

Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft (CSCL)
invites you to an exhibition
of contemporary leather art
and a look at the history of one of Canada's Oldest Craft Guilds

Leather 2013 - CREATIVE VERSATILITY

Opening Reception and Awards Presentation

Saturday January 12, 2013

2:00 - 4:00pm

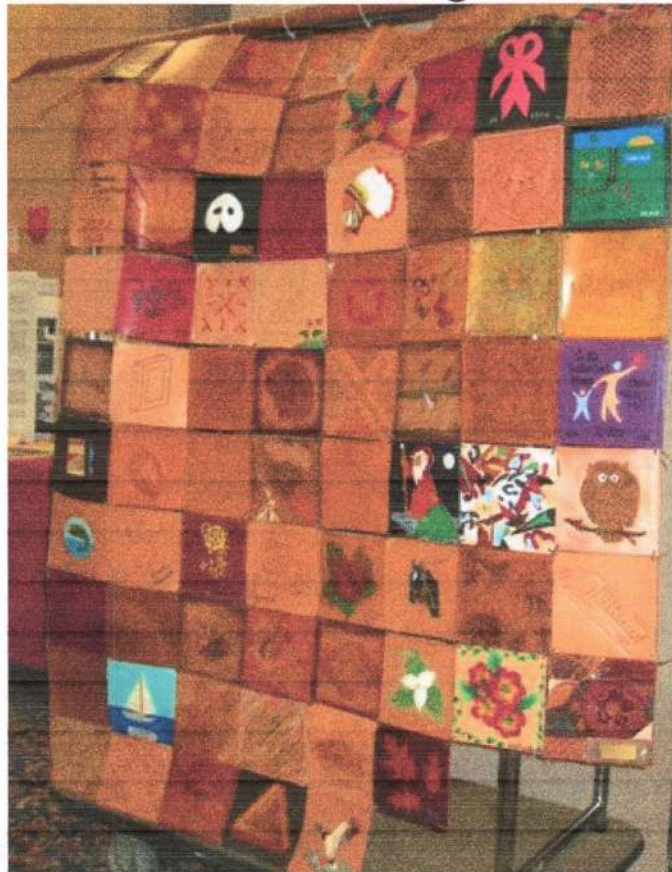
Woodstock Art Gallery

449 Dundas St

Woodstock, ON

www.WoodstockArtGallery.ca

Exhibition continues through March 2, 2013



The Leather "Quilt" created by CSCL Members since 1990

from Woodstock Art Gallery
January 2013

ARTIST STATEMENTS and BIOGRAPHIES

KEN BOROSKI

I started leatherwork in 2001. After riding in the mountains of Arizona, I ripped my chaps on the rough terrain. The trail boss repaired the chaps with an initialed and stamped round patch which he glued and hand sewed over the rip. My leatherworking career began. I mostly do western leatherworking, such as holsters, sour straps, saddles, breast collars, chaps, and belts, but have also done sword scabbards, fly fishing rod and reel cases, purses, and pretty much anything in leather.

My greatest joy in leatherworking is producing a specific piece for someone and having them fully appreciate the finished product, to be fully satisfied with the piece and to use the item as it was meant to be used.

"John Wayne" Belt and Holster with Replica Toy Handgun

This is a replica of the belt and holster the "Duke" wore in many of his Westerns. It is a 3 ¼ in belt, covered in premium suede, with 19 bullet loops to accommodate .44 or .45 caliber ammunition. The holster fits a 4 ¾ in or 5 ½ in barrel length Colt Peacemaker.

Shoulder Scabbard with Captain Barbosa Replica Sword

This is a replica of the sholder scabbard worn by Capt. Barbosa in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies. The sword is also a replica of the one used in the movies.

This scabbard is made with 8/9 oz European single bend leather, hand-sewn and dyed Fiebing's black oil dye. It is completely handcrafted and all edges burnished smooth.

Saddle Rifle Scabbard

The rifle scabbard is a fixture of the Old West. It is used to carry a cowboy's rifle on the saddle. It can be fitted butt forward, or reverse, left side, or right, upright or inverted, whatever suited the saddle, horse and cowboy.

This scabbard is fitted for Winchester repeater, with an over length of about 39 inches. It is completely handcrafted, hand sewn, and hand stamped. It has a premium suede lining and is shown in Fiebings light brown oil stain.

Stamped, Carved Breastcollar

Breastcollars are used in western riding to prevent the saddle from slipping forward or backward while going up or down hilly terrain, and in the sport of rodeo. Another purpose is cosmetic in that it looks good, and completes the overall effect of the western look.

The breastcollar is completely handcrafted, and hand sewn. It is finished in natural coloring and all edges have been burnished smooth with black edging.

Bowman Roping Saddle

This 16in roping saddle is completed with 13-15 oz Chahin leather in natural coloring. It is bordered in barbed wire stamping, and all hardware is stainless steel. It is completely hand crafted and took approximately 80 hours to complete. The padded seat, and oiled leather will ensure many years of comfort and wear.

NANCY DURHAM FCSC

Nancy Durham was one of the judges at the 2012 Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft (CSCL) Annual Convention, Burlington. She is a Fellow in CSCL with Fellow being the highest of the three skill rankings in that organization.

Her interest in leathercrafting began when she first observed a saddlemaker's wife carving a saddle. Thus began her leathercrafting journey. She bought a TANDT Beginner's Kit and taught herself how to do leather craft. Shortly thereafter she went to work at the saddle makers and soon found herself – through on-the-job training: carving and tooling saddles.

In 1987 she joined CSCL and since then has progressed from observing to now teaching seminars on such topics as *Lasted Boxes* at leather conventions throughout Ontario. As well as teaching, this artist has been profiled in the media, published in *Canadian Leathercraft*, competed, exhibited and she continues to retail her work extensively. Her work continues to earn for her honours and awards. One of her pieces BLUE BOX was featured, and sold, at Glenhyrst Art Gallery, Brantford. She has many commissioned pieces in international collections. She accepts commissions which she works on in her own leather studio that she and her husband Dave built in Princeton.

She is a past member of the WOODSTOCK LEATHER GUILD, former CSCL President, and currently serves as DIRECTOR on the national CSCL executive. In 2006 she was the recipient of a 10-year Ontario Volunteer Service Award from CSCL. This grandmother of two, volunteers with VON Oxford in the SMART fitness program as an instructor. Durham is a Princeton-area artist who enjoys producing fine leather products for retail.

Two-Toned Scalloped Belt

4cm x 120cm (size 40)

This belt presented a challenge with the unique edge treatment of scallops cut along part of the belt. A geometric design was stamped and highlighted using an antique finish after the main body and edges were dyed mahogany, Conchos and a three piece buckle set complete the look.

For sale: \$135

Autumn Leaves

20cm x 28cm x 2.5cm

This pair of wall hangings is the result of applying leaves to pigskin and highlighting them using an acrylic spatter dyed technique. They were then stretched over wooden frames with a folded corner treatment.

For sale: \$75

PETER GROVE

As a 10-year old boy, Peter was introduced to leatherwork in the public school system. It was the beginning of a life-long passion. At the age of 21, Peter went to work for the Tandy Leather Company and started his own venture, Tundra Leather.

Peter's use of carving, as a leather decoration, has been formed by countless hours at the bench, and exposure to some of the best carvers in North America. When he returned from the Rocky Mountain Leather Show, in 2000, he resolved to design his own Canadian style Sheridan carvings.

Peter is generous with his time, leading workshops and teaching private classes. He is a mentor to the members of the Hamilton Leather Guild and the Canadian Society of Creative Leathercraft (CSCL). Peter is a Fellow of the CSCL and has held office as Director and President of their Executive Council.

Peter's work is available for viewing and sale at his shop, Tundra Leather, in Hamilton, Ontario or at www.tundraleather.ca.

(Peter Grove's biography was written by Lauchlan Harrison)

Santa Belt

This is my version of "Santa's Belt".

The buckle for this project has been formulating in my mind for many years. Not until early 2010, was I able to have my drawings turned into an original master buckle and then have sample casts created. This is one of only two such buckles that exist.

My Santa belt had to be more than the traditional plain 4" strap. The Tim Allen movie, *The Santa Clause*, brought the realization that Santa's belt could be brown.

The graphic design needed to draw upon my infatuation with Western carving. The interlaced holly leaves and scalloped border allowed the combining of the Christmas theme and the Western style of carving. The natural leather lining provided appropriate stiffness for the belt, and also a colour-neutral lining against potentially expensive Santa suits; no dye transfer here! The red piped edge, and red stitching, provided a pleasing blend of the brown belt and Santa's red suit. Attaching the buckle, with a serpentine leather lacing pattern, allowed for a strong attachment without the use of unsightly hardware. Many years of thought, and 20 hours of work, resulted in "Santa's Belt".

LAUCLAN HARRISON

Lauchlan started working with soft leather, sheepskin and fur 25 years ago. His interest in one-piece patterns led to mitt designs especially useful for sheepskin. His involvement with the Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft, introduced him to vegetable tanned leathers. Bottle covering and drinking vessels are currently capturing his interest. Lauchlan is using more alcohol based dyes to give more colour to his work.

Daily Journal

Carved with images of Sun & Moon this journal cover has interior pockets and shows no thread on the outside. The pockets have wave sculpted shape and turned edges. I wanted to study the Blind Stitch technique and used it with stamping and background as a border for the Journal. The Sun & Moon images are universal; these simple depictions are fun and evoke an art deco feel.

Sheepskin Mitts

One piece of shearling is used to make this pair of mitts. The seam is hand sewn with a cross stitch bonding edges of the leather together without exposing the thread to abrasion.

Bottle with RHLI Crest

Is made of 4-5 ounce vegetable tanned leather, hand stitched flat and pulled onto the bottle. This allows a very close fitting leather skin. The Crest was taken from the RHLI Cap Badge. The colouring was added as an afterthought after the carving was dyed. The bottle was made to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

Recipe Box Series Set of 3

These boxes are constructed with some of the same techniques but each of them exhibits a different form. The font was meant to imitate the joy of cooking. The serpentine border required a very small stamp made out of a piece of 1/8 inch brass round stock.

CAROL McLEAN

Carol McLean is a Woodstock resident. She is an honorary life member of CSCL and "Fellow." She participated in the judging for Leather 2013. Carol recently received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award Medal for her years in Leathercraft and quilting. A truly gifted artist.

Over 50 years, for about 25 years, Carol taught in Continuing Education for over 25 years in leather, quilting and other assorted hand arts. Not having a favourite technique or leather to work with, Carol likes to let the leather be the main feature of the piece and decoration or dye compliment it. She finds inspiration in the leather itself, workshops and experimentation.

I love the feel and response of the leather as it is worked upon. It sometimes leads you down a different road than you had planned. Although I can no longer do leatherwork, it has brought me a great deal of pleasure over the years. I continue to assist the Society with judging and wherever I can.

DAVID McPHERSON

McPherson, a retired teacher of Mathematics, resides in London. While in his teens, he began leathercrafting making a carver wallet at classes held at the YMCA, London.

He joined the Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft (CSCL) in 1980 and became adept at traditional leathercrafting skills. He received his Fellow standing (CSCL's highest skill level) in 2005/ He held the position of Chairman of the Council of Fellows: the organization's judging body. He has held several executive positions and currently he and his wife Dorothy serve as CSCL representatives to the Ontario Crafts Council.

Throughout his lengthy arts career he has generously shared his leathercrafting skills with others. One year he taught leather crafting at Halliburton School of the Arts. He has conducted numerous workshops and demonstrated at diverse community events such as guest leathercraftsman in The Tack Shop at Fanshawe Pioneer Village, London; at the CNE, Toronto; Thanksgiving Festival, Balls' Falls Conservation Area, Niagara.

His work has gained recognition including two Ontario Crafts Council Design Awards and several highly-prized leather awards. He has received two Ontario Volunteer Service Awards for his work in the arts.

He competes and has had work appear in several Ontario Crafts Council shows. He retails his work and has participated in the Toronto Gift Show marketing his work internationally. His trademark is hinge-lid boxes constructed entirely of leather. Beginning with a thick, rigid sole leather base, he constructs the box around the base. His work features geometric shapes influenced by his mathematical background. Boxes are round, rectangular, oval, half-circle, apple (polar limaçon), or irregular following the outline of an inset stone. His boxes often feature decorative gemstones or exotic wood inset in the lid. Each is finished with three coats of a water-resistant finish. December 2012)

Black Free Form Box

I have been making this simple rectangular box with its hinged lid for several years. The circles involved in the hinge are the result of an error in measurement on my first attempt, so they became a part of the design. To add to the design I often add an inset disk of a special wood inside a lid as a surprise opening.

For sale: \$50

Antique Rouge Free Form Box

This large rectangular hinge lidded box is the result of a need for a much larger container. The beehive hexagon design is created by a stamp I designed and had created for me by a machinist.

For Sale: \$190

Blue Half Circle Box with Agate

This half-circle box with hinged lid was created to be a different shape from the standard rectangle. The light blue colour is achieved by rubbing white acrylic paint over a dark blue dye to emphasize the pores in the leather, making every box unique depending on the marks in the leather. A matching blue Brazilian agate adds to the design.

For sale: \$130.

Brown Open Topped Container

This round open top container is made entirely of leather with a sole leather base and 7/8 ounce vegetable tanned cowhide sides covered with strips of various coloured thin leathers.

For sale: \$60.

LAUREN McPHERSON

In the 1970s 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 leather 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 machéed 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 2012, was her six inch quilt square with a palestrina embroidery stitch in a multicoloured waxed thread, another version of her attempts to use multiple applications. In addition to holding the office of Secretary/Treasurer, Woodstock Leather Guild (2007-2010), and more recently Director, Executive Council (2010-2012), 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, masks, and gilding leather. Her entry, *Hinged Leather Teardrop-Shape Box* contributed to the Woodstock Branch winning the Weston Trophy at CSCL 59th Annual (2008-2009), Lindsay, ON.

Dark Blue Sheepskin Collar

As a first-time visitor to a CSCL workshop (masks) in 2008, I was delighted to purchase my first fur, a 4 sq. ft. dark blue dyed sheepskin. My Aunt living in Calgary, AB, once remodeled her fur coat into teddy bears; now the elegance of my fur is fashioned into a wearable garment. Cutting fur, joining pelts, finishing edges, interfacing, lining; this project has been constructed with changes to Burda Patterns #4203 and reference to "The Vogue Sewing Book", (1975). A simple 15mm snap fastener is the closure and the cotton plaid lining is removable for laundering. The middle layers of interfacing provide a stable collar but it is the furry hide that keeps the wearer very warm.

Not for sale.

MADELEINE MITCHELL

Leather craft classes were offered in the early 1970's at the Adult Night School and a friend suggested we might go together. The instructor was CSCL "Fellow" Carol McLean – the rest is history – 39 years later, I still enjoy leather crafting.

Although I will challenge myself and work with heavier, thicker leathers for purses and masks, I prefer the soft supple, thinner leathers that can be folded, turned and coloured for book covers, boxes, and jewelry.

CSCL has been through the years, an inspiration with workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions. I love trying new techniques along with a variety of leathers. Leather, as a creative medium for me, remains extraordinarily beautiful and versatile.

Yin Yang Round Box

The coming together of light and dark, smooth and rough is shown in this round box that is completely handmade. Using natural and brown coloured cowhide, the box has a divided interior with a lid that closes only one way. A challenging project with more than meets the eye.

Orchid Bookends, set of 2

Using a turned edge technique the tan coloured Morocco leather is fitted over metal bookends forms that are padded and backed with a sponge dyed skiver (light weight cowhide). The geometric design on the Morocco is combined with elegant orchids moulded from cowhide and coloured.

ROB REGAN

I became interested in leatherwork approximately 9yrs ago and became a member of the CSCL 4yrs ago in 2009, and a member of the executive board 3yrs ago. While on the executive board I have held the position of 2nd vice president for 2yrs before becoming 1st vice president last year. In addition to these two positions I have also taken on the role of librarian, and in 2011 I was part of a sub-committee focused on recruitment along with Tracy Howard (Membership Chair).

As a novice I received the Betty Heacock award for my western briefcase and have received several ribbons and the Weston trophy since. At the 2012 Annual I attained my Associate status.

The craftsman of these items has been an active member of the Canadian Society for leathercraft (CSCL) for several years and has attained the skill level of Associate.

All phases of the construction of these items were done by hand including every stitch and polished edge.

All items Not for sale: to have a similar item custom made or to just make inquiries to:

Bridle Leather Saddle Bag

This item was intended to become in essence "hands free" luggage. While the item was inspired by the traditional saddlebag, it was enlarged to provide enough storage to be practical without being cumbersome.

The saddlebags are constructed of a heavy gauge premium bridle leather, this was an intentional choice to construct a robust item that will stand up to even the roughest use.

Scout Canteen

This item is a traditional scout canteen that has been covered with leather and sculpted to fit the contours of the canteen underneath.

This item was constructed using premium Belgian leather. The Canadian flag tooled into the front of the cover is intended to reflect the long history of the scouting movement in Canada.

Bowie Knife & Sheath

The sheath and knife were both part of this project and both were made by the Robert Regan. The knife handle is hand made using leather discs and a deer antler crown for a seasonally shed antler, the handle is then sanded and polished to shape. The sheath is a frontier style and is designed to be worn on the left side and drawn across the body.

Leather Bottell

This item was made using centuries old techniques, the leather is sewn together then soaked in warm water. Once thoroughly saturated with water the bottell is stretched using sand that is packed inside.

Once the leather is dry it is saturated with paraffin wax, this process requires the wax to be heated to a liquid state and brushed onto the leather which is heated to facilitate the absorption of the liquid wax. Once cool, the paraffin wax solidifies and hardens the leather, the inside is lined with food grade bees wax to keep the bottell sealed.

JIM WILKES

Wilkes started doing leather craft in 1994 and liked doing belts, wallets, and purses plus learning new techniques.

I get my inspiration from books that I get from Japan and travelling to IFOLG shows in the United States and taking workshops with Master Leather craft people down there. Another inspiration is looking at all the projects in the competition room and judging them with other leather craft people from around the world and getting their opinions on the projects. These shows are good places for meeting and talking about leather with people from around the world.

I am still learning new techniques and how to think outside the box.

Layered Southwest Carving

Three Dimensional Leather carving done in a Southwest style, this piece was done under the leadership of Bob Beard at a workshop. I used coloured acrylic paints to add some life to the background.

--Jim Wilkes, Mississauga Branch CSCL