

The Handmade Feast

We set the table for...



OV-CAOS
OTTAWA VALLEY CREATIVE ARTS OPEN STUDIO

AN OV-CAOS PROJECT
SEPTEMBER 2019 TO MARCH 2020

The Handmade Feast

We set the table for... artists

1

Shirley Murphy WOVEN TABLE RUNNER

When I think of setting the table for a special occasion, I think of colour and festivity. Inspired by spring flowers, I used vivid purples, pinks, yellows and greens to evoke the feeling of a spring feast. The colour yellow and the pattern reminds me of warm sunshine and gentle breezes. This table runner speaks of a spring feast of wonderful foods, happy times and sharing stories around a table filled with happiness and memorable times.

2

Wren Crossland PLACEMATS

The placemat sets the place of belonging — welcoming us to sit at the table, surrounded by family, friends, community. It carries the promise of soft candlelight, mouth-watering aromas, abundant and nourishing food, conversation — happily weaving its way around the table.

3

Catherine Bloskie, Joyce Lorbetskie and Teresa Prince EMBROIDERED NAPKINS

Kashubian embroidery designs are inspired by nature and life, using seven symbolic colours to depict flora with simplicity and elegance. The three shades of blue represent the sea, lakes, rivers, and sky; green symbolizes the meadows and forests; yellow the sun, amber and sand; red symbolizes

love; and black represents sorrow/adversity. With these napkins, we set the table for... sharing in nature's bounty to celebrate the joys and sorrows of life with family and friends, while remembering those absent.

4

Tanya Lyons ALTERED GLASSWARE

I created four cups to Set the Table For...all. The glasses, with engraving and sandblasted patterns, represent four different people at different ages and places in their life. The table is a place to come together to share food, drink and company. Often the table beckons storytelling of the day's affairs or tales of travel and transformation. I have made pieces that represent all of us and reflect a space where we are all welcome.

5

Andy Trull and Frank Tettermer TABLE

Wood grain reaches toward water and sunlight. Wood grain curls and curves. A table is a place to reach toward food and drink, to reach toward each other in the curls and curves of words. This table started with the idea of hosting people for a feast — pulling out some boards to rest on sawhorses for a makeshift table. Follow the curves and curls of Birdseye maple top resting on cherry and maple sawhorses.

6

Mike Desrochers CUTLERY

Something is lost. Tools have usurped the table. The church condemned the simple skewers of the 14th century as heresy. Royalty used double-tined forks in the 17th century, while at the beginning of the 18th century commoners still ate with their hands. A simple pointed knife was likely the only utensil in most households until the dawn of the 19th century. Estranged physically and culturally from our fare in many ways, we now surgically dissect, handle and consume it with specialized hardware. Tearing, separating and feeling your food must have been satisfying.

7

Eva Gallagher PLATES

Our family gatherings were rather small as we had no close relatives left. The day was always spent cooking, under my mother's supervision, the traditional Czech meal of bread dumplings, roast pork, sauerkraut, and hazelnut torte for dessert. Talk around the table eventually would lead to the weather and then things would get tense as my brother is an adamant climate change denier. I know that he'll never change but by using these dishes daily, maybe it will help keep climate change in the forefront. We can change, even if it's just a little bit — as together we can make a difference!

8

Talli Chaimovitz CANDLES



1



2



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5

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Handmade Feast began in September 2019 with a series of workshops where participants learned techniques inspired by elements of a traditional table setting, including pottery, weaving, altered glassware, embroidery, candle making and mixed media placemats.

These workshops were free to participants and open to all, although seniors were given priority. Through outreach kits, our partners at Barry's Bay and Area Home Support worked with their clients to create works at their residences.

The workshop facilitators have collaborated with other artists and curator Anya Gansterer to create an installation titled *We Set the Table For...*

THANK YOU!

Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

Opeongo Seniors Centre

Bayberry Design

Jennifer Bennet Pond, SALC

Tanya Lyons, photography and lighting

Beth Kennedy Design

Cooking with Friends Program

The staff at Stafford St. and Millstream Residences

PROJECT PARTNERS

Barry's Bay and Area Home Support

CRC – Seniors Active Living Centre

Killaloe Friendship Club

New Horizons for Seniors Program, Funder



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ABOUT OV-CAOS

Ottawa Valley Creative Arts Open Studio was created in 2011 with a mandate to promote the integration of visual arts, music, drama, and other creative arts into the lives of individuals, families and communities in the Ottawa Valley.

We work in partnership with local cultural and service organizations to bring people together to explore their stories, images and creative possibilities.

Our team of trained artist-facilitators host workshops and activities designed to enhance creativity, personal growth and community well-being. OV-CAOS.org • anya@ov-caos.org