

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Carolyn Quan

Tel: (415) 450-1307

Email: gallery@carolynquan.com

Website: www.MauiOpenStudios.com



The First Annual Maui Open Studios Event Features Over 100 Artists and Artisans - Inaugural Event, February 2011.

In February 2011, a brand new annual event will be launched on Maui. It is the first of its kind in the state of Hawaii. This event, the **Maui Open Studios**, is scheduled for the first three weekends of February 2011, and will be held for the first three weekends in February every year thereafter. 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. The entire event is free to the public.

Visitors are invited to join the artists at the Opening Celebration/Preview Exhibition, where they can enjoy a cash bar, listen to live music, preview one or two pieces of the artists' work, and pick up a copy of the 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 our official Art Gallery Sponsor's location - Gallery Oceanica, 780 Front St., in Lahaina. 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 art community there.

"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 and what we're all about!" says Quan.

The Maui Open Studios Event will consist of the Opening Celebration/Preview Exhibition on Friday, February 4, from 6pm - 10pm at the Maui Tropical Plantation in Waikapu. The Open Studio self-guided tours begin on Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6, for West and South Maui; the following weekend, February 12 and 13, for North, Central, and Upcountry Maui; and then the third weekend, February 19 and 20, for Hana and East Maui. The hours for the Open Studios are 10am - 6pm each day of each weekend. The event spans over three weekends to allow the public time to enjoy as many studios as possible, and gives tourists an opportunity to catch at least one weekend event during their visit to Maui. Our official 2011 Art Gallery Sponsor, Gallery Oceanica, will also be hosting an exhibition of a number of Maui Open Studio artists, for the duration of the event at their Front St. location. The Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center in Makawao will also be participating in the event and will be hosting demonstrations in their printmaking, jewelry and ceramics studios on Weekend 2, as well as hosting several other artists' open studios.

There are over 100 artists and artisans registered for the inaugural event who work in a variety of mediums including glass, silk painting, digital art, basket weaving, photography, jewelry design, bronze sculpture, mixed media, ceramics, Plein Air, stone carving, printmaking, and much more. Visitors will enjoy a wide range of art and craft selections as they customize their studio tours. **The public can learn about the participating artists and artisans by visiting the website at www.MauiOpenStudios.com.**

"I have no doubt that this event will significantly add to the already 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 will allow 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 to 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.

#

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

THE FIRST ANNUAL **MAUI OPEN STUDIOS** EVENT 2011



A SELF-GUIDED TOUR:
VISIT THE STUDIOS AND EXHIBITION SPACES OF ARTISTS AND ARTISANS ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI, HAWAII
THE FIRST THREE WEEKENDS IN FEBRUARY EVERY YEAR



- Michael Neal, woodwork • Carolyn Quan, photo collage
- Carmen Gardner, watercolor • Worcester Glassworks
- Christine Turnbull, sculpture

More high-resolution photos are available by contacting
Carolyn Quan at gallery@CarolynQuan.com or (415) 450-1307.

