

November 9th, 2009

Dear OCC Member,

As a recent graduate and emerging maker, the Ontario Crafts Council means a great deal to me.

Over the years the Ontario Craft Council (OCC) has played various roles in my career as a crafts professional - as I'm sure it has, and still does, for you as well.

Early on I was fortunate to receive financial support through the OCC's Awards & Scholarships Program. This support enabled me to complete my diploma and greatly assisted with my degree studies. But perhaps most important is that as I continued through school the OCC served as a professional beacon.

The support of the OCC has given me the confidence to call myself an artist and a craft professional. Exhibition opportunities afforded to me have provided a forum to showcase my work while learning from established senior makers. As an emerging maker, it can be daunting to take those first steps toward publically sharing your work – but the support of the OCC has made this transition a positive experience.



The OCC is a forum for best practice. It is an organization that values each member regardless of medium or experience. It is a community that links craft makers geographically and artistically.

The work of the OCC goes far beyond the borders of our province. Most recently the OCC supported members with applications to the 2009 Cheongju International Craft Biennale in South Korea. Our OCC was instrumental in organizing and assisting participating members, including providing travel grants to help craftspeople and representatives advocate for Ontario craft onsite.

Over, please...

The CICB is a remarkable showcase of international craft, and thanks to the support of the OCC, seventy-three Ontario artists are a part of this event, allowing our work to tell a uniquely Canadian story.

The OCC represents who we are and strives to challenge us to evolve as craft practitioners. **It is an organization defined by us; its members, supporters and donors.** Our organization works tirelessly to support the overall development of craft in Ontario. It does much to promote public awareness of craft, and the talent of its members.

Professional development, financial support, inspiring publications, local and international exhibition opportunities, mentoring, and public awareness – *this* is the impact of the OCC.

I urge you to reflect upon how you will choose to support the organization that does such a wonderful job supporting you. **Please consider making a donation to the Ontario Crafts Council – to our Council.**

Over the past year the world has experienced an unprecedented economic downturn. We have all been affected by the considerable financial challenges these circumstances present. This year, your continued support is even more important.

By supporting the OCC you will be donating to your future and to the future of craft in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Noelle Hamlyn

OCC Member

2007 – Present B.F.A., School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2007 Advanced Diploma (Textiles), Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning

P.S. We want to make giving easy! Consider becoming a monthly donor. Through a gift of just \$5, \$15 or \$20 each month you will be making a larger annual gift while providing the OCC with a dependable source of income throughout the upcoming year.