



Penny Kavan begins the outline of a silk scarf in her Portland studio, which opens to the public during the annual Open Studios self-guided tours this month. Kavan paints faces with a range of cultural and historical time periods.

See Art Being Made During annual Open Studios tours

When local artists open their studios to the public this month you can look out for every little detail in an artists' studio for clues on the germination of ideas and their transformation into artworks.

Of course you can see the finished artwork hanging on a wall, adorning a person or standing on a sculpture stand. But it is the artist at work that lets you see behind the scenes of the creative process.

During Portland Open Studios, an annual self-directed tour of 98 artists workplaces on Oct. 13 and 14 east of the Willamette River and Oct. 20 and 21 on the Westside, you can see it all. Artists will have brush, chisel or torch in hand right before your eyes.

It is not surprising that Penny Kavan's work has an international focus; the artist was born in the Republic of Ireland and grew up in Northern Ireland.

The world is everywhere in Kavan's studio, most notably the scarves she paints with faces from a wide range of cultures and historical time periods. She fills the scarves with patterns from costume, jewelry and body decoration from

around the globe.

Painted with fluid lines the faces become even more animated when the scarves are worn. Wedding Ceremonies, Vanishing Africa, Peoples of the World, and Living Tribes are just a few of the titles filling Kavan's bookcases and waiting to inspire her for her next series of scarves and paintings.

Many of the artists are related to each other by the mediums they use or by the kinds of ideas that they visually express but Penny and Cibyl Kavan are relatives. Cibyl Kavan, born in Paris and raised in the Isle of Wight and Malta, is Penny's stepdaughter. Although they don't share genetic code -- Penny and Cibyl's father have been divorced for many years -- the two women have remained very close and share a passion for art. They regularly draw together, are both part of the same women's art group and exhibit together. At Cibyl's studio you will see large energetic bold abstract paintings full of texture and emotion. Don't miss Cibyl's garden, not a direct source of inspiration, but a place to contemplate the next artwork.



To visit these artists' studios and the other 96 on the tour, you need the 2007 Portland Open Studios Tour Guide -- which includes two tickets for all days (children are welcome and free), a 2008 calendar, a map to the studios, and contact information for all participating artists. The guide is available at Art Media stores, New Seasons Markets, Weir's Cyclery, and other local retail outlets listed on portlandopenstudios.com, and costs only \$15.

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