

h.Art 2008, Herefordshire's open studios event, runs from Saturday 13th to Sunday 21st September. With 128 studios and exhibition venues county-wide featuring hundreds of professional and semi-professional Herefordshire artists and makers, this year's Art Week is the biggest yet.

Browse the new website at www.h-art.org.uk for extra information, images and downloads.

To coincide with the publication of the h.Art 08 Guide this week, the event also launches a brand new website. Simpler to navigate than its predecessor, the site is simple, bright and clear, making it easy for visitors to find artists, view images and download maps and information. The site will continue to grow over coming months, establishing itself as an up-to-the-minute online directory of artists working in the county.

h.Art gives visitors exclusive access to artists' studios and exhibitions showing a wide range of art and craft. The nine day event offers a chance to meet the makers in informal surroundings, learn about their techniques and inspiration and possibly buy an original artwork to take home. Many venues also offer demonstrations, refreshments and even the chance for visitors to develop their own talents.

Bright pink roadside signs guide visitors to h.Art locations in beautiful surroundings across this inspiring county, from the Cathedral lanes of Hereford to the hilltops of the Welsh border and the banks of the River Wye. The range of skills and techniques on show during the week is vast and includes all kinds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, sculpture in wood, metal, stone, plastic as well as recycled and natural materials, photography, textiles, embroidery, batik, ceramics and pottery, furniture, jewellery, stained-, fused- and dichroic glass, baskets, felt, lighting, paper and books.

The h.Art open exhibition runs from 13 September – 4 October at Hereford Museum & Art Gallery.

Selected from artists' submissions in June, this show offers a taste of the range and quality of fine art currently made in Herefordshire. This year's 21 exhibitors include last year's prizewinner, painter Doug Eaton, Rachel Ricketts' charming bronze animal sculptures, Alexandra Weaver's extraordinary photographic prints, enigmatic pastels by Silvia Pastore and textile hangings by Helen Crawford.

Full details, including pictures, maps and directions, can be found in the colourful h.Art Guide, available free from libraries and tourist information centres.

To request a copy, please telephone 01568 797842, or e-mail: arts@herefordshire.gov.uk .

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