

## Herts Open Studios 2013 Press Release

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### **Curious? About art in North Herts...**

September heralds that season in Hertfordshire again – the time for Herts Open Studios 2013. Between 7-29 September artists open their doors to show you their work – and you can meet artists and craftspeople across the county. Some artists work from home and invite you in through front or back doors; others have studios which may range from a shed at the bottom of the garden to a gallery on a high street or in a business park. Aren't you just a tiny bit curious?

Maybe some people choose not to take up the invitation because they don't understand the idea of art - or what artists are trying to do. Yet art and craft are easy for everyone to enjoy – because most of all they are about curiosity. What if I mix this with this? What if I dab this colour here? What does that look like now? What will someone feel when they see this finished work?

Well, there are plenty of finished works to look at in the North Herts area alone - with 14 artists showing here this year. You'll find them in Pirton, Hitchin, Letchworth Garden City, Baldock, Steeple Morden and Royston. They're exhibiting: glass, mosaics, jewellery, painting, drawing, illustration, weaving, willow, sculpture and printmaking.

On your tour look out for... Marko Humphrey-Lahti at the Burloes Farm Studios in Royston, showing hand-carved stone and limited edition cast sculptures for home and garden Anna Pye in Steeple Morden shows original prints and home-printed textiles inspired by landscapes, wildlife and everyday life. Also on view are handmade books, cards and notebooks. Christine Watson displays illustrations, drawings and paintings that range from natural studies to trademark characters created for children. You can find fine art stationery there too. Maggie Barton, exhibiting with the Stoneyards Studio Group in Pirton, shows vibrant, quirky hanging and freestanding items in glass. Alongside her you'll also find Belinda Norrington's contemporary jewellery, hand made using precious metals and gemstones - inspired by the local landscape and the beautiful minutiae of natural forms. Aren't you just a teensy weensy bit curious?

If you are – curious I mean - look through the free glossy brochure that tells you the opening times and locations of every artist taking part across Hertfordshire. As Mel Hilbrow, Chairman of Herts Visual Arts, says in the brochure's Welcome, 'Open Studios is completely free to visit – we want as many people as possible to see our artists' work and to appreciate the great range of talent we have in Hertfordshire.' So why not share your enthusiasm – and shed-loads of curiosity - by going to visit?

*To find out more about Herts Open Studios 2013: free brochures are available from libraries, tourist information centres, galleries and other local art outlets - also online at [hvaf.org.uk](http://hvaf.org.uk).*