

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2nd Annual Maui Open Studios Event Will Feature Over 100 Artists and Artisans at Over 80 Venues Island-wide in February.

The Annual Maui Open Studios Event is the first of its kind in the state of Hawaii. It follows a model that has been very successful on the mainland for decades, where artists and artisans open up their studios and exhibition spaces to show and sell their work to the public as well as "talk story", connect, and inspire visitors. Many artists also give live demonstrations of their process and techniques. The entire event is free to the public. The inaugural event in 2011 was a huge success with 111 participating artists and over 6,000 individual studio visits by art collectors and art enthusiasts. The **2nd Annual Maui Open Studios Event** is scheduled for all four weekends of February 2012 and will feature over 100 artists, many of which are joining us for the first time. The 2012 artist roster includes painters, furniture designers, glass artists, ceramicists, stone carvers, photographers, feather artists, wood carvers, sculptors, print makers, jewelry designers, watercolorists and much more, all inspired by the creative energy of Maui.

Visitors are invited to meet many of the participating artists at the Opening Celebration/Preview Exhibition, where they can enjoy a cash bar, no-host pupus, listen to live music, preview one or two pieces of the artists' work, and pick up a copy of the MOS Guidebook containing an artist directory and maps directing them to different studios and exhibition spaces around the island. Guidebooks will also be available throughout the duration of the event at various retail pickup locations around the island, including Gallery Oceanica on Front Street, all four Maui Hands locations, and the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. Visitors then design their own self-guided tours, either by referring to their printed Guidebook or through our online artist directory and online digital Guidebook on our website, based on the artists and work that most interests them.

The event is produced and organized by acclaimed fine art photo collage artist and former art gallery owner on Maui and Oahu, Carolyn Quan. She is now based in the San Francisco Bay Area after living in Hawaii for 9 years, while continually remaining connected to the islands and the Hawaiian art community.

"When I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area from Hawaii and began to do research into art shows and ways of exposing my own artwork to the public, I learned about the myriad of open studio events that take place in California and other art-loving states on the mainland. I realized that it was time for Hawaii to have such an event. It is a concept that has been around for almost 40 years on the mainland and it is a wonderful way for artists and artisans to connect with art buyers, collectors and art and craft enthusiasts. It's a chance for the art community to come together and show the world what we've got here on Maui and what we're all about!" says Quan.

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The dates for the 2012 Maui Open Studios Event are as follows:

Opening Celebration/Preview Exhibition

Saturday, February 4 from 6pm - 9pm

Live music, no-host pupus and cash bar

Maui Tropical Plantation in Waikapu (www.MauiTropicalPlantation.com)

The Open Studio self-guided tours begin the following weekend.

Weekend 1: West, Central and South Maui

Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12 from 11am - 6pm.

Weekend 2: North and Upcountry Maui

Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19 from 11am - 6pm.

Weekend 3: The Road to Hana, Hana and East Maui

Weekend 3 Artist Reception at Travaasa (Formerly Hotel Hana Maui)

Friday, February 24 from 5pm – 7pm • Live music, no-host pupus and cash bar

Artist Open Studios: Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26 from 11am - 6pm.

The event spans over all four weekends in February to allow the public time to enjoy as many studios as possible, and to give more tourists an opportunity to catch at least one weekend event during their visit to Maui. The Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center in Makawao is a major sponsor of the event and will host demonstrations in their print making, jewelry and ceramic studios on Weekend 2, as well as host a number of independent artists' open studios on their beautiful garden estate property.

Visitors will enjoy a wide range of fine art and fine craft selections as they customize their studio tours and decide which artists' work will become part of their collections.

"Maui is a major art collectors travel destination. People come from far and wide to purchase art on Maui and add to their collections. I have no doubt that this event will continue to significantly enhance the vibrant and stimulating arts community on Maui. There is so much diverse talent on the island. And since this is an annual event it will attract more art lovers and art collectors to the island year after year, and perhaps even be the focus of visitors' trips to the island whether inter-island, domestic or international. This event allows artists to connect with their art buyers more personally, giving locals and tourists alike a unique experience and opportunity to learn about the artists' techniques and about the artists themselves, as well as purchase art directly from them. The Maui Open Studios event is also a way of helping artists gain vital exposure to the public year after year in a fun, exciting and creative way," says Quan.

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For more information about the event please visit the website at www.MauiOpenStudios.com

High resolution images are available upon request