



## Studio Art Tour to showcase local artists

From September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Bradford West Gwillimbury will play host to its' first-ever Studio Tour and Art Sale.

The Tour, which will be spread across numerous locations in Bradford, will feature 20 artists exclusively from the Bradford West Gwillimbury area. According to co-organizer Stella Wadsworth, the feature artists produce a variety of pieces ranging from jewelry, art, glass blowing, wood turning, wearable textiles, and photography. All pieces are original and hand-made; there will be no works from kits, commercial moulds, factory or mass-produced articles. Additionally, all art work has been juried to ensure originality and inoffensiveness.

The Tour is a first for Bradford. In essence, the objective is to expose the artistic talents of local resident, and add a precedent-setting cultural flair to the Town that will attract a



**Above:** Sample artwork to be displayed on the Tour. 'Coral Vessels' courtesy of Natali.

new crowd of tourists. "It is a local event, to support local efforts and to bring people into Town", says Wadsworth. "It will be of benefit to the artists and visitors, and also to local businesses en route to the studios."

For the past three years Wadsworth, along with co-organizer Maureen Joyce and two other partners, has run 'Art in the Barn'. Located in a quiet country setting in Wadsworth's barn, the partners would set out their art work for display and purchase.

"Art in the Barn' has been very successful," says

"When I worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, I would sketch small portraits of the babies," she recalls. "I'd tape the sketches to their Isolette [incubator], and leave them as sort of a gift to the parents."

This passion for art of all form coupled with the growing popularity of 'Art in the Barn' prompted the two ladies to develop the Tour in hopes to foster and draw attention to the seemingly hidden arts culture of Bradford and area.

"There are events like the 'One of a Kind' show in major cities, and several art tours in the communities surrounding Bradford West Gwillimbury, but nothing in our own backyard", notes Joyce. "There is really nothing like this in Town to offer".

The Studio Art tour mimics a treasure hunt, except with easy navigation and guaranteed treasure at journey's end. Visitors will be given a brochure with a map of the Town which will indicate the locations of all the artists. The artists will be on-

*"There is really nothing like this in Town to offer"*  
-Maureen Joyce, Organizer

## Studio Art Tour ... cont'd

site at their studio (in-home or away), or set up in one of the various buildings generously donated by the Town. The brochure will also provide a brief synopsis of the artist and his or her works, giving the visitor autonomy in deciding which studios they wish to explore, and where to start first. Upon entering the various sites, visitors will be able to see the anatomy of the art studio- how they work, what's involved, and the art that is produced as a result. Samples of art work will also be available for sale on location.

Held in late September, visitors will no doubt be greeted by spectacular autumn vistas as they navigate their way through the Tour. Adds Wadsworth, "The experience, views, and entertainment will make the Tour a great day trip."

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The Studio Tour and Art sale is being supported by the South Simcoe Arts Council, whose mission is to develop and support the arts community of South Simcoe.

This year alone, the Arts Council is supporting several local events such as the 2009 Festival of the Arts, Summer Arts Camp, Tailgate Market, and Desserts in the Park.

Admission is free, and the information brochures will be distributed across town by late June. For additional information, please contact the South Simcoe Arts Council. Call (905) 435-2378 or visit [www.southsimcoeartscouncil.com](http://www.southsimcoeartscouncil.com).



**Above:** Flower Brooch by Monikque  
**Below:** Ceramic plate by Grace

