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SEOS 3rd-19th June 2011

● SEOS 2011

What is SEOS?

Each year, for two weeks in June, artists who live and work in Kent and East Sussex extend an open invitation to visitors to come in and watch them work, buy art and generally talk about the curious and sometimes mysterious processes of making art. This year's SEOS takes place 3-19 June.

The event aims to bring all aspects of visual art and crafts to a wider audience by providing an opportunity to meet the artists at work, while at the same time providing an informal network for artists, many of whom work in rural areas.

Free printed guide

A free full-colour guide is printed each year, and this serves as a year-round brochure as many artists open their doors again in the autumn, or welcome visitors by appointment after the open studio fortnight. Guides are available at libraries, tourist information centres and galleries.

Artists in your area

Visit our website to see all participating artists. Search by name, category or area. See examples of work, open studio dates and directions.

Friends of SEOS

SEOS also has a friend scheme for those who wish to become a part of their local arts community and receive information about SEOS activities throughout the year.

● SEOS HISTORY

Open studio events have been mushrooming at home and abroad in recent years. Amongst the oldest and largest is SEOS (South East Open Studios), which encompasses the whole of Kent and the East Sussex borders.

SEOS began back in 1996, when professional painters Bryan Senior and Georgia Hayes laid the groundwork with Arts Development Officers Beverley Whittrick of Tunbridge Wells and Allison Wright at Sevenoaks. After much hard networking and forging of links 46 artists working in the two areas were brought together for the 1997 West Kent Open Studios.

Following on the success of this first event, neighbouring borough councils and KCC added their support. A volunteer committee was elected, and it was renamed South East Open Studios. Entries for 1998 jumped to 130, and year on year numbers have continued to rise. This year, there are over 300 entries.

In those fledgling years, the overwhelming majority of artists taking part were painters. They are now joined by a variety of artists working in other disciplines such as jewellery, ceramics, textiles, photography, sculpture and stained glass.

Many artists participate regularly and new artists join each year, but there are still members today from the original 46 pioneers who first opened their doors back in 1997.

● CALL FOR ARTISTS

June 2012 might seem a long way off, but now is the time that South East Open Studios invites visual artists working in all artistic media to join them next year in opening their studios and inviting the public to step inside.

South East Open Studios is an annual artist-led event running for two weeks in June, and is open to all artists and makers working in Kent and East Sussex. Each year, the number of participating artists increases, last year totalling more than 300. A full colour printed guide and website advertises the artists' details for a whole year.

Membership details and online application are available from the website, www.seos-art.org. Deadline for applications is 31st January 2012.

SEOS is a not-for-profit organisation.

Further information, logos and photographs are available from Publicity Office Emma Dove:

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