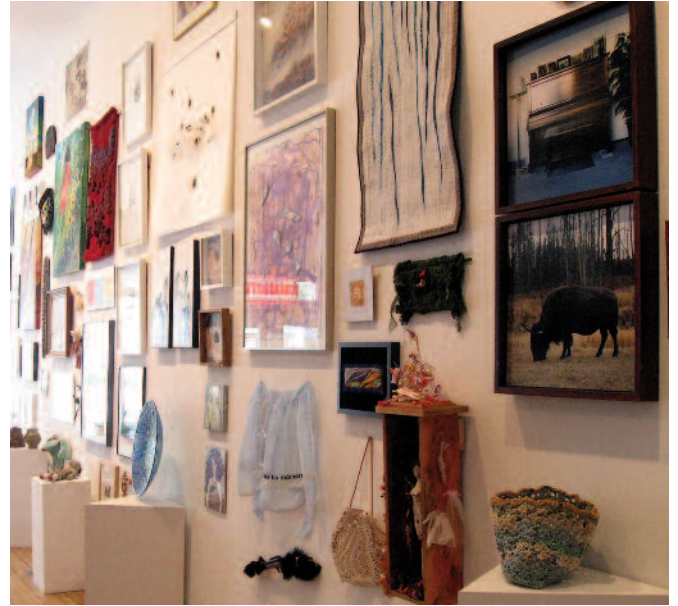
ically, we will create and stitch personal statements about constraint and freedom.

Please bring two things: your recent art projects to share and receive feedback on, and a recent photocopy of a photo (of you, your kids, the place where you make art, whatever) to begin next month's photo transfer project.

What You Missed



MAWA balloon bombing action, September 2014



*The Power of 30* MAWA members' show, coordinated by Jennifer Smith, September 2014



The discussions went on and on ... participants hanging out at the end of *Who Counts? A Feminist Art Throwdown* at U of M ARTlab, October 2014



Artist Mothers at MAWA meeting, October 2014



One stop on MAWA's bus trip to the west! Eager art viewers at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, October 2014



MAWA's Annual General Meeting ... always a good time! October 2014



Participants and mentors in this year's Foundation Mentorship Program at their first meeting, September 2014



Julie Lassonde (Toronto) in performance at MAWA, October 2014



Audience participation at Julie Lassonde's performance and talk, October 2014

*be*  
**cre8ive**

**Winnipeg's BEST Creative Art Supplies**

**MAWA Members Get 20% OFF Every Day!**

Open 'til 8:00 pm. Every Tuesday and Thursday

**cre8ive supplies & services**

Visit our website for Monthly Specials.  
[www.cre8ivesupplies.com](http://www.cre8ivesupplies.com)

312 William Avenue, In The Exchange!  
Phone: 204-942-2738

*"Sooner or later everyone  
needs a little cloth..."*

**MITCHELL FABRICS**

637 MAIN STREET 9-5:30 SIX DAYS-SUN 12-5  
[www.mitchellfabrics.ca](http://www.mitchellfabrics.ca)

**CANVAS, MUSLIN, BROADCLOTH,  
NYLONS, VINYLs, FELTS, LUX FURS,  
UTILITY FABRICS OF EVERY KIND, WITH  
PIECE PRICES FOR VOLUME BUYING AND  
A DISCOUNT FOR MAWA MEMBERS**

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!**

**Be inspired by artists, activists and agitators who are making the world a better place for girls and women.**

**Log on now + subscribe to Herizons, Canada's most popular feminist magazine. \$27.50-1 yr.**

**WWW.HERIZONS.CA**

**LINDSEY BOND STUDIO**  
PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN

[lindseybond.ca](http://lindseybond.ca) | 204.293.3225

**Thinking of Buying or Selling?**

Call Chris Krawchenko,  
your 'Alternative' Realtor!  
777-9999

**MAXIMUM**  
REALTY LTD.  
"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE"  
Serving Winnipeg's alternative and arts  
communities for over 17 years.

**mawwa**  
MENTORING ARTISTS *for* WOMEN'S ART

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

**Current Board of Directors**

Francesca Carella Arfinengo (Secretary), Jaime Black, Yvette Cenerini, Elise Dawson (Chair), Tania Douglas, Robin Eriksson, Angela Forget (Treasurer), Naomi Gerrard, Victoria Nikkel, Acey Rowe and Becca Taylor (Vice Chair); Honorary Board Mentors: Louise Duguay and Elvira Finnigan

**Staff**

Dana Kletke (Co-Executive Director)  
Shawna Dempsey (Co-Executive Director)  
Lisa Wood (Program and Administrative Coordinator)  
Alexis Kinloch (Admin Assistant)  
Erna Andersen (Outreach Coordinator)  
Becca Taylor (Indigenous Outreach Coordinator)  
Kira Cook (Outreach Intern)  
Nicole Burisch (Managing Editor, Book Project)  
Heather Davis (Editor, Book Project)  
Newsletter Design Susan Chafe. Copyedit Finn McMahon

MAWA and its projects are generously funded by Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, The WH & SE Loewen Foundation, Winnipeg Arts Council, The Winnipeg Foundation, Thomas Sill Foundation, Assiniboine Credit Union, RBC Foundation, Manitoba Community Services Council, donors and members.

MANITOBA ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DU MANITOBA

Canadian Heritage  
Patrimoine canadien

THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

THE CANADA COUNCIL  
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN  
DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES

WINNIPEG ARTS COUNCIL

Assiniboine  
CREDIT UNION

Imagine Canada  
Ethical Code

MCSC  
MANITOBA COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL INC.



MAWA staff, here to serve you! From left to right, Shawna Dempsey (Co-ED), Becca Taylor (Indigenous Outreach Coordinator), Dana Kletke (Co-ED), Alexis Kinloch (Admin Asst.), Lindsey Bond (Interim Program Coordinator) and Lisa Wood (Program and Administrative Coordinator). Missing from photo, Erna Andersen (Co-Outreach Coordinator) and Kari Cook (Student Intern)

**DECEMBER**

Wed, December 3  
6:30-9:30pm **Artist Mothers at MAWA**  
*One-a-Day Bash*

Fri, December 5  
noon-1pm **First Friday Lecture**  
Jenifer Papararo: *Being Wishy-Washy*

Fri, December 5  
1-3pm **Holiday Party!**

Fri, December 5  
7pm **Showcase opening:**  
Foundation Mentorship Program  
*Little Deaths* at *aceartinc.*

Sat, December 6  
and 13, 10am-4pm **Workshop**  
Gloria Beckman: Gauntlet Making

Mon, December 8  
7-9pm **Beading Group**

Sat, Dec. 20 -  
Tues. Jan. 6 MAWA closed for the holidays

**JANUARY**

Wed, January 7  
6:30-9:30pm **Artist Mothers at MAWA**  
*Trophy Moms*

Sat, January 10  
1-4pm **Crafternoon** (at Neechi Commons)  
Breanna Little: Huichol Beaded Medallions

Mon, January 12  
7-9pm **Beading Group**

Thurs, January 15  
6-8pm **Theory and Beer** (at the Legion)  
Jayna Beange: *On The Abject*

Sat, Jan. 24, 31,  
Feb. 7, 1-4pm **Skills Workshop**  
Monica Martinez: Clay and Cast Paper

Sat, Jan. 24  
10am-4pm **Artist Bootcamp** (at ACI)  
Liz Barron: Writing the Grant

Sat, Jan. 24  
7-9pm **Beading Group**

**FEBRUARY**

Wed, February 4  
6:30-9:30pm **Artist Mothers at MAWA**  
*Teeter Totter*

Fri, February 6  
noon-1pm **First Friday Lecture**  
Natalia Lebedinskaia: *An Absent Body of Water*

Mon, February 9  
7-9pm **Beading Group**

Sat, February 14  
1-4pm **Crafternoon**  
Helga Schulte-Schroerer: Wet Felting

Wed, February 18  
7-9:30pm **Artist Bootcamp**  
Tammy Sutherland: Applying for Exhibitions

Thurs, February 19  
6-8pm **Theory and Beer** (at the Legion)  
Liz Garlicki: *Let's Go Crazy*

Mon, February 23  
7-9pm **Beading Group**

Wed, February 25 **Over The Top drop off begins**

**MARCH** (Save the dates!)

Sat, March 7  
12-4pm **Craftstravaganza**

Sun, March 15  
2-5pm **Over The Top**

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR RECENT DONORS.  
WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!**

Irene Baghoomians  
Tamara Rae Biebrich in honour of Rad  
Donna Blakeman Welch  
Kelsey Braun  
Louise Duguay  
Evelyn Forget  
Alexis Kinloch  
Andrew Milne  
Margerit Roger in memory of Dieter Roger  
Sheila Spence  
Reva Stone  
Ewa Tarsia  
Diane Whitehouse  
Jamie Wright  
Iris Yudai  
Waves Restaurant

*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.*