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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2020

### **Artist Studio Tours expanded, and with new interactive maps for phones**



Artists in Central Florida, open their private working studios to visitors for the annual *Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour* for two more upcoming weekends, now in four different regions. The East Volusia and West Volusia tours in February drew hundreds of visitors from all over Central Florida, and there are still two more tours upcoming in the next several weeks:

Orange County March 14-15

Lake County April 4-5

The Off the Beaten Path tours now boast a new website application allowing studio visitors to browse lists of artists and follow easy interactive maps on their phones from tour stop to stop.

All studios will be open for all ages—free of charge—on each day of the Tour from 10 am to 5 pm.

The upcoming Orange County tour showcases Orlando-area artist locations, and The Lake County tour includes studios in Eustis, Leesburg, Mount Dora and surrounding towns. Also, a number of cultural institutions such as museums will be open to the public during the hours of the Tour.

Every year, art patrons, collectors and curators, as well as families and children, are welcomed into the studios to meet the artists in their work environments, watch demonstrations, enjoy light refreshments, and shop for unique original works of art. The varied types of offerings include paintings, sculptures, textiles, jewelry, ceramics, woodworks, photography, printmaking, and illustration.

A spokesman for the event and one of the artists, John Wilton, says, “The tours have been growing rapidly in popularity every year. This year we have added Orlando area studios to the tours. People seem to enjoy getting out, exploring, and discovering new ideas.”

Visitors enjoy a self-guided tour with easy-to-follow interactive maps that are on the website, which also features listings of each location with artist information. The new website at [ArtsTours.org](http://ArtsTours.org) is also compatible with smart phones to allow easy navigation on the road.

Additional information is available online at the event website: [ArtsTours.org](http://ArtsTours.org). To arrange interviews or for more information and high-res images, please email John Wilton — [jwilton@stetson.edu](mailto:jwilton@stetson.edu).

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