

# Artists in our Midst - A history

by Pnina Granirer

Artists in Our Midst was founded in 1993 by West Point Grey artists Anne Adams and Pnina Granirer. While living in Paris, Granirer had seen the event of "le génie de la Bastille", where hundreds of artists in the Bastille area opened their doors to the public. She thought that a similar event should be tried in her own community.



The two artists contacted the COURIER newspaper, which published a call to artists. The first event occurred in April 1993, with an opening night at the West Point Grey Community Centre at Aberthau. The COURIER has been a faithful supporter of Artists in our Midst ever since, by kindly publishing the much needed ads publicizing the event each year, greatly helping us to get the word out.

The participation in the Open Studios event is by geographic location only for artists who live on the West Side. The area covered is from Burrard St. in the East to Blanca St. in the West and from 1st Ave. in the North to 50th Ave. in the South.

We are interested in developing an awareness of the artistic creativity in the community where we live by introducing to their neighbours the artists living in their midst, hence our name. Of course, we also invite and welcome visitors from everywhere. We receive visitors from all of Greater Vancouver and the surrounding areas. It is a win-win situation, which enriches our visitors, while giving us the opportunity to showcase our work. The event is accessible, intimate and people friendly, providing a unique opportunity for the public to connect directly to the artists living in its midst. We are proud to state that we are the first group of artists to hold an Open Studio Event in Vancouver.

We now work closely with the art department at Lord Byng High school. Our opening night is held in the school's beautiful gallery, thus involving the students in the Art Department. We have expanded our educational component by our involvement with the art students and the Art Cafes held at the school. Last year we started an artist volunteer program with the art students from Lord Byng, with one of our artists going in a few times to work with the students or artists giving slide shows and holding discussions.

We do not apply for government grants but accept donations in kind, or welcome grants from the private sector, such as banks, the media and businesses. We charge our members a fee which covers the printing of the brochure, the website and other necessary expenses. Our members are asked to volunteer for various committees in order to make our event as successful as possible.

We aim to keep the event on a small scale in order to allow for the greatest visibility for all the artists and enough time for the visitors to see as many studios as possible. In the past we divided into 3 areas over 3 weekends in order to limit the number of studios in each neighbourhood, but this year we may make some changes in this format.

Our 17th year opens on April 23rd, 2009, at the Gallery at Lord Byng High School. This year we are sponsoring 3 Philosophers Art Cafes (February, March and April), which will take place at Lord Byng School and will be listed in the SFU brochure. The cafes have been very successful in the past drawing a large number of people. More information to follow.

And the bottom line: we give priority to career oriented artists.

For more information contact:  
Pnina Granirer at [pninag@shaw.ca](mailto:pninag@shaw.ca)

## OPEN SPACE VICTORIA

**It's tax time!**

### **Tax Workshop for the Artists**

with Bruce Maycock is free.

Saturday March 14

Join other artists for a special tax workshop lead by Bruce Maycock, Certified General Accountant of Maycock and Co. During the workshop Bruce will discuss how an artist (and Revenue Canada) determine whether an art practice is considered a business.

Location: 510 Fort Street, 2nd floor  
Victoria, British Columbia

Please register before March 13th at 5:00pm Call 250 383 8833 or e-mail [openspace@openspace.ca](mailto:openspace@openspace.ca)

If you have to use word to explain the image, you should have been a writer not an artist.  
.... Zoltan Szabo

**This is a tip** for printmakers who want to transfer an image of a photo copy to a plate.

Tape the photocopy into position as required onto your plate.



Mist the photocopy with d-Limonene so that it is reasonably dampened and then rub to get a transfer.... Running it through the press is usually the best way to get a clean sharply defined image on your plate. This is an environmentally friendly method to get a transfer.

**Art is work, selling it is art.**