

Artists to show their finest on last weekend in June

The last weekend in June is a big one for art and music lovers in Sisters. Start with the Sisters Folk Festival sponsored Josh Ritter concert on Thursday evening, June 27, at Sisters High School. On Friday, June 28, join the Sisters Arts Association, which sponsors Fourth Friday Art Stroll from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy beautiful art, music, demonstrations, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. Then on Saturday and Sunday, enjoy the third annual, free to the public, Artist Studio Tour.

Now in its third year, the Artist Studio Tour has grown from a one-day event to two days, and from just a handful of artists to 23 juried studios. This is a self-guided tour of studios at artists' homes in and around Sisters. All of the artists are members of the Sisters Arts Association. "Expanding the event to two days was designed to relax the pace for artists as well as visitors. The extra day gives everyone more time to get to know one another and will encourage personal

relationships between patrons and artists," according to Dennis Schmidling, vice-chair of SAA.

Four of the artists are located in the area between Sisters and Redmond, near and in Eagle Crest. All are relatively new to the area, and all are excited to join with fellow artists in this open studio event.

They are Terri Dill-Simpson, who paints watercolors; glass artist Mel Archer; Sandy Dutko, a painter in oil, acrylic, and mixed media; and Mary Moore, who builds, fires, and paints dramatic characters and figures from clay. *The Nugget* asked each of them what they think would entice art lovers to travel to their studios.

Terri Dill-Simpson promised that the drive is worth every moment en route.

"It's a beautiful drive," she said. "I live in a nice log cabin on the Deschutes River, so the view is great."

After several years of successful sales of her work

in the Portland area, she's enthusiastic about bringing her style to central Oregon.

"I will be demonstrating my painting, which is mostly wildlife and birds – Audubon type creatures," she said. "I not only have original paintings, but also prints, greeting cards, and calendars available."

Terri's studio is at 6110 NW Yucca Ave., just a few miles west of Redmond.

Up the hill a short distance from Terri's cabin is the studio of glass artist Mel Archer. Mel built his art-filled home on the Deschutes river over several years' time, coming from the Hillsboro area nearly every weekend. He lived in the studio until the home was finished, and then converted it to a full-on workshop where he will eventually offer classes to those who wish to explore his unique equipment and techniques.

Mel formulates thousands of individual colors of glass "frit" from the standard available colors, and uses them to

paint impressionistic landscapes that are fused together, layer upon layer, in glass. In Sisters, Mel is represented at Sisters Gallery and Frame Shop. He recently joined the Sisters Arts Association as a board member and joined the new Dry Canyon Arts Association in Redmond as a regular member. Mel's studio is at 7910 NW Grubstake Way, off Highway 126, a few miles west of Redmond.

In Eagle Crest, art lovers can get to know two artists, Sandy Dutko and Mary Moore.

Mary will be showing how she finishes her clay figures. "I use a mix of different things, including charcoal and pastels, to enhance the pieces and change the colors until I like them." She will show several works in progress, including a large, coiled figure. She will also

have a couple of pieces being finished using different media. Mary shows her work at Sisters Gallery and Frame Shop. Mary's studio is at 7000 Thunderbird Court in Eagle Crest, off Cline Falls Highway.

Not far from Mary is the studio of experimental and abstract artist Sandy Dutko. "I do interesting things with my art," she says. "I'm not a traditional oil painter, or a traditional acrylic painter. I do things that are semi-abstract." Sandy is a veteran artist who has done the Portland open studio tour for many years before relocating to Central Oregon. "I will have lots of samples, and show visitors how I do these different things," she said. Her methods include a unique oil, cold wax and

See **STUDIO TOUR** on page 20

Summer's here and the time is right...



PHOTO BY JEREMY STORTON

Sisters firefighters provided summer fun for the last day of school at Sisters Christian Academy.



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3rd Annual Artist Studio Tour



Celebrate the Arts All Weekend, June 28 – 30

After our 4th Friday Artwalk on June 28, take a free to the public self-guided tour of 23 artist studios on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet 25 artists up close and personal, explore their studios, learn about their work and find art you can't live without. You can also enter our QuickDraw to win one of three \$100 gift certificates, good at any of our participating artists studios and galleries. Enter once at each studio and increase your chances to win.

SISTERS ARTS ASSOCIATION

Studio Tour guides are available at Sisters galleries, hotels, and at sistersartsassociation.org