

The Hidden Studios Art Tour; Art along the Ice Age Trail A Short History

It is true that the drive to the Hidden Studios is in itself a visual experience. Consider the warm colored hillsides on a sunny day with the cool air of early October. Add the twisting back-roads echoing the seismic push and pull of the glacial Ice Age Era. The landscape is rolling, wooded, patched-worked with fields, dotted with lakes and wetlands, streams and rivers. Many of the tour artists live here, back off the road, out of sight.

Tour artists have long been showcasing their work in high-profile venues throughout the country. And although these artists are represented in major galleries, participate in numerous fine art fairs, are recognized by their peers for their signature work and have received awards, many were unknown by community members living around them. In 2004, a loosely formed group of area artists opened their studios to the public for a three-day weekend in early October and thus the Hidden Studios Art Tour was started. The geographic locations of artists' studios formed a pleasantly drivable circle on the map, spanning the Chain of Lakes and Emmons Creek in the South to Sunset Lake in the North.

This October 4,5 & 6, 2019, we feel the Tour is coming of "age" as we mark the 16th year. Over the life of the tour, the Tour has evolved with artists and studios retiring or moving away, but we have maintained a strong focus on our mission statement. More importantly, we continue to showcase a unique group of dedicated artists and an ever changing group of accomplished guest artists in each studio.

- ***We are committed to providing a public art event of high quality and artistic diversity.*** We have been up to the task of being the "best on the block" in the art tour world.
- ***We are committed to providing "working studios" to show where and how art is made.*** Each Studio is unique due to the art media and processes being used, in painting, sculpture, glass, ceramics, fiber and jewelry, etc. The stuff of creation is in itself amazing. Then there are demonstrations, explanations of process, and the opportunity for a personal one-on-one dialogue with the artist and the work where every and all questions are welcomed.
- ***We are seeking to define the Ice Age Trail Area of Central Wisconsin as an art destination.*** As the Tour has grown, people are coming ca. 1,000 strong. The art curious, art lovers, and art patrons come from down the road, up North, the Fox River Valley, Milwaukee, Madison, Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul areas.
- ***Finally, we promote the Tour as a means to sell our art so that we may live and***

prosper as artists. With your eye on a piece of work, talking with the artist about the inspiration, the tools, materials, and process make that piece much richer. This is what makes the Hidden Studios Tour so unique.

You will want to come and see for yourself. Enjoy the art destination of Central Wisconsin – a major exhibition complete with all the “trimmings.”

Date: October 4,5 & 6, 2019

Times: Friday and Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

More information:

www.hiddensstudiosarttour.com