Imagine having the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at the places where art is created, engage in dialogue with the makers, and learn about the artistic processes of individual artists, all of whom maintain working art studios in the Wood River Valley. Now in its seventh year, the Wood River Valley Studio Tour provides this singular experience, illuminating the community’s remarkable creative talent and showcasing the work of local artists by opening the doors to their studios.

“The Wood River Valley Studio Tour is a free, annual event that connects artists to the community and breaks down barriers between art creators and art collectors,” said Suzanne Hazlett, Director, President, and Co-Founder of the Wood River Valley Studio Tour. “Stepping into these studios is a very intimate experience,” she added, “and it really makes art accessible to everyone.”

All artists featured in the multiday Studio Tour are actively engaged in the creation of art and have a body of work that cohesively represents a specific visual art form, such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and photography, among others. Hazlett says the mix of participating artists changes every year, but the total number of artists involved in the event always seems to magically net out around 50.

The 2019 event begins with the Mosaic Project, an installation of original artwork (created on 8” x 8” panels) donated by each participating artist. The artwork included in the Mosaic Project will be on display August 16–18 as part of a larger Group Exhibition at the Ketchum Innovation Center (180 6th Street West), providing visitors a preview of the talents of the valley’s artistic community as well as an opportunity to purchase art. Proceeds from the sale of Mosaic Project pieces will benefit the nonprofit organization that puts on the Studio Tour.

On the first evening of the Group Exhibition, community members and visitors are encouraged to attend a casual reception with the artists at the Ketchum Innovation Center. The reception is a time for visitors, neighbors, and artists to gather, converse, and celebrate the kickoff of the 2019 event.

The actual Studio Tour will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 17 and 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This self-guided exploration spans the entire Wood River Valley and includes artist studios in Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley. Tour participants will have the chance to meet and interact with the valley’s artists in their dedicated work spaces, observe their creative processes, and even purchase art.

Unlike similar tours in other parts of the country, where studios may be far flung and only accessible by car, the Wood River Valley Studio Tour is designed to enable participants to visit studios by bike. “Biking between studio locations provides a unique way for tourists and locals alike to experience our beautiful valley,” said Hazlett. “You see very different things when you’re on a bike than you do when you’re riding in a car.” However you choose to get around, be sure to plan the day’s itinerary by visiting wrvstudiotour.org or picking up a tour guide at newsstands and other public locations around the valley.

For the littlest art lovers, the Studio Tour will partner with the Wood River Valley Chamber to offer free art activities for kids during the regular hours of the Studio Tour. Remember to stop by The Chamber at 781 S. Main Street in Hailey to get in on the fun! For more information about all the events associated with the 2019 Wood River Valley Studio Tour, visit wrvstudiotour.org.

2019 WOOD RIVER VALLEY STUDIO TOUR EVENTS
wrvstudiotour.org

**Group & Mosaic Project Exhibition**
August 16th–18th
11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Ketchum Innovation Center

**Reception with the Artists**
Friday, August 16th
5:00–8:00 p.m.
Ketchum Innovation Center

**Studio Tour**
Saturday, August 17th & Sunday, August 18th
10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
The Wood River Valley is home to an abundantly diverse collective of visual artists. The annual Wood River Valley Studio Tour opens the doors of professional artists’ studios to the general public and brilliantly illuminates the creative talent in the Gem State.