

ARTWORK BY SARAH YOUSEMAN



**SOUTH EAST OPEN STUDIOS 2023
DARTFORD LAUNCH EVENT:
30 MAY, 5-7PM**

PRESS RELEASE



WWW.SEOS-ART.ORG



'ROCKS OFF' AS SOUTH EAST OPEN STUDIOS 2023 LAUNCHES AT JAGGER CENTRE, DARTFORD

This year's South East Open Studios is being launched on **Tuesday 30 May between **5 and 7pm** at **The Mick Jagger Centre in Dartford**, including a **LIVE art competition with local artists and makers.****

Participants will exhibit their work and demonstrate their skills and process, with members of the Rochester and Chatham Dickens Fellowship, including Miss Havisham and Mr Micawber as their models.

The live competition, judged in front of an invited audience, will be a celebration of local creative talent, providing a look behind the scenes and a true insight into what it takes to create a great piece of art.

Our judges, including Philip Johnson, Chair of SEOS and Sarah Dance, South East Local Enterprise Partnership Deputy Chair, will be on the lookout for something that is unique and awe-inspiring - with a fresh take on capturing the character and essence of the model. Artists will be able to learn from each other whilst working from life using a variety of media under a time constraint, leaving no room for research and resulting in a natural, raw response from participants.



When asked what the judging panel will be looking for, Philip Johnson, Chair of SEOS told us: "Of course, one of the wonderful things about art is that we can all make up our own minds about what we love, we like and we're ambivalent to. Sometimes it's just the way in which an artist's work connects with us that makes the difference, and that's as much about us as it is about the art!"

In general terms though, as well as looking out for any connection, I'll be looking at the way the artists have used their observational skills to capture the subject, how they have communicated the subject through their technique and use of colour and texture and how I feel as a result of their amazing efforts."

South East Open Studios (SEOS) promotes artists and makers across Kent and East Sussex. It is one of the most established annual arts events in the UK. Over 17 days the event showcases creative talent and strengthens the visual arts sector across the whole region.

With some 282 individuals taking part, this year's SEOS will run from Friday 2 June to Sunday 18 June. From painters to sculptors and ceramicists to weavers, artists and makers working across all media will be joining together to promote the visual arts locally. All the participants will be opening their studios to members of the public, engaging with visitors and their communities, showing their work and offering it for sale.

Look out for a full colour Guide showcasing each artist and maker by area with maps and information, up to 30,000 copies are produced and distributed and available free of charge through local cafes, libraries, pubs, shops and other targeted outlets across the south east. Details of all artists and studios will also be available on the SEOS website at www.seos-art.org



LOOK OUT FOR OUR 2023 GUIDE,
AVAILABLE MAY

Sarah Youseman, Area Coordinator for North Kent, added, "It is a real privilege to mark the launch of SEOS 2023 here in Dartford with such a wonderful live competition. All the SEOS artists and makers are looking forward to welcoming visitors to their studios. This is an exciting time for the arts in the south east and we are delighted to be working with such a talented selection of creatives and to introduce them and their work to visitors and the wider community."

Those wishing to attend the event can RSVP at info@seos-art.org to secure their place in the audience. There are limited spaces available so we advise people to sign up quickly to avoid the chance of missing out on the exclusive event.

FOR FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HI-RES IMAGES OF PARTICIPATING ARTISTS AND THEIR WORK, PLEASE CONTACT BETH ARNOLD AT:

MARKETING@SEOS-ART.COM

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

South East Open Studios is a non-profit organisation hosting a 17-day event each summer celebrating the arts across the South East. The event is led by 200 participating artists and makers across a range of art and mixed media, open to members of the public to visit the artists in their studios and workshops.

The SEOS team are passionate about their creative community, providing a professional and proactive approach to supporting the visual arts along the journey ensuring that everyone is promoted and that the community remains inclusive and about collaboration.

Look out for our guide distributed to targeted outlets across Kent & East Sussex that showcases each Artist & Maker by area with maps and information, making it straightforward to plan visits. Pick up one of the 30,000 copies from local businesses and organisations including cafes, pubs, shops and supermarkets. Please look at the [SEOS website](#) and [Instagram](#) to see the community and their work.

FOR ANY FURTHER PRESS ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT BETH ARNOLD AT:

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