

ALLAN BELL



KARLI SEARS



VIVIENNE JONES



CAROLYNN BLOOMER



VALERIE KNAPP



Multiplicity

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Five artists propelled by process, form and the nuances of repetition.

Thursday October 8th to Saturday November 7th, 2009

Opening: October 8th, 5:30 to 8:30pm

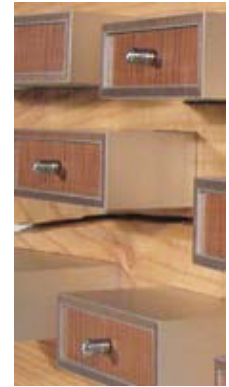
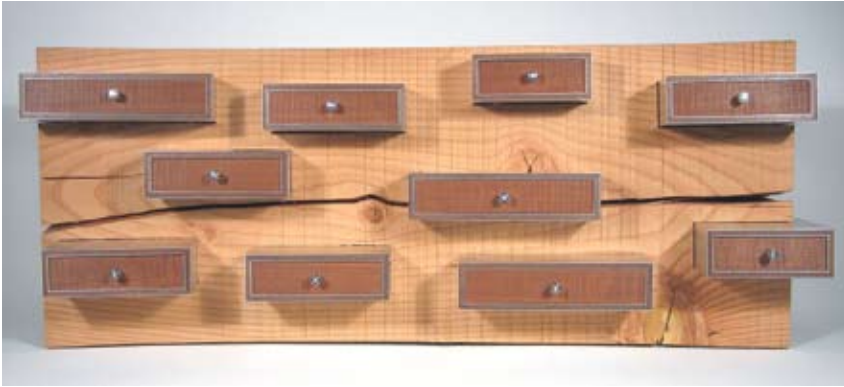
Ontario Crafts Council

990 Queen Street West

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Multiplicity brings together the work of five artists thematically linked by independent meditations on repetition and process. Each endeavours to establish subtle yet coherent relationships, eliciting this nuanced rationale by delving into recurrence and variation, and through conversations in form, function, scale and colour. In all, the juxtaposition of similarity and difference emphasizes the unique gesture each work brings on its own terms, as well as in conjunction with the complex whole.

Vivienne Jones and Valerie Knapp



Allan Bell

I am interested in a dialogue between old and new. I am drawn to modern materials, as they can be seductive in their promise of a new aesthetic, longevity and strength. Older materials and found objects imbue a nostalgia, a history that transcends their more physical nature, resonating with their worn surfaces, their past use. By combining the two I endeavour to create a tactile experience which is neither in the past, present or future, a blurring which can be interpreted by the viewer. The objects reside in a place of no fixed address.

Allan Bell studied with Don McKinley in the Wood Studio at Sheridan School of Crafts & Design after graduating from Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto. He builds cabinets, display components and systems, museum fixtures, furniture and takes pleasure in creating smaller objects, functional and non.

Images: *Chest #2*, 2009; Fir, mahogany, aluminum laminate; 89w x 34h x 22d cm. *Chest #1*, 2009; Aluminum, acrylic, sycamore; 31w x 42h x 16d cm. *Chest #2* (detail).

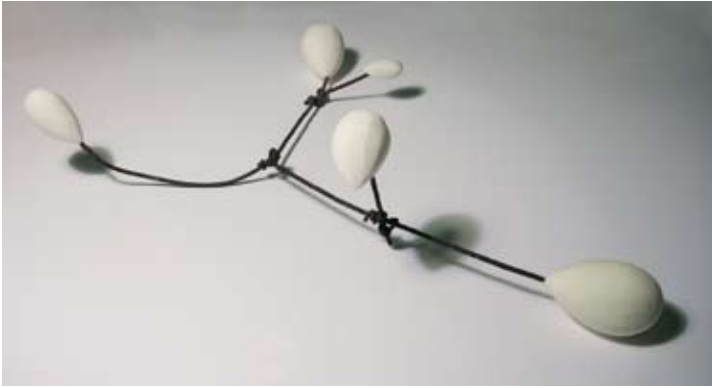


Carolynn Bloomer

People have always used clay to make vessels to convey substances. Often – intentionally or not – these pots also convey messages about the society in which they were created. My porcelain vessels embody space and light, while their surface imagery depicts messages from my world; images and expressions from popular culture and everyday domestic life, playfully interpreted by me. Their shape is loosely derived from that of a space capsule; their rounded bases give them a tenuous balance. The unglazed exteriors show off the form and the purity of the material, and contrast with the colour, markings, and additions inside. I hope to create an intimacy – engaging with the viewer's imagination.

Originally from Montreal, Carolynn Bloomer studied Fine Art at John Abbott CEGEP, then moved to Toronto in 1978 to study design and mould making techniques at OCAD. Carolynn works mainly in porcelain and her inspirations include art history, popular culture and her experiences as a woman and mother in urban society.

Images: *Membrane* (detail), 2009; Porcelain with stains; 15w x 13h cm. *Fused Pieces*, 2009; Porcelain with stains; 25w x 27h cm. *Low Ceiling*, 2009; Porcelain with stains; 33w x 23h cm.

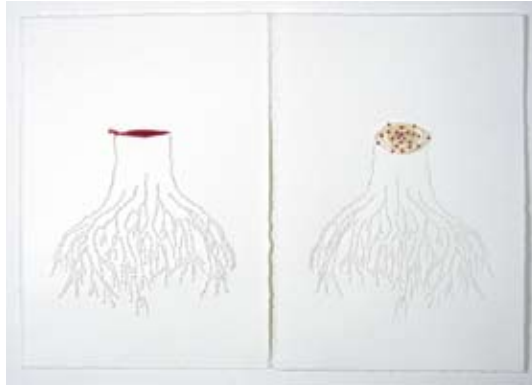
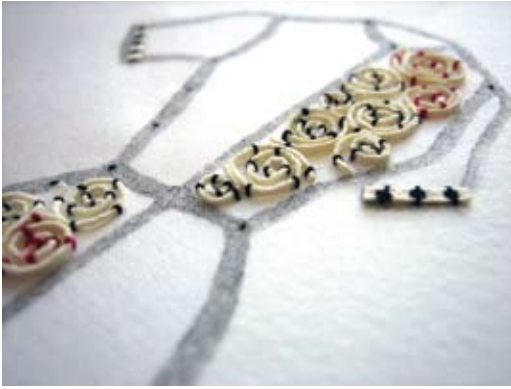


Vivienne Jones

Creating and recreating, repetition exists everywhere, nature forms and reforms. Shapes of growth and erosion are constant reminders of larger forces – a continuum encompassing renewal, expenditure and gradual change. While we pay homage to the singular, the one of a kind, in contrast to the rigid concept of uniformity and as an embracing of obvious change; repetition is a fluid process, it's echoing and adapting allowing comparative explorations and subtler evolutions. These works reflect aspects of repetition and variation.

Vivienne Jones is a graduate of the Birmingham School of Jewellery and Silversmithing. She maintains a studio jewellery practice in Toronto and her work is available through galleries, exhibitions and commissions. Of recent Jones has added explorations of the sculptural form and alternative materials to her body of work.

Images: *Ad-junct*, 2009; wall sculpture. Iron and resin; 50 x 30 cm. *Tear/Drop Brooch 2*, 2009; Sterling silver, pearl, 18k gold; 37 x 25 mm. *White Resin Drop*, 2009; 25 x 18 mm.



Valerie Knapp

Stitches repeat across varied surfaces to form a pattern, a sketch, a story. I draw with stitches, pins, paper thread, print and perforations in this work. Fragile threads, lines and dots, forming pods, seeds, places and stories. At times these observations are complex or sometimes simple and pure, overall embodying vulnerability.

I am inspired by labyrinths, early embroidery samplers, Tapa cloth, microscopic views of seeds and pollen, lace, ancient garden design and my own close study and drawings of plant material.

A graduate of the Textile Studio at Sheridan School of Crafts & Design and U of T Faculty of Education, Knapp has a practice in art making, textile design and teaching, recently focusing on mixed media and textile, paper-based works and compelling textiles for the home.

Images: *Her Diptych* (detail), 2009; Embroidery, relief print, drawing, thread, paper, vellum; 39w x 31h cm. *Trunk Diptych*, 2009; Embroidery, perforation, thread, paper; 39w x 31h cm. *Fruit Triptych* (detail), 2009; Embroidery, drawing, thread, pencil, paper; 39w x 31h cm.



Karli Sears

By exploring the “living” qualities of glass – its fluidity, translucency and ability to enclose space – I want to make objects which may feel alive. The exquisite forms of seed pods and flowers fascinate me, as they are carriers for new life. To suggest botanical forms through sensual, luminous glass objects may be like having the spirit of a living thing permeate a space. The attention to the moment required when working with hot glass leads, for me, to a sort of meditative repetition. I am compelled to gather and cluster the resulting repeated forms, creating a singular whole from the accumulated elements.

Karli Sears, a Guelph-based graduate of Sheridan College School of Crafts and Design, is known for her blown glass sculpture and jewellery. Her work can be found in the collections of the Corning Museum of Glass and the Celebrity Equinox, and will join the work of other international glass artists in an upcoming, botanical-themed exhibition at Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, Denmark.

Images: *Saffron Aurora*, 2009; Blown glass, sandblasted, mixed media assembly; 46w x 46h x 46d cm. *Annular*, 2009; Hot worked glass, sandblasted, oil paint; 170w x 109h x 8d cm. *Saffron Aurora* (detail).

Acknowledgements

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Karli Sears	www.karlisearsglass.com

Publication design: Maxine Bell

Coordination: Valerie Knapp

Photography by the artists

Cover images left to right: *Chest #1* (detail), 2009. *Pale Blossom*, 2009; Blown glass, mixed media assembly; 40w x 40h x 40d cm. *Bud Brooch*, 2009; Sterling silver, resin; 90 x 80mm. *Stays at Home*, 2009; Porcelain with stains; 29w x 23h cm. *EYEPod Diptych* (detail), 2009; Embroidery, drawing, pencil, cotton thread on paper; 39w x 31h cm.

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