

SHARING EXPERIENCES: BRIDGES TO BELONGING



In February 2020 we launched a new outreach program to connect with our communities. On invitation, various groups come to the gallery and communicate a lived experience through a free workshop in clay. The lived experience is based on themes discussed with the leaders and the participants of each community group. The work created is then presented to the community at large with an exhibition and a publication. The third community group we invited was Bridges to Belonging. We thank John and Rebecca Short for their support of this program. We do hope that this program will not only allow us to strengthen the existing bonds between our gallery and community partners we already have, but also new ones and allow for new friendships to be forged between the participants.

DENIS LONGCHAMPS, PHD

*Executive Director and Chief Curator,
The Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery*

We are excited to be part of the Sharing Experiences program presented by the Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo. We invite you to view the clay sculptures made by people in our Bridges to Belonging Community, read about the inspiration behind their art pieces and celebrate their gifts of creativity. These pieces of art remind us of how rich and vibrant communities are when everyone is included, gifts are recognized and contributions are valued.

**BRIDGES TO BELONGING
COMMUNITY**



Bridges to
BELONGING
WATERLOO REGION

Uzma B.

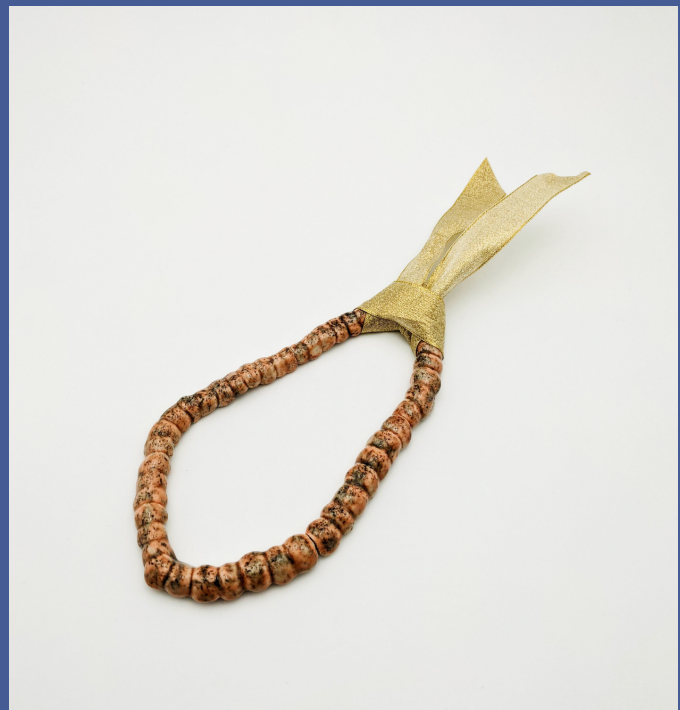


Welcome Ramadan – the word ‘Ramadan’ means the fasting month for Muslim people. A crescent moon is a special symbol in Islamic art, and the beginning and end of Ramadan are determined by a moon sighting. The clay art acknowledges Ramadan and to celebrate Eid after the holy month. Happy Ramadan to everyone who is going to celebrate and fast a whole.

Uzair M.

Tasbeeh, which is a glorification of God, is one of the many beautiful gifts passed on by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to the Muslims.

Not only does it erase our sins completely, but also helps us build a close and personal connection with God in times of difficulty. Since a young age, I have had the habit of reciting different small prayers on each bead of Tasbeeh every night.



Alex R.



Being disabled with multiple life-threatening diseases is invisible to most people – I look like everyone else but it's so much effort and time to appear that way. It's both a weight I carry every day and a place to retreat to when I'm tired and don't feel well. It's a strange home I've had to make for myself over the years that reminds me every day life is short.

Judy D.

The Tree of Life – This is the Tree of Life. The tree has been growing a long time and represents a long life. Hanging from the tree are seeds from vines of the tree. When the seeds fall, new, little trees will grow. The top of the tree represents all the elements of earth, water, fire, ice, and air. I wanted to make this piece beautiful because it is beautiful.



Steven S.



Among Us is a game I like.

My dog ate Among Us so now my dog is part of Among Us.

Kasia S.

I created my piece because I love playing Mario Kart. Bowser and King Boo are my favourite cartoons..





Soaring with Butterflies

Losing a parent is difficult at any time. COVID made it so much worse. Ours is a large family, but COVID restrictions meant an outdoor service where only 9 family members and a minister could grieve together and honour Dad. After his 95 years of caring for us and serving others, it seemed so unfair.

Suddenly, our spirits lifted by a small, blue butterfly- a symbol of transformation. It fluttered gently above our heads before coming to rest on the casket, where it remained throughout the service. As we left the gravesite, it followed us, flew over our heads and headed west in the direction of my sister's home, a 30 minute drive away. When we arrived there and I stepped out of the car, two blue butterflies were sitting on the grass at my feet. In that instance, I knew what I had always felt in my heart. My Mom and Dad, who had been inseparable for the 73 years they were married, were together again. My heart soared with the butterflies.



FLOWER VASE WITH A HEART AND A BUTTERFLY

I made a flower vase with a heart and butterfly on it. I made this piece to give to Mom for Mother's Day this year. And my Dad helped me make it. I had a lot of fun making it.

A SNACK BOWL

I put happy faces and peace signs on the sides of my bowl because I like peace and I love being happy all the time. And, on the inside, I put a flower so I can look at the flower inside when I am done eating my snacks!



ALISON A.

I made this plate for Tanya, my worker who does arts and crafts with me. I love her.

LORNA A.

I crafted this plate because my daughter wanted me to work with her while she was doing her clay piece. She enjoys crafting WITH people. The two flower like patterns on this plate represent the two people in the relationship. I believe our relationships are what get us through so much in life, including this pandemic.

Additional
Works



**SPONSORED
BY:**

**John and
Rebecca Short**

The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery is a long-standing site of excellence and a destination for contemporary art for international tourists and regional citizens. We are Canada's only gallery dedicated to contemporary Canadian works in ceramics, glass, and copper enameling. We host critically-acclaimed exhibitions that challenge ideas and perceptions of the definitions of art, craft and design today. With an emphasis on Canadian artists, our exhibitions also support international and regional artists.

A relevant and dynamic cultural organization, the Gallery provides supportive education programs to people from across the Region. Using exhibitions as a starting point, individuals develop arts vocabulary, arts appreciation and cultivate confidence in their interpretation of contemporary artworks.