

# COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP

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[www.artspartner.org](http://www.artspartner.org) (This program is [www.ArtTrail.com](http://www.ArtTrail.com))

## **(Ithaca, NY September 22, 2017) For Immediate Release**

- Art is Open to All on the Greater Ithaca Art Trail Open Studio Weekends
- A drive through beautiful fall foliage with artist studios as your destination.
- Area Artists Roll Out the Welcome Mat - Each has a story to tell.
- 30 Artists' Studios Open to the Public during the Community Arts Partnership's Greater Ithaca Art Trail

## **Attention Media:**

1. **URL:** Please include "Visit [ArtTrail.com](http://ArtTrail.com) to learn more" in any articles or features. Visitors need the brochure/map (sent or downloaded). *Thank you!*
2. **IMAGES:** 10 images and a caption list is in a zip file on the "Visitor Info" page of [ArtTrail.com](http://ArtTrail.com)

## **The Short Version**

WHAT: Greater Ithaca Art Trail, a program of the Community Arts Partnership  
WHEN: Two Open Studio Weekends on October 7-8 and October 14-15, 11am to 5pm each day  
WHERE: 30 artist studios Tompkins County.  
COST: No admission fee  
WEBSITE: [www.ArtTrail.com](http://www.ArtTrail.com) for information and download map/brochure.  
LOOK: For the green Art Trail road signs!

## **About the Art Trail**

The 2017-2018 season of the Community Arts Partnership's Greater Ithaca Art Trail has begun!

The Open Studio weekends on October 7-8 AND October 14-15, from 11am to 5pm each day. The trail gives art enthusiasts the opportunity to take a self-guided tour of artist studios that are open simultaneously throughout Tompkins County. Two weekends give visitors more time to explore!

There are 34 studios on the Trail, of which 30 will be open.

Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> season, and with over 5,000 studio visits each year, the Art Trail continues to grow and gain visitor anticipation.

Robin Schwartz, Program Director of the Community Arts Partnership, coordinates the Trail. *“This is truly an amazing event because Tompkins County not only has a wealth of amazing artists, it’s also a beautiful area to visit, especially in October when the fall foliage is at its peak. Many of the artists are in rural locations and the drive is part of the whole experience.”*

Find the downloadable brochure/map, and a full page of information and images for each artist at [ArtTrail.com](http://ArtTrail.com)

### **What Will Visitors See?**

Explorers on the trail will find artists working in all media: painters, photographers, sculptors, printmakers, fiber artists, ceramists, makers of fine furniture, collage artists, mixed media artists, weavers, digital artists, creators of decorative functional art, a blacksmith, and a glass blower!

Some studios are in downtown Ithaca, while others are along rural roads with hayfields as neighbors. Some are in cozy living rooms and some spaces are as interesting as the work itself. From scraps of paper and shards of glass to an unfinished canvas or the smell of wet clay, an artist’s studio contains countless clues as to what lies beneath an artist’s work.

Visitors get to not only see the artists’ work, but will also see their creative space, and their materials. The artists are happy to talk about their work and creative process and hope that visitors gain a new appreciation of the art-making process.

### **Buying Art**

Purchasing art can be an exhilarating experience and connecting with the artist is part of that experience.

Some visitors just come to browse, taking advantage of seeing art where it is created. Others come with a quest to bring home fine art. Shoppers will find art priced from \$10 to \$2,500 and everything in between. According to Schwartz, *“Artists on the trail offer a broad collection of original work at a wide variety of prices.”* Naturally, the artists hope that you buy their work! Consider the trail for your holiday shopping!

### **How Do Visitors Decide Who to Visit?**

Since this is a self-guided adventure, each visitor makes his or her own plan. Some visitors pick an area on the map and visit all the artists within that area. Some study the website or brochure and pick artists of specific disciplines. Others just go with the flow and follow the suggestions of other trail visitors. One recent visitor said *“I had so much fun ... and the artists were so terrific, I grabbed some friends and went the next weekend as well!”*

### **Select Artist Profiles**

*(Press package at ArtTrail.com's Visitor Info Page includes picture of Rob blowing glass)*

**Rob Scavuzzo's New Day Glass Studio** is a fully functional glassblowing studio in rural Newfield.

Rob says "When molten glass is inflated into a bubble the possibilities are endless. I have always had the drive to create unique pieces representative of our natural environment. The technique of glassblowing has been around for thousands of years, I welcome you to come see this timeless craft from start to finish in my studio."

Rob started glassblowing in 1993 and graduated from Alfred University in 1996 with a Bachelor in Fine Arts focused on sculpture and glass. Soon after college, New Day Glass was established. After living in an urban setting in the Philadelphia area for a number of years, he decided to look for property in a rural setting! "I was drawn to the natural beauty of the Ithaca area and a community that values creativity. Having a flexible space for creativity allows me to pursue glass in many forms, ranging from hand blown glassware and decorative pieces to sculpture, lighting, and beyond."

Fiber artist **Sarah Gotowka** shares her Luna Fiber Studio location with two other artists on the Art Trail! (Hilary Gifford, also a fiber artist, and Domenica Brockman, painter.) Luna is a fully equipped weaving studio where you'll see floor looms in action, and even try weaving yourself! Sarah can tell you all about her natural dye farm and upcoming weaving classes.

"In 2004, two years into my undergraduate art degree, I took an elective introductory Fiber course where I handled raw wool for the first time. I learned how to wash, card, dye and felt these fibers to create a handmade textile. I was in love. I had no idea how this newfound relationship would completely change the course of my life. Over a decade (and many restaurant jobs) later, I am now living my dream, teaching my community how to grow, harvest, and extract color from natural dye plants and how to weave their own cloth. My goal at Luna Fiber Studio is to bring people closer to understanding where cloth comes from, and to open their eyes to the magical processes of creating textiles."

**Ivy Stevens Gupta** asks visitors to "Take a peek into the world of a contemporary artist and watch while colors come to life on canvas in my Cayuga Heights studio. Paintings in various stages of completion and size await your viewing."

Ivy took an interesting route to her artwork, after degrees in business, marketing, and liberal studies. She's been an ad manager, and a Director of Corporate Relations.

Recently, she has immersed herself in painting and teaching color theory.

"My latest work is an exploration of the psychology of art from my graduate studies. I've studied how the brain influences how we perceive images. When designing my artwork, I choose a cornucopia of colors in highly distinctive patterns. My process involves several layers of paint on canvas which is often emblazoned by metallic/iridescent overlays, glitter, glass, beads, gold leaf and mixed media, finished with a clear coat of high gloss polymer epoxy resin that offers the duality of sealing in the artwork while making the colors pop by reflecting light. The result is a luxurious composite full of energy."

**About the Community Arts Partnership**

For over 25 years, the Community Arts Partnership has been connecting artists and audiences through their events: the Greater Ithaca Art Trail, Ithaca Artist Market, Spring Writes Literary Festival, and the CAP ArtSpace Gallery. CAP also provides art grants, a professional development workshop series, and other resources for artists. “We Bring Creativity to Life”

For more information on the Community Arts Partnership and its programs and services, visit [www.artspartner.org](http://www.artspartner.org)