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Maui's Newest Annual Art Event Will Feature Over 100 Artists and Artisans in February 2012.

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.

Visitors are invited to join the 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. 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 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

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

The Open Studio self-guided tours begin the following weekend. Hours for the Weekend Open Studios are 11am - 6pm.

Weekend 1: West, Central and South Maui

Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12

Weekend 2: North and Upcountry Maui

Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19

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

Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26

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. Other satellite events of the main event include an exhibition of a number of Maui Open Studio artists in Lahaina, and a concert and kick-off reception in Hana for Weekend 3. The Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center in Makawao is a major sponsor of the event and will host demonstrations in their printmaking, jewelry and ceramic studios on Weekend 2, as well as host several independent artists' open studios on their beautiful garden estate property.

There will be over 100 artists and artisans registered for the 2012 MOS 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 and decide which artist 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 our website at www.MauiOpenStudios.com
High-resolution images are also available upon request.