

KATHLEEN

Family Photos

When I was a teenager, I went on a picnic with my family. My uncle brought his camera and took photos of me while I climbed trees. One of my sons loves to take photos now, so I choose to create a camera to represent these people and memories.

At times, it was challenging to work with the clay. I really appreciated support from other group members and Shannon, from the Clay & Glass Gallery, when I was making and painting my camera. I'm really proud of how it turned out, especially the moving pieces!

MJ HARKEMA & MIRET

Flutter-by

Whenever a butterfly flutters by, there is a moment of magic.

The process of creating something so delicate with clay was difficult, especially as I have not worked with the medium much in the past. However, I was delighted when I saw the end result! The challenge of creating this piece made me proud of how it turned out.

OLIVIA DE KONING

Grow Together

Whenever I'm on a picnic, wildflowers are a constant reminder of the natural beauty, diversity and joy around us. Representing this with clay was a challenge, but a good one as its imperfections and simplicity only added to its value. Though completely different, the purple and blue flower complement each other. The different petal sizes symbolize personal growth at different speeds. I hope these flowers bring a smile to your face as much as it does to mine.

ROB

Banana and bowl of grapes

Collaborative artworks: Sunscreen and watermelon made for group members who could not attend clay sessions.

SHARING EXPERIENCES: SHARING OUR VOICES



ABOUT 'SHARING EXPERIENCES'

Dear friends of the Gallery,

In February 2020, we launched a new outreach program, 'Sharing Experiences', to connect with our communities. On invitation, groups 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. This time, we invited 'Sharing Our Voices'.

We thank John and Rebecca Short for their support of the 'Sharing Experiences' 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 & Glass Gallery



ABOUT 'SHARING OUR VOICES'

'Sharing Our Voices' is a space where older adults living with dementia and youth can come together to build relationships through storytelling and art. Run in partnership by Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington, YMCA of Three Rivers, and Waterloo Public Library; 'Sharing Our Voices' is supported by the Supporting Inclusion through Intergenerational Partnerships (SIIP) project at the Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA).

Through our partnership with the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, we had a new venue to explore intergenerational programming. Our group members approached the workshops with varying levels of skill and confidence working with clay, but everyone left with renewed confidence in their creative abilities.

Working with clay gave us an opportunity to learn new skills and work collaboratively. Although we each designed our own piece, each clay creation fit into our "Picnic" theme. As we shaped and painted our art together, we shared stories about picnics, details about our pieces, and problem-solved when we came up against challenges.

We are so grateful to the Gallery for giving us access to a medium that would otherwise be inaccessible to our group. We can't wait for these pieces to be displayed so other community members can enjoy our art pieces & join our picnic!

Kayla Haas
Intergenerational Community Programs
Coordinator,
Alzheimer Society Waterloo Wellington

BRONWYN LINDSAY

Sherman the Snail
Little Bowl of Flowers
Jane the Dragonfly
"Antzilla"
Rodney the Creature

When I was little I used to go for picnics in Victoria Park with my parents. We would sit on a blanket, unpack sandwiches, fruits and lemonade, and admire the wildlife around us. My favourites were always the insects, especially the snails.

Working with clay in the Sharing Our Voices sessions was a very cool experience, that really differed from the other art pieces we made during the program. I enjoyed exploring the new medium, and working with my hands, as it gave me a sense of control over the material I was working with. I also enjoyed the collaboration that came with this project. Participants asked for advice, gave each other tips and worked together to make each piece come to life.

CLAIRE DE KONING

Lunch is Served

In my opinion, the perfect picnic food is a sub sandwich. Its size symbolizes that it is meant to be shared with those around us. The different layers of the sub indicate individuality as everyone builds their sandwich differently. So pack your picnic basket and enjoy with others.

KAYLA HAAS

Summer Seasonings

I was inspired by the nature-theme of our picnic, and other projects that focused on insects, for the design of my salt & pepper shakers. Initially, I was not confident in my abilities to bring my bumblebee and ladybug shakers to life. However, I found I really liked the problem-solving aspect of working with clay and was pleasantly surprised with the results. After two years of pandemic life, it felt exciting to learn a new skill in the company of others.

