

COMMUNITY **ARTS** PARTNERSHIP

FROM: Robin Schwartz, Program Director
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www.artspartner.org (This program is www.ArtTrail.com)

Two Notes to Media:

1. Please make sure to put **ArtTrail.com** any articles or features. Visitors need the brochure (sent or downloaded) in order to learn where the artists' studios are located. *Thank you!*
2. **Images** are available of artists and their work in a zip file on the "Who We Are" page of ArtTrail.com

For Immediate Release

*Area Artists Roll Out the Welcome Mat
Each has a story to tell.*

**35 Artists' Studios Open to the Public during the Community Arts Partnership's
Greater Ithaca Art Trail**

The Who What When...

WHAT: Greater Ithaca Art Trail, a program of the Community Arts Partnership

WHEN: Open Studio Weekends on October 8-9 and October 15-16, 11am to 5pm each day
(and on the First Saturdays of every month & by appointment anytime.)

WHERE: Artists exhibit their work in 35 studios across Ithaca and the towns
and villages of Tompkins County.

COST: No admission fee

WEBSITE: www.ArtTrail.com

MAP: Visitors need the brochure/map to find studio locations.
A downloadable brochure/map, artist biographies, artist portfolios and a great
3 minute film can be found online at www.ArtTrail.com.
Hard Copy of the brochure map available at
Visitor Center and tourist locations throughout Tompkins County, or by contacting
Robin at the Community Arts Partnership at programs@artspartner.org, 607-273-5072,
ext. 20 to be mailed a brochure.

LOOK: For the green Art Trail road signs!

What is the Art Trail?

(September 18, 2016 ITHACA, NY)—The 2016-2017 season of the Community Arts Partnership's Greater Ithaca Art Trail has begun! The trail's two October Open Studio weekends on October 8-9 AND October 15-16, from 11am to 5pm each day, give art enthusiasts the opportunity to take a self-guided tour of artist studios that are open simultaneously throughout Tompkins County.

There are 39 studios on the Trail, of which 35 will be open on the October Open Studio Weekends. Visitors also have opportunities to visit a selection of Art Trail artists on the First Saturday of each month (except for October when the Open Studios are held). All 42 artists are also available by appointment anytime.

Now in its 18th season, and with over 5,000 studio visits each year, the Art Trail continues to grow and gain visitor anticipation. Robin Schwartz, Program Director of the Community Arts Partnership, coordinates the Art Trail. *"This is truly an amazing event because Tompkins County not only has a wealth of amazing artists, it's also a beautiful area to visit,"* says Schwartz, *"especially in October when the fall foliage is at its peak. Visitors tell me that they are continually impressed by being able to visit such a quality group of artists and to see art where it happens."* Visitors to the Art Trail come from a large geographic region, from as far north as Toronto and south into New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Each year, more and more people from a larger geographic region are drawn to the trail by the diverse nature of the art they will see.

What Will Visitors See?

Explorers on the trail will find artists working in all media: painters, photographers, sculptors, printmakers, fiber artists, ceramists, makers of fine furniture, collage artists, glass artists, mixed media artists, digital artists, creators of decorative functional art and even a blacksmith! Some studios are in downtown Ithaca and some are along rural roads with hayfields as neighbors. Some are cozy living rooms and some spaces are as interesting as the work itself. From scraps of paper and shards of glass to an unfinished canvas or the smell of wet clay, an artist's studio contains countless clues as to what lies beneath an artist's work.

Visitors get to see an artist's work space, their materials, their work, and they can engage the artists in a conversation about their creative process—things you can't experience in more formal gallery settings. The artists hope that visitors gain a new appreciation of the art-making process, and the artists themselves grow through the personal exchange with an audience.

Some visitors just come to browse, taking advantage of seeing art where it is created. Others come with a quest to bring home fine art. Shoppers will find art priced from \$10 to \$2,500 and everything in between. According to Schwartz, *"Artists on the trail offer a broad collection of original work at a wide variety of prices."*

Since this is a self-guided adventure, each visitor makes his or her own plan. Some visitors pick an area on the map and visit all the artists within that area. Some study the website or brochure and pick artists of specific disciplines. Others just go with the flow and follow the suggestions of other trail visitors. Having two Open Studio weekends give visitors more time to explore. One recent visitor said *"I had so much fun ... and the artists were so terrific, I grabbed some friends and went the next weekend as well!"*

The Art Trail has been an asset to local artists and businesses, bringing new customers to the artists, engaging new or aspiring artists, bringing in tourists and boosting visitors to local wineries, stores and restaurants.

Many Artists Demonstrate Their Techniques

On the home page of ArtTrail.com, you'd find a link to a pdf that lists which artists can demonstrate their work while you visit their studio!

Visitors Need the Map

Visitors begin by getting the Art Trail brochure/map, either by downloading it from ArtTrail.com, by picking it up at various tourist locations or by having it mailed to them. The brochure/map contains an image of each artist's work, a brief description, contact information and a map. ArtTrail.com, in addition to the downloadable map, has a full page of information and images for each artist, plus a 3 minute film. To be mailed a brochure ahead of time, call Robin at the Community Arts Partnership at 607-273-5072, ext. 20 or e-mail programs@artspartner.org.

First Saturdays of Every Month, and By Appointment Year Round

The Greater Ithaca Art Trail also has two other ways to enjoy artist studios throughout the year. On the **First Saturday of every month**, select studios on the Greater Ithaca Art Trail are open. (except October and January). A list of artists who are open on each First Saturday are at the ArtTrail.com website about 10 days prior. In addition, all studios are open **year-round by appointment**.

Annual Show at the State of the Art Gallery

During the month of October, the State of the Art Gallery, located at 120 E. State/Martin Luther King Jr. Street (www.soag.org) will be showing a selection of work of art trail artists, a great way for visitors to get an idea of what studios to visit.

Selected Artists Information –Each artist has a story to tell, such as...

Pamela Drix has returned to the Art Trail this year with a new studio in the South Hill Business Park across from Ithaca College, a great example of a renovated industrial building now housing over 50 different businesses and studios.

“Dock 6 is a loading dock turned into my studio, -- a unique setting for viewing my original fine art prints, artist books, and drawings about places real or imagined. As co-founder of the Ink Shop Printmaking Center in downtown Ithaca, and current professor of printmaking and drawing at Ithaca College, I create prints and drawings, as well as artist books and installations. My new studio allows me to work on a number of different projects simultaneously, and gives me access to the Clay School ceramic studio down the hall!

Jesse Lepak, PhD is new to the Art Trail this year. “I use heat to create art (pyrography) focusing on fish and wildlife woodburnings. On Art Trail weekends, Jesse will demonstrate his wood burning techniques in his new workshop barn in Ellis Hollow.”

“I have always appreciated nature, and pursued my passion by earning MS and PhD degrees at Cornell University in the Department of Natural Resources and starting a career as a fisheries scientist. My wife was concerned that if I wasn't researching fish in nature, I was at home doing research in front of the

computer. The phrase, “You need a hobby that isn’t work” was met by her purchasing a woodburning kit for me in 2009. I quickly began to enjoy the relaxing and creative outlet of pyrography. Perhaps it didn’t turn out to be the distraction from my fascination with ecology that my wife intended, but it has made me think about the environment from a completely different perspective, and one that I enjoy more than I could have imagined. “

Hilary Gifford has been on the Art Trail for many of years, and she also takes advantage of the Art Trail’s “First Saturday” openings. At Hilary’s large second floor studio on Main Street in Trumansburg, you’ll see large quilts, and hundreds of functional scarves, some hand painted organza, some “thread-lace”, all extremely colorful.

“Art Trail Saturdays and October weekends are: a great time to share my stories, show my work, studio, techniques, successes and failures, my love of this life.”

Graham Ottoson’s studio, called Gourdlandia, is in EcoVillage. Visiting Graham will show you how lamps, vases, drums, piñatas, nightlights and more can be coaxed from gourds.

“Come enjoy the viney trellises, heavy with potential art, and see for yourself how truly "gourd-geous" Ithaca is. If you'd like to try your hand at gourdcrafting, let me know!”

About the Community Arts Partnership

For over 25 years, the Community Arts Partnership has been connecting artists and audiences by managing and promoting the Greater Ithaca Art Trail, the Ithaca Artist Market, the Spring Writes Literary Festival, and the CAP ArtSpace Gallery. “CAP” also administers grant programs and workshops for local art programs and artists, all designed to promote Tompkins County as a great place to live and visit!

For more information on the Community Arts Partnership and its programs and services, visit www.artspartner.org or call Program Director, Robin Schwartz at (607) 273-5072.