

Announcing Open Studios: How Art Is Made

Sponsored by the Grants Pass Museum of Art

We are thrilled to announce that we are starting an annual event called “Open Studios” here in our Grants Pass area.

Deadline to apply: April 16, 2016

Event: September 24 & 25, 2016. 10am - 4pm both days

Grants Pass had a studio tour for a few years. This event is similar, but different. We plan to hold this every year, and we want artists to participate every year! You will be able to develop a local, loyal following and have an opportunity to connect to your local audience, make sales, and make friends! If you are an emerging artist it is a way to get a jump start in interacting with your community. If you are an established artist it is a way to further your interaction and bring in new people who like art.

This is not an art fair, festival or exhibition. This is a chance to invite the public into your studio and to show them your creative process and tell them why you do what you do!

The Nitty-Gritty

We are developing this event to benefit the participating artists and our community, not as a museum fundraiser. The museum has graciously agreed to help sponsor the event and we aim to create some funds to cover the costs and perhaps build up some funds for next year’s event. (Funds are needed for such purposes as the Artist Guide and publicity.) We are keeping the costs to the artist as low as possible. If you look at other cities open studios participation fees you will see that ours are very low. The Open Studios committee is donating their time this year to get this event created!

An Open Studios event is popular because it is a chance for the general public to see behind the scenes of an artist’s work and process. This is not an event for retail spaces, galleries, etc. If you have a business with regular open-to-the-public hours, that is awesome, but this is not your event. We want artists in their spaces. Now we do understand that some artist studio spaces may not be suitable for the general public (for example, not-so enthusiastic roommates, a driveway that guarantees that everyone falls off a cliff, your studio is so remote that no one can reach it without 4-wheel drive, a map and a sherpa). If you need to be hosted then feel free to apply, explain your situation and if you are accepted we will work with you to match you up with another participating artist.

Artist criteria

If you want to participate (and we hope you do!) you need to apply. On your application you must demonstrate two things:

- 1) cohesive body of work,
- 2) fine art and/or fine craft of professional quality.

You must also be at least 18 years old and have your studio in the area of the event (Josephine County, Rogue River and Gold Hill).

1) Cohesive Body of Work

We need to understand what the public will see. We will be producing a guide that showcases the artwork and from one image we should be able to understand what your work looks like in general. What we want is the ability to tell it is the same artist from two different pieces. Can someone see a photo of your work and understand what type of work they will see when they arrive at your studio?

2) Fine Art and/or Fine Craft of Professional Quality

Is it art or is it craft? It can be either, or both! We want your skills to be developed to a professional level. This doesn't mean that you have to be a professional artist.

What We Will Do for You

- 1) Organize this event
- 2) Publicity - newspapers, social media, and presence in local businesses to reach a broader audience
- 3) Have free, optional workshops for you to attend in order to know what to expect and make the most of this opportunity. We are here to help you be successful!
- 4) Produce and sell an artist guide that will be how the public finds the studios they want to visit.

What You Will Do for Open Studios

1. You must agree to and follow all parts of the "Artist Agreement"
2. You must apply and pay your fee and be accepted to participate.

Overall

The purpose of Open Studios is to showcase, promote and market the visual arts in our area and educate the public about art and the art-making process. We want to build community and the love of art.

This is the first year of the event. We will all learn as we go. We want to make this an annual event so that our participating artists can build a following and introduce their art to more people. And, so that people can look forward to visiting their favorite artists year after year and seeing their work develop over time.