

LAUREN M'PHERSON

Biography

In the 1970's Lauren loved playing center field on Port Colborne's city softball team, taking music lessons and participating in arts and crafts. Leather was a fascinating material and intricate gifts she received such as the personalized handmade leather wallet, the suede braided choker, and the handcrafted miniature turtle pin rivaled her own artwork, sewing, quilting and embroidery. Currently employed at a London, ON, home renovation company, she has also worked for her brother's family-owned and operated home health care business manufacturing custom seat cushions made from neoprene, stretch nylon, upholstery fabric, vinyl or leather. From 2004-2007 she donated seven furniture pieces to the Community Living London fundraiser, 'A Chair Affair'. Several woodworkers assisted in the construction of these pieces where Lauren customized an antique wooden chair into an artist easel, furnished two plank benches with custom leather cushions and leather maché all surfaces of a wooden spindle-leg chair. Her 12" *Scarecrow* and *Vintage Apron* received two ribbons in the Western Fair Home Arts Competition (2006). Rivalry and competition aside, Lauren enjoys discovering leather on her own or spontaneously receiving miscellaneous tools and leather from guild members. After making a *Lasted Leather Box* at the Woodstock Leather Guild Workshop (2007), she became a member of the Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft. On display at the CSCL 60th Anniversary, May 2010, is her six inch quilt square with a palestrina embroidery stitch using a multicoloured waxed thread, another version of her attempts use multiple applications. In addition to holding the office of Secretary/Treasurer, Woodstock Leather Guild (2007-2010), Lauren has made leather rocks and formed leather animals. As a hobbyist and novice leathercrafter she attended leather workshops covering subjects that include belts, the tendril pin, jewelry and gilding leather. Her entry, *Hinged Leather Teardrop-Shape Box* contributed to the Woodstock Branch winning the Weston Trophy at the CSCL 59th Annual (2008-2009), Lindsay, ON.

Artist Statement Entry #1

Originally, I set out to make a coil that would hold a Beaver Flats Publishing copy of *Highways So Wide*, my mother's 23-page booklet of her 50th Wedding Anniversary party. However, covering a wire armature by leather maché turned things around. With *WATER COLOUR SKETCH PAD* the wire grew thicker and rustic so I turned to the hinged box technique. With a wooden dowel I was able to hinge toward one side. Without a true top or bottom, I spun the coil to find the largest parallel openings to glue a base. A clear button anchors the custom diamond shape pages; perhaps a celebration of the CSCL 60th Anniversary (1950-2010). One can turn the page and sketch a passing scenery, write a memo, or create a diamante poem, all bound by this leather coil hinge.

Artist Statement Entry #2

I first made a traditional hinged box at a CSCL workshop held in Mississauga, ON. Five years later, *HINGED LEATHER TEARDROP-SHAPE BOX*, was started as an experiment. A rouge dyed, vegetable tanned strap (1.25"x7") looked too small for these same instructions; I reworked the entire method. While solving the function of how a hinge works and the limitations of using such a small piece of 4oz leather, I looked for other materials. The perimeter of the lid became the enlarged outline of an amethyst (a Sudbury, ON, souvenir) allowing overhang for easy lifting. Lastly, the thinnest leather is glued as the bottom lining. When used to hold a tiny treasure this purple gemstone is a gift box.

Condensed Artist Statement

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