



Cheltenham Art Festival & Open Studios 2009

Our Sixth and Largest Event to Date
Saturday 6 June – Sunday 14 June 2009

Visit website for further details: www.cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk

Free Guide available from: Cheltenham Tourist Office, Everyman Theatre and other designated locations.

AN ART FESTIVAL FOR CHELTENHAM

Every two years, the creative energy and vision of artists living in or around Cheltenham, becomes visible through an event organised solely by volunteers with a passion for the arts. Formerly known as Cheltenham Artists Open Houses, this popular inclusive event is to be given a boost in 2009 with the re-branding of the event as Cheltenham Art Festival & Open Studios. Cheltenham might be better known for its Literary and Science Festivals but its profile as a centre for visual arts is rising rapidly. The growing reputation of the University of Gloucestershire's Fine Art Department results in graduates settling in the area and producing outstanding works. Spokesperson, Sue Naydorf says "Now is time for a change so the event can be sustained and developed for the future. This has proved to be a year of transition, but it looks as if our sixth event will be its largest, with over 200 painters, sculptors, ceramicists, photographers, jewellers and textile artists taking part."

There will be individual and group exhibitions in Cheltenham and the surrounding area to include an exhibition of photography by the students of Cheltenham Bournside School and Sixth Form Centre (aged 14 - 16) as well as workshops for children and artist demonstrations at Cheltenham Art Gallery. In addition there are talks scheduled at St Luke's Church. There will even be performance art!

"This event highlights the thriving artistic community in Cheltenham and for 2009 we have made real efforts to attract artists who have not exhibited before and may not have even considered doing so," Sue Naydorf says.

"Looking at art is a rewarding experience. For the visitor, viewing art in local, informal venues is a pleasurable activity and can also show an inspiring, different way of looking at the world. Artists can get feedback on their work and also connect with their local community. This charitable event would not take place without the enthusiasm and energy of the organisers and the financial support of the sponsors."

All the participating artists are listed in the free guide which is distributed throughout Cheltenham and surrounding areas. Or for more details visit the website www.cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk to view examples of the works and to plan your visit. Check individual entries for opening times.

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