

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Carolyn Quan

Tel: (510) 506-0564

Email: gallery@carolynquan.com

Website: www.MauiOpenStudios.com

Brand New Annual Art Event Will Draw Tourists and Locals to Artist Studios All Over the Island of Maui Year After Year

In February 2011, a brand new event will be launched on Maui. It is the first of its kind in the state of Hawaii. The 2011 Maui Open Studios Event is scheduled for the first two weekends of February, 2011. It follows a model that has been very successful on the mainland for decades in which 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 their visitors. Visitors are given a guidebook with maps directing them to different studios and exhibition spaces around the island. Visitors design their own self-guided tours based on the work they are interested in and the artists they would like to meet. The event is produced and organized by fine art photo collage artist and former art gallery owner on Maui and Oahu, Carolyn Quan, who is now based in the San Francisco Bay Area after living in Hawaii for 9 years.

"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. I realized that it was time for Hawaii to have such an event. It is a concept that has been around for over 30 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 they've got and what they are all about!" says Quan.

The Maui Open Studios Event will consist of an Opening Celebration and Preview Exhibition on Friday, February 4, in the evening (location TBD) where the public can preview artwork from a number of the participating artists, meet and mingle with them, pick up full-color guidebooks and enjoy live entertainment and pupus. The Open Studio self-guided tours begin on Saturday and Sunday, February 5 and 6, in West and South Maui and then the following weekend, February 12 and 13, in North and East Maui. The event spans over two weekends to allow the public more time to enjoy more studios and gives tourists an opportunity to catch at least one weekend during their visit to Maui.

Artists and artisans who work in any medium in the visual arts are welcome, including but not limited to, fashion designers, film makers, painters, photographers, tattoo artists, wood carvers, jewelry designers, graphic designers, textile designers, ceramic artists, illustrators, sculptors, body painters, digital artists, metal artists, print makers and more. We want as many visual artists working in a diverse range of mediums to participate in the event. The public will have a wide range of selections to choose from as they customize their studio tours. Artist registration starts at only \$29 for the first 10 artists who sign up and then increases in increments thereafter. Artists and artisans can register online at www.MauiOpenStudios.com.

Maui Open Studios is also looking for businesses, organizations, philanthropists and other individuals who are interested in supporting the arts on Maui to sponsor the inaugural event. Sponsorships start at only \$250. Details about sponsorship are also available at www.MauiOpenStudios.com.

"What's important at this time is to get as many artists and artisans as possible to sign up and register for the event and to find sponsors interested in supporting the event and the arts on Maui. I know this event will significantly add so much to the already vibrant and stimulating arts community on Maui. With so much diverse talent on the island, it is also a public display of what Maui has to offer to the world. And since this is an annual event it will attract more art lovers to the island year after year. This event will allow the artists to connect with their art buyers more personally, giving locals and tourists alike a unique 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.

Further details about specific locations, times and sponsors will be announced in our next press release and as the event develops.

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