

# Karen Thiessen

## Education

- 2006 Digital Imaging courses, Mohawk College, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 2005- 2007 Collage courses, Dundas Valley School of Art, Dundas, Ontario.
- 1999 **Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree**, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Textiles major, Art History minor.
- 1996 **SOCAD Diploma (Textiles)**, Sheridan College School of Crafts and Design, Oakville, Ontario.
- 1987 **Bachelor of Arts Degree**, University of Windsor, Ontario. Psychology and Fine Art.

## Selected Exhibitions

### Upcoming:

- 2007 **Out of the Past .... Into the Future**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario.  
**Ontario Craft '07**, Ontario Crafts Council, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2008 **Shadow**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario (solo).  
**karen thiessen: small works**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario (small solo show).

### Group & Solo:

- 2007 **Naked and Unadorned**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario.
- 2006 **Fibreworks 2006**, Cambridge Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario.  
**Designer Crafts 2006**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario.
- 2005 **Common Thread**, Oakville Arts Council Fibre Exhibition, Sheridan Gallery, Oakville, Ontario.  
**OCC Award Winners 2005**, Ontario Crafts Council The Craft Gallery, Toronto, Ontario.  
**Selections from the Fibre Art Collection**, Cambridge Galleries, Design at Riverside, Cambridge, Ontario.
- 2004 **Designer Crafts 2004**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario.  
**Apron Tales: To Serve and Protect**, Studio Works @ Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, Ontario.  
**Same Time, Same Place**, York Quay Gallery, Toronto, Ontario.  
**Wide Borders**, Cambridge Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario.
- 2003 **Wide Borders**, Burlington Art Centre, Burlington, Ontario (3 person show, catalogue).  
**Wide Borders**, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, Owen Sound, Ontario.  
**The Grand National: Reflections of Canada**, Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery (catalogue).  
**Counter Point: An Exhibition of Contemporary Quiltmaking**, Cambridge Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario.
- 2002- Present **Textile Museum of Canada Shadow Box Exhibition and Silent Auction**, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2002 **Fibreworks 2002**, Cambridge Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario.  
**Visions & Other Phenomena**, Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
**Designer Crafts 2002**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario.  
**Common Thread**, Oakville Arts Council Fibre Exhibition, Sheridan Gallery, Oakville, Ontario.  
**(dis)comfort level**, Mennonite Heritage Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- 2001 **Red**, Textile Museum of Canada, Toronto, Ontario (4 person show).  
**Games Needles Play**, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, Museum London, London, Ontario. (catalogue).  
**The New Spirit of Ontario**, VAO, Offices of the Lieutenant Governor, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario.  
**Rich the Treasure**, YHZ Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia. (3 person show).  
**Watermark**, Nova Scotia Designer Crafts Council show, Mary E. Black Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
**Women Artists of the Nova Scotia Art Bank**, Government House, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 2000 **Fibreworks 2000**, Cambridge Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario.  
**Layered Intentions**, Daltech Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
**Now & Then, Then & Now**, Mennonite Heritage Centre Gallery, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- 1999 **70X7: Quilts from the Journey Series**, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia (solo).  
**By the Skin of Our Teeth**, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 1998 **Canadian Contemporary Quilts**, Rodman Hall Arts Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario. Travelled. (catalogue).  
**Responses**, *Call and Response*, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
**More Than Fourteen**, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 1996 **More Than Work More Than Play**, Waterloo North Mennonite Church, Waterloo, Ontario.
- 1995 **Screenings**, Wagner Rosenbaum Gallery, Arts on King, Toronto, Ontario.  
**Objectives '95**, Sheridan College Gallery, Oakville, Ontario (catalogue).
- 1994 **Designer Crafts 1994**, Carnegie Gallery, Dundas, Ontario.
- 1992 **Midwest '92 Regional Show**, Wellington County Museum, Fergus, Ontario.

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### Grants & Awards

- 2007 **Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Assistance Grant**  
2005 **Common Thread Best Contemporary Award**, Oakville, Ontario  
**Mary Diamond Butts Award in Embroidery**, Ontario Crafts Council, Toronto, Ontario  
2003 **Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Assistance Grant**  
2002 **Ontario Arts Council Exhibition Assistance Grant**  
**Ontario Arts Council Craft Artists Grant**  
**Hamilton and Region Arts Council Materials Award**, Hamilton, Ontario  
**Lillian Elliott Award**, Nominee, International Textile Award  
2001 **Watermark 2001 Jurors' Choice Award**, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2000 **Fibreworks 2000 Jurors' Award**, Cambridge, Ontario  
1995 **Sheridan College Textile Studio Supply Award**, Oakville, Ontario  
**Oakville Mayor's Awards**, Stage II Finalist, Oakville, Ontario  
1994 **Designer Crafts Honourable Mention**, Dundas, Ontario

### Selected Professional Experience

- 2007 **Textile Teacher**, *The Art of Wellness*, St. Joseph Immigrant Women's Centre, Hamilton, Ontario.  
**Teacher**, *Altering the Terrain workshop*, Burlington Fibre Arts Group, Burlington, Ontario.  
**Juror**, *Kaleidoscope 2007*, Burlington Art Centre, Burlington, Ontario.  
**Guest Speaker**, *Mapping the Terrain* talk, Burlington Fibre Arts Group, Burlington, Ontario.  
2006 **Guest Speaker and Teacher**, *Altering the Terrain workshop*, London Embroiderer's Guild, London, Ontario.  
2004 **Visiting Artist**, McMaster University School of the Arts 2005/2006 Visiting Artist Series, Hamilton, Ontario.  
**Guest Speaker**, Toronto Mennonite Heritage Group, Toronto Ontario.  
2004 **Teacher**, *Re-imagine/Renew/Reinvent!* workshop, Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, Owen Sound, Ontario.  
**Juror**, Ontario Hooking Craft Guild Rug Hooking 2004 Annual, Oakville, Ontario.  
2003 **Juror**, *Kaleidoscope 2003*, Burlington Art Centre, Burlington, Ontario.  
2002- 2004 **Artist-in-Residence**, Harbourfront Centre Textile Studio, Toronto, Ontario.  
1997 **Quilting Teacher** to a private student, Singapore.

### Selected Publicity

- 2007 **Dundas and Area Studio Guide 2007-2008.**  
2005 Hollick, Laura. Radio interview. "*The Artist's Lifestyle.*" CFMU 93.9 FM. Tuesday September 21, 2004.  
Hollick, Laura. "Communist Quilts." *Echo Weekly*, Thursday, July 15, 2004.  
2003 Dault, Julia. "Rebellion Seeps Between the Stitches." *National Post*, Thursday November 27, 2003, p.AL8.  
Beatty, Dawn White. "A Curator's Perspective: Wide Borders." *Ontario Craft*, Summer 2003, p. 17.  
Landry, Wendy. "Looking at Textiles." *Arts Atlantic*, Spring 2003, No. 74, p.21-26.  
Hujer, Elaine. "Borders exhibit explores inclusion and exclusion." *Hamilton Spectator*, Friday March 28, 2003, p. N3.  
Jordan, Betty Ann. "Galleries Galore." *Where Toronto*, February 2003, p. 12-13.  
2002 Coakley, Mark. "Designer Crafts 2002." *Arts Beat*, December 2002, Ver. 15.4, p. 1.  
Gustafson, Paula. "Red: An Exhibition of Textile Works by Lyn Carter, Vessna Perunovich, Karen Thiessen, Laura Vickerson." *Artichoke*, Special Edition No. 2, 2002, p. 33.  
Hickey, Trisha. "Visual Sizzle." *National Post*, October 27, 2001.  
Cranston, Marla. "Watermark: Defining a Moment in Time ..." *Visual Arts News*, Autumn 2001, p. 12-13.  
Philip R. "Watermark." *Nova Scotia Craft News*, Summer 2001, Vol. 23, No. 2. p. 12-13.  
Barnard, Elissa. "Sex, Blood & Magic." *The Halifax Herald*, Sunday May 6, 2001.  
Smulders, Marilyn. "Just a Bit Different." *The Daily News*, Thursday, May 3, 2001. Doucette,  
2000 Jordan, Betty Ann and Thiessen, Karen. "Fibreworks: Jordan & Thiessen." *Surfacing Journal*, Fall 2000, Vol. 21, Issue 3, p. 7.  
St. Germain, Pat. "Now and Then, Then and Now Quilt Exhibit." *Winnipeg Sun*, Friday January 7, 2000, p. 27.  
Pratt, Diane. "Plugged In." *Winnipeg Free Press*, Thursday January 6, 2000, p. D6.  
1999 Sutherland, Tammy. "Quilt Exhibit Explores Forgiveness", *Canadian Mennonite*, December 20, 1999 (Vol. 3, No.25), p.9.

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### Published Writings

- 2003 Thiessen, Karen. "Mennonites, Mulberries & Silkworms." Revised Edition. *Surfacing Journal*, Summer 2003, Vol. 24, Issue 2, p. 6-10.
- 2002 Thiessen, Karen. *Historian*. "Mennonites, Mulberries & Silkworms." March 2002, Vol. 13, No. 1, p. 1-5.
- 1998 Thiessen, Karen. "A Year in Singapore." *Surfacing Journal*, Summer 1998, Vol. 20, No. 2, p. 10-12.

### Professional Affiliations

- 2006-Present Carnegie Gallery
- 2001-Present Arts Hamilton
- 2000-Present Textile Museum of Canada
- 1993-Present Surface Design Association
- 1990-Present Ontario Crafts Council

### Selected Collections

Clive Taylor, London, England  
Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Nova Scotia Art Bank  
Cambridge Library and Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario  
Margo Metcalfe, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Doug and Jane Porter, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Ron Fitzgerald, Toronto, Ontario  
Max Allen, Toronto, Ontario

### Selected Volunteer Positions

- 2006-present **Board Chair**, Student Open Circles at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 2004-2006 **Reference Group Member**, Student Open Circles at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.
- 2002-present **Volunteer & Shadow Box Contributor**, Textile Museum of Canada Shadow Box Auction, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2000-2001 **Founding Member**, Fibre Arts Collective, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 2000-2001 **Fundraising Event Organizer**, *Anna's Bash for Queen Victoria*, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- (2001) Chair of Art work Committee. With a committee of five volunteers, solicited 200 pieces of fine art and craft from NSCAD faculty, alumni, students, and friends; curated show (raised \$14,000)
  - (2000) with a team of six people, envisioned, planned, and launched the first annual *Anna's Bash*, a silent and live auction of fine art and craft to raise funds for NSCAD programs and equipment (raised \$6,600)
- 1999 **Exhibition Organizer**, *By the Skin of Our Teeth*, Anna Leonowens Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 1996 **Arts Event Organizer and Curator**, *More Than Work, More Than Play: An arts event for all sorts of Anabaptist women*, Waterloo, Ontario. Sponsored by Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Ontario.
- 1995 **Retreat Organizer & Collage Workshop Facilitator**, *Exploring Our Spiritual Journeys: An MCC Ontario retreat for Mennonite and Brethren in Christ women*.

### Workshops Attended

- 2006 **Master Class** with Deirdre Nelson, Harbourfront, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2004 **Master Class** with Suzie Brandt, Harbourfront, Toronto, Ontario.
- 2003 **Material Explorations** with Kai Chan, Harbourfront, Toronto, Ontario.  
**Master Class** with Martha Posner, Harbourfront, Toronto, Ontario.
- 1998 **Stitching Women's Lives: Sujini & Kantha Embroidery Workshop** with Dorothy Caldwell, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- 1995 **Adobe Photoshop** with Jennifer Morris, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.  
**Monoprints** with Jason Pollen, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.  
**Machine Embroidery** with Marie Aiken, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.
- 1994 **Feltmaking** with Jennifer Angus, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.  
**Photo Transfer & Surface Embellishment** with Jennifer Angus, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.  
**Papermaking** with Susan Warner Keene, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.
- 1993 **Katazome** with Takura Kamata, Sheridan College, Oakville, Ontario.