

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 27, 2017

Professional artists in Lake County open their studios to the public this weekend



Artists in Lake County, Florida, open their private working studios to visitors for the annual, *Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour* this Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, 2017. The studios will be open to tour—free of charge—Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, from 12 pm to 5 pm. The Lake County tour includes studios in the towns of Sorrento, Eustis, Weirsdale, Umatilla, Leesburg,



Location #5, Umatilla. The studio will feature work by Doug Hays and Brenda Heim as well as blacksmithing demonstrations by Darin Hillman.

and Mount Dora. Several cultural institutions along the Tour route will also be open during Tour hours.

Every year, art patrons, collectors and curators, as well as families and children, are welcomed into the

private studios to meet the artists in their natural work environments, watch demonstrations, enjoy light refresh-ments in some cases, and shop



"Sister Moon" by Lois Crisp Stover. Location #2, Eustis.

illustration, and ceramics.

for unique holiday gifts. The varied types of offerings include paintings, sculptures, textiles, jewelry, woodworks, photography, printmaking,

Patron of the arts and tour advisor, Ken Naigus, explains, "I have been a regular attendee of art festivals and gallery openings for several decades. And while I continue to



Free, 48-page Studio Guide

enjoy these events, none of them have the intimacy and offer the opportunities provided by this Studio Tour. Visiting an artist studio is so rewarding in that you can talk directly to the artist in a casual, low-pressure environment and find a wide variety of artworks in many price ranges."

Visitors enjoy a self-guided tour with easy-to-follow maps that are in the free, 48-page, printed *Studio Guide* which also features listings of each location with artist information. The *Studio Guide* containing the maps can also be downloaded from the website at <u>FloridaArtsTour.com</u> as well as picked up at any of the participating studios.



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The *Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour* is also enjoyed by the Tour participants. Artist and cofounder, Kace Montgomery, says, "As a participating artist now for 7 years, I find it both challenging

and exciting to create and show new artwork for patrons both familiar and those just met!"

Sculptor and co-founder, Doug Hays, adds, "The Tour demystifies what professional artists do so people can understand the process...and it provides a comfortable environment to discuss custom projects and commissions."

Additional information is available online at FloridaArtsTour.com



Landscape oil painting by artist Elisabeth Ferber (Location #23 Mount Dora)

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For media representatives:

High-resolution images available for download at: A7.net/ArtsTourMedia.

For interviews or more information, please email:

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