



Open Studio Tour Asks Visitors to Pick Favorites

October 27, 2012

by Pat Rogers

DISPATCH - OCT 27, 2012 (4:47 p.m.)

AMAGANSETT, NY

A unique open studio event for the Hamptons is letting viewers do the talking. ILLE ARTS is sponsoring its first Open Studio Event taking place tomorrow (Sunday). The event is free. There are 19 studios to choose from located from Amagansett to Water Mill, NY. Three artists with the most votes will exhibit in a three-person show at the gallery in late December. Participants need to visit at least five studios in order to vote.

"It should be a nice day," said Sara De Luca, owner of ILLE ARTS in Amagansett, NY. "There are nice studios with nice work out. The artists are excited about this. It should be a great experience for people visiting the studios."

Artists opening their studios are Sydney Albertini, Perry Burns, Philippe Cheng, Don Christensen, Kate Davis, Sabra Moon Elliot, Eunice Golden, Barbara Groot, Kurt Gumaer, John Haubrich, Rick Liss, Vincent Longo, Nicole Parcher, Joyce Parcher, Mark Perry, Bastienne Schmidt, Christine Sciulli, Shelley Sonenberg and Rosario Varela.



"Self 3" by Sydney Albertini.



"Lattice Yellow Points" by Vincent Longo. Acrylic on panel, 24 x 20 inches.
Courtesy ILLE ARTS.

The official kick off for the Open Studios Tour takes place tomorrow morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the gallery. All of the participating artists are expected to attend the casual meet and greet over coffee and bagels. At 11 a.m., the studios officially open. They remain open until 4 p.m.

Maps with studio locations will be available at the gallery and at each of the artist studios. It's possible to jump into the Open Studio Tour without attending the gallery meeting, said De Luca. Visitors can get started at any of spot on the self-guided tour.



“Satellite-Dubai” by Perry Burns. Courtesy ILLE ARTS.



Collages by Nicole Parcher.

In order to vote, visitors must register at sign-in books located at every studio they visit. Sign-in sheets will then be cross-referenced with attendance records, explained De Luca. This is to ensure attendance in the studio tour and to avoid votes cast by those already familiar with artists participating in the event.

“Part of the point of the studio tour is to stimulate interest in the full-time artists who are working in the area,” she said. “We want to make this a fun event and have people discover artists they might not know.”



“On the Pond” by Barbara Groot, 2012. Acrylic and pastel on canvas, 40 x 48 inches.



Artwork by Joyce Parker. Courtesy ILLE ARTS.

Artists selected for the tour are a mix of styles and career stages, said De Luca. The list formed organically with some artists being referred by others forming a loose daisy chain linking a Hamptons art community.

Some artists on the tour have exhibited at ILLE ARTS. The gallery opened its doors in March 2012. They include Sydney Albertini, John Haubrich, Kurt Gumaer and Don Christensen. Participating artists with work currently on view at the gallery are artist-couples Vincent Longo and Kate Davis plus Philippe Cheng and Bastienne Schmidt.

Other artists were referred by artist Mary Heilmann, who curated shows at ILLE ARTS and Fireplace Project over the summer (2012).

Overall, tour goers can expect to see a mix of painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, printmaking, installation and construction presented in a variety of art genres.



“Topos” by Bastienne Schmidt.

De Luca is hoping for a strong turnout, despite the threat of the impending Frankenstorm, for the first Open Studios Tour.

"I hope a lot of people take advantage of this opportunity to relax over coffee and bagels and enjoying visiting artist studios and seeing beautiful work," she said. "I'm hoping to enlarge the circle of love."



Photograph by Philippe Cheng.

BASIC FACTS: ILLE ARTS First Open Studios Tour takes place on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A kick off breakfast with the artists takes place from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at ILLE ARTS, 216 Main St, Amaganasett, NY. To RSVP, email sara@illearts.com or call 631-905-9894. RSVP is requested by not required. Attending the Open Studios Tour is free.

ILLE ARTS: www.illearts.com

NOTE: The featured artwork image, displayed on the Home Page, is "In Process the animal" by Sydney Albertini.

Want to know what's happening in the Hamptons art community? How about the North Fork or NYC? Visit HamptonsArtHub.com to find out.

There's plenty of art news, art fair coverage and artists with a Hamptons / North Fork connection.

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