

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 19, 2009

## 2009 Thanksgiving Studio Tour October 10 to 12, 2008

### [Gabriola, BC] – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Gabriola Island Studio Tour

Dreaming of a weekend escape, a girls' road trip or a night away with your sweetheart?

Mark your calendar for the Gabriola Thanksgiving Studio Tour! Island artists will throw open their studio doors to tempt your senses with a dizzying array of art, art, art!

Start your trip with a visit to the Gabriola Arts Council's website ([www.gabriolaartscouncil.org](http://www.gabriolaartscouncil.org)) to create your very own personalized tour map, highlighting all your "must see" artists.

Once you're "on island," swing by Artworks in the Village and take in the Preview Gallery that features work from each Tour Studio.

Pick up a copy of the full tour index (just in case you can squeeze in an extra studio or two!), grab a coffee, a triple-berry organic scone and head for the road. Don't forget to check the update board outside Artworks to see which studios are featuring some of Gabriola's famed musicians, poets and authors.

Fascinated by things that shimmer? You'll definitely want to scope out the studios featuring our many award-winning jewelers. Or do canvases make you swoon? From contemporary to landscape, Gabriola has a painter for every taste.

Driftwood furniture, woodworking, photography...it's all here, waiting just for you! Everything from leather bags, hand-woven textiles and stone work are just itching to hop out of a studio and into your car!

And while these treasures will be with you for years to come, it is the memory of talking to the artists that will stay with you forever. Knowing where and how your purchases were lovingly coaxed into being will add so much value to anything you take home. It is truly a unique opportunity to hear an artist speak of their passion and drive to create. For first-time tour goers, you'll find yourself with a whole new perspective on how art is produced. For those making their annual "pilgrimage," it's a chance to see the evolution of a favourite artist and catch up with the friends you've made

during tours past.

We're positive that once you've done the tour, you'll be back next year, all charged up with a renewed gratitude and appreciation for the arts.

For more information, visit [www.gabriolaartscouncil.org](http://www.gabriolaartscouncil.org) to get a head start on narrowing down your list of fantastic studios that are open either year-round or by appointment.

Staying connected with the Gabriola art scene is easy with the weekly e-letter put out by the Gabriola Arts Council – yours when you purchase a \$10 annual Gabriola Arts Council membership!

The 2009 Gabriola Thanksgiving Studio tour runs from October 10 to 12, 2009. Studios are open from 10 to 4 daily, and some may be open later. Check online after mid-May at [www.gabriolaartscouncil.org](http://www.gabriolaartscouncil.org) for details about the Tour and a customizable map. A full-colour brochure is available on the Island that gives details about all of the studios on the Thanksgiving Tour and those that are open during the summer months. For more information, contact Liz Steele, Program Coordinator at [info@gabriolaartscouncil.org](mailto:info@gabriolaartscouncil.org) or 250-247-7409.

- 30 -

For press inquiries, Liz Steele can also be reached at 250-247-9882.