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PRESS RELEASE

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The first of two Florida Arts Tours next weekend, December 3-4

New this year, the sixth annual *Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour* will be held on two separate



weekends—December 3-4, 2016, during the holiday season, and February 25-26, 2017. The split was necessary due to the growth of the popular event to include stops in Seminole County. The first weekend in December will feature the locations in Lake and Seminole Counties, and the weekend in February, the Volusia County studios.

The annual self-guided tour invites visitors to go behind the scenes to explore dozens of professional artists' workspaces throughout North Central Florida, where their private environments play a significant part in the creative process.

Spokesperson Patrick Shannon explains, "It was a lot to do in one weekend. Now that the tour is growing, people need more time to go from studio to studio, taking the time to enjoy the demonstrations, ask questions and really engage the artists. It's also a fantastic time for kids."

Artists' studios as well as several cultural institutions such as museums will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, and from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. Tourists are encouraged to acquire a copy of the *Studio Arts Guide* and follow the included maps. The 36-page guide is available for free at supporting organizations and a PDF file can be downloaded at <u>FloridaArtsTour.com</u>.

The *Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour* is unique because selected participants are professional artists, whose artworks are featured in public parks, government buildings, hospitals, banks, and resorts. Visitors can go behind-the-scenes to discover the processes of genres ranging from ceramics to large-scale paintings and metal sculptures. Most works of art are also available for sale.

For more information, please email: **Patrick Shannon** ~ <u>Patrick@A7.net</u> or

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High-res images and media files available for download at: FloridaArtsTour.com/Media