

# Spring Art Tour returns to Mount Horeb in June

The Spring Art Tour 2009, a Mount Horeb Area Open Studios Event, will be held on Friday, June 12, Saturday, June 13, and Sunday, June 14, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm daily.

The tour of studio and gallery locations is free and the family-friendly event features 25 artists in the Mount Horeb area. All locations are within 15 miles of downtown Mount Horeb, including the communities of Mount Horeb, Verona, Mazomanie, Black Earth, Blue Mounds and townships in between.

Last year's event occurred during the weekend of the 500-year floods and more than 500 people braved the storms and high water to visit with the artists and see what was new.

There are two preview events leading up to the Open Studios Event.

The first is a showing at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, Gallery III from Monday, March 30, to Sunday, June 7, including a reception on Friday, May 8, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

A second showing at 300 East Main Street will be hosted by the Mount Horeb Welcome Center and the Mount Horeb Area Arts Association from Friday, May 15, to Wednesday, June 10, including a reception on Thursday, May 14, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Bruce Taylor, Edna M. Kunkel, Audrey Handler, Chris Miles and Peg Ginsberg are among the artists taking part in this year's event.

## **Bruce Taylor (Mount Horeb)**

Bruce Taylor has been a professional artist for 35 years and many in Mount Horeb are already familiar with the Bruce Taylor Gallery on Main Street. He enjoys working in a variety of media in his constant search for growth and discovery, attempting to convey his wonder at the beauty that surrounds him.

He has participated in more than 1200 art fairs, and has received more than 500 awards at those fairs. He is currently working in 2D mixed media, scratchboard etchings and carved, painted and burned gourds.

## **Edna M. Kunkel (Verona)**

The images that Edna M. Kunkel sees in her daily life remind her of a hidden radiance captured by fauvists, impressionists and master painters. The infinite possibilities for portraying the world that exist within nature inspire her to unleash new ways of capturing it.

Her artwork represents a unique form of mixed media that fuses

classical, traditional techniques with 21st century options. Her freshest pieces expose the vivacity of existence by transforming natural and photographic references with soft pastels, which she chooses to turn into tactile works with mixed media glazes.

Her photographic images, digitally-layered variations of the same photographic image, reveal a richness of color as found in traditional painting with layered glazes. After printing the final digital compositions with pigmented inks onto papers, cotton, canvas and silk, she adds surface treatments with acrylics, paints, micas and fibers to build texture and character. She completes the composition with artistic matting and framing.

## **Audrey Handler (Verona)**

Audrey Handler creates bowls of glass fruit and vegetables and single pieces of glass fruit, vegetables and gourds that mimic life. Her most recent work, large glass plate forms, are highly decorative and use a spider web pattern to create an air of mystery. She also makes transparent and opaque vases with silver and gold decoration and vases with winter, spring and fall motifs.

Her large mixed media sculptures are small worlds or landscape portraits, with life-sized objects and tiny silver

people so the glass pieces seem like monuments in a park. They create a surrealistic time and place.

She collaborates on wood and glass sculptures with her husband, John Martner. Tiny chairs and love seats, fabricated of precious woods, are mated with Handler's life-sized glass pears, apples, cherries and petite glass wedding gifts.

## **Chris Miles (Mount Horeb)**

Chris Miles is an artist with a graphic design background who, several years ago, broke into the world of fine art. Her pastel paintings are an invitation to pause and celebrate ordinary moments – a basket of apples, a summer afternoon or bright tulips. An exploration of color and light, these welcoming scenes are an antidote for stress.

Pastel is her favorite medium – direct, spontaneous and perfect for working from life. There's no mixing or drying time. The rich, vibrant colors inspire her every time she opens the box of pigmented sticks. As a commercial artist, she learned drawing, design and discipline. When she returned to fine art, pastel painting opened her eyes to the everyday beauty around her.

## **Peg Ginsberg (Mount Horeb)**

Peg Ginsberg always knew she

would be an artist when she grew up. She always loved to draw and chose art as her major in college, but she didn't discover the magic of watercolor until she took an evening class when her family was young. It took her another 20 years to begin painting seriously. Now she paints every day and shares her love of the world and its beauty with others through her watercolors.

Ginsberg paints with watercolor because she is fascinated by the way pigment and water react with each other. She loves to see her subject come alive on the paper. She hopes her paintings convey vibrancy of joy, color and light to the viewer. Ginsberg has a gallery on Main Street in Mount Horeb and also offers classes in watercolor painting at all levels.

Organized by volunteers, the Mount Horeb Area Arts Association (MHAAA) is a nonprofit organization. This year, the group is supported by grants from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Pleasant Rowland Foundation and the Overture Center for the Arts as well as contributions from participating artists and area business sponsors.

For a 2009 tour map and more information on the artists and the tour, visit [www.springarttour.com](http://www.springarttour.com) or contact tour coordinator Tamlyn Akins at [tamlyn@chorus.net](mailto:tamlyn@chorus.net).

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