

knitting Yarns



JUNE 16: KIRK DUNN

Stitched Glass is a textile art installation exploring the commonalities and conflicts between the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Consisting of three hand-knitted panels in the style of stained glass, each approximately 6 ft wide by 9 ft high, the project uses iconic imagery to encourage dialogue around the successes and challenges of the three religions, in the hopes of knitting them together for a brighter future. Kirk Dunn will take us through the history of the project to date — from inception to design to the work in progress.

SUMMER OF KNITTING!

What's a knitter to do during the summer months? Here's your definitive guide!



•Relay for Life (June 11-12)

Come support the DKC team at Forest Hill Memorial Park as they knit (and spin) all night in support of cancer research. The tent will be easy to spot.

•Back to Back Competition (June 13)

The Toronto Spiders will shear, spin and knit a full sweater from a raw, greasy fleece in an attempt to recapture their world champion status. Come watch our team in action at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

•World Wide Knit in Public Day (June 12)

Break a Guinness world record for most people knitting! See Upcoming Events (back page) for more info.

•TTC Knitalong (July 10)

This perennially popular transit-friendly yarn crawl is back, bigger and better than ever. See ttcknitalong.blogspot.com for registration information.

•Third Annual Stitch n' Pitch (July 27)

Baseball games are infinitely more interesting when you're sitting in a section filled with knitters. Speak to Joan Kass about tickets (\$20) at the June meeting or email her at events@downtownknitcollective.ca

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Wednesday, September 22, 2010 (fourth Wednesday)
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Location

Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave.
NW corner of St. George St. and Sussex Ave.
on the University of Toronto campus.

TTC Access

Five-minute walk south from St. George subway station.
Parking available at several nearby locations.

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.

Doors Open: 6:45 p.m.

Admission

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers
Free to Full Members (please show card at door)

All Downtown Knit Collective meetings, functions and events are governed by the Rules of Conduct as determined by the Executive. To read a copy of the Rules, please visit www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html

Close to 100 knitters were in attendance at our May, 2010 meeting.

Announcements

Elections for the Executive are coming up... is anyone interested? Please note that you cannot nominate anyone without their express consent.

Joan Kass and the Relay for Life team (including three cancer survivors this year) are looking for sponsors. You can donate online: <http://tinyurl.com/dkcrelay>

Barb Angiers is looking for yarn donations for a knitting club—they make things for a women's shelter. Donations can be dropped off at the next meeting.

Fiona Ellis will be teaching a workshop at the Haliburton School of the Arts this summer. For more information, please see "Upcoming Events" on the back page.

Show and Tell

Tatiana showed a red purse covered with rosettes. She found the pattern in Crochet Today and says she gets compliments on it all the time.

Yolanta showed a blanket with an intricate patterned border and embroidered swirls that elicited oohs and ahhs from the audience. She says she made up the pattern herself.

Barb & Virginia displayed matching felted bags. They met at a course by Creative Yarns and it was the first felting project for both of them. They were both amazed at how big the bag had to be prior to felting. Virginia was also wearing a very clever reversible sweater, designed by Nina from Creative Yarns.

Karen showed off a teal "Open to Change" sweater by Fiona Ellis. She actually ran into Fiona in an Indigo store and asked her some questions about sizing to help finish the project, which now fits perfectly.

Denise Powell showed her Olympic knitting project (had to be started and finished within the timeframe of the Olympics), which she titled the Edwardian Walking Jacket. She designed it herself.

Raffle

June Murray-Lum—Pink Cascade yarn bag
Jill Cameron—*Runway Knits* book
Lisa H—Unicorn fibre wash & rinse

Guest Speaker

Robin Hunter's inspiring talk, "The Barbie Factor," left everyone in a feel-good mood at the conclusion of the May meeting. Heads were nodding in agreement all around the auditorium as she tackled a multi-faced problem faced by many knitters—*why don't we knit for ourselves?* She touched on many topics including fashion, body image, media and how it all relates back to our knitting.

There are a number of reasons we may not like the things we knit. Patterns sometimes just don't turn out the way we envision, or fit the way we expect. Making something that's such a huge investment in time, effort and materials only to have a disappointing outcome is an experience many knitters are reluctant to repeat.

Many also believe fashion to be frivolous, and not worth spending time on. Robin proved that clothing really does matter, whether we like it or not. It's the first thing people notice about us. How many of us have said to ourselves, "I really don't like her outfit—I guess I'll just focus on her inner beauty"? Clothing is the way we present ourselves to the world. What are you saying with yours? If you don't show that you value yourself, will others?

One problem is that so many women have an internal checklist of the things they dislike about their bodies. The truth is, looking good and having a perfect body are not the same thing. Others don't actually judge us based on physical flaws—this is something we primarily do to ourselves. If we see ourselves as being so far removed from the ideal, what is our ideal, and where did it come from, anyway?

Robin touched on this issue by noting that so many of us grew up using Barbie as our mental template of what a "grownup" looks like, yet Barbie's body couldn't be further from reality—were she real, her back would be too weak to support her upper body, and her torso too small to contain her internal organs. In fact, most of the women we regard as the pinnacle of beauty in our culture do not look like anyone we've ever seen in our lives.

How can we combat this? Robin had some excellent ideas for building up your image arsenal. The more time you spend thinking about how you dress and the less time you

spend thinking about what's wrong with your body, the better! There will always be someone taller, thinner, prettier. Don't compare yourself to friends, co-workers, kids, models. Concentrate on *you*, and learn what works and what doesn't.

Robin believes dressing well is a life skill, and everyone can learn or improve. Very few clothes truly fit off the rack, so in both clothing and knitting, adapting and altering is key. Learn what you like and don't like (think necklines, hemlines, sleeve length, colour), watch for sales, and gradually build a strong wardrobe. Pick an image goal—to appear artsy, interesting, businesslike. Think of yourself as a room on one of those home decorating shows—find a focal point, play up your best features, add accessories, try to say something about yourself, and above all, don't focus on the things you have no control over. Keep in mind that if something doesn't fit right, it's the clothing, not *you*, that is wrong.

So what about knitting? Robin had many pointers for selecting patterns and avoiding pitfalls. It's hard to say where to lay the blame when something doesn't fit well, but the best thing you can do is to identify the parts of a garment that "never fit right" and learn all you can about how to modify those parts. A great resource is Ravelry.com—there you can see multiple takes on the same pattern, and get feedback from actual knitters.

Always check schematics for measurements and compare them to your own. Also be sure to compare the measurements to the photo—does it make sense? Is there evidence the garment has been pinned, tucked, stretched, rolled up? Is the pose odd? Where does the hem hit? Where do you *like* it to hit? Think in practical terms and ask yourself if it's the garment or the mood of the photo that you like. It may fit the model, but will it fit you? Apply what you have learned about what style elements work for you, and seek out patterns that have those features.

Read books, take classes, do what you can to keep negativity in line, and go knit something that looks fabulous on *you!*

You can find Robin's blog at <http://knittingrobin.blogspot.com> and her knitwear designs at www.patternfish.com

FROLIC 2010 by Joan Kass

What a day! The weather was perfect... dull, grey, drizzly and windy. Over 1,500 knitters, spinners and crocheters spent it indoors at our 13th Annual Knitters Frolic. They came from as far away as England and the North West Territories, Quebec, Manitoba, northern United States and Ontario.

The 66 vendors in the marketplace were spread over two floors of the Japanese Cultural Centre. Once again, Indigo Moon came from Canada's west coast and Ilga Leja from our east coast. There were many new companies from Ontario, Quebec, New York State and even England. The selection was amazing from gorgeous hand-

died yarn, bags to books and spinning supplies. The ball winding station was run off their feet with requests. The marketplace was humming. The classrooms were busy for both days. All in all, a perfect weekend!

A very special thank you to the many volunteers who helped make our Frolic 2010 such an amazing success! From the Admissions to the Workshops registration, the wool winding to the raffle, everyone was terrific. Special kudos to Kathleen Cook (Hospitality Suite), Susan Preston (Store Promotion), and my co-chair Wendy Mauzeroll for a job well done.



RELAY FOR LIFE 2010 by Joan Kass

I doubt that there is one of us who has not been touched by cancer.

This year the Downtown Knit Collective Relay Team site will be decorated with the many colours of cancer. We will be knitting scarves in the many colours of the Rainbow.

Did you know that different types of cancer are represented by different colours? Think teal for ovarian and cervical cancers, grey for brain cancer, orange for leukemia and kidney cancer, yellow for sarcoma and bladder cancer, burgundy for multiple myeloma, and so on. A full list of the colours for cancer can be found at www.rainbowofhopecanada.ca

Our team will be knitting a rainbow of scarves all night on June 11th at our lantern lit site at Forest Hill Memorial Park. At the end of the Relay, all of the scarves will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society to give a hug to those undergoing treatment for cancer as part of our Knitting for a Cure programme.

We need your help. Please support the DKC at the Relay for Life with a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Knitting Styles

Part IX— Norwegian Purl

Norwegian purl is a method of executing a purl stitch without having to move the yarn from the back of the work to the front. It is based on continental knitting, with the yarn controlled by the left hand. Continental knitters may find this style of purling particularly useful when doing ribbing, since it eliminates moving the yarn.

That said, it is (to me) more awkward than normal continental purl, and far slower than my own personal continental style, as covered in the February newsletter. If you find it useful for ribbing, you may want to continue your normal purl for wrong side rows in stockinette.

Be careful of your tension! Many people find this method makes their purl stitches a little looser than usual and need to give a gentle tug to the yarn to tighten up the stitches.

Step 1 - Move the right hand needle behind the working yarn.

Step 2 - Insert the right hand needle as usual to purl.

Step 3 - Swing the tip of the right hand needle to the right and then behind the tip of the left hand needle.

Step 4 - Wrap the working yarn around the tip of the RH needle, as in the following photo

Step 5 - Swing the tip of the RH needle back in front of the LH needle, then back out through the stitch on the LH needle, completing the purl stitch.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life
June 11-12, 2010, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at Forest Hill Memorial Park in Toronto. Drop by and knit with us! Or even better, sponsor us: <http://tinyurl.com/dkcrelay>

Worldwide Knit in Public Day
June 12, 2010 at Junction Square (2954 Dundas St.W). Join the Guinness Book of World Records attempt for 'Most People Knitting'! Participants can also donate what they knit to Streetknit when it's all over.

Fiona Ellis Workshop
Fiona Ellis will be teaching a five-day workshop entitled 'Knitters' Sampler' from July 19-23, 2010 at the Haliburton School of the Arts. The course code is ARTS1071.

Stitches East Bus Trip
Great Canadian Bus Lines has added a trip to Stitches East in Hartford, Connecticut to their roster of trips. This is a great opportunity to go to a very large knitting show. It's a 5-day trip running from October 28 – November 1, 2010. The trip includes: Travel to Hartford, CT; 4 nights in a hotel with buffet breakfast; 4 days admission to the Stitches East Show plus a shopping excursion to NY one evening; travel home for \$629 double occupancy. Register through Great Canadian Holidays, tour #4477.

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