

## Lamorinda Artists Open Homes and Studios to Community

By Jennifer Wake

Lamorinda community members can meet local artists, watch demonstrations and buy art directly from the participants on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. as part of the annual Spring Open Studios 2008.

More than 32 working artists, whose works range from acrylic paintings to digital photography, ceramics to jewelry, will offer free demonstrations of their craft, as well as snacks and beverages at 14 homes and studios throughout Lamorinda.

"Many artists like to find a way to communicate and mix with not only their friends, but the unknown art enthusiast that may turn up to view and admire their art work. We all love the affirmation our work brings to us," said artist and event organizer Sadie Cuming, who has participated in this event for the past seven years and teaches art at LASF.

Potter Martha Kean will show some ceramic carving techniques (time to be determined) and Cuming will be offer a glass bead

making demonstration at 3 p.m. each day at the home studio of Warren Emmett Rice (3251 Rohrer Drive, Lafayette).

"Open Studio provides the opportunity for friends, admirers and the public to see artists at work and



in their studio environment," Cuming said.

Other artists include Martha McClaren of Moraga, Robert Wahrhaftig of Orinda, and Bill Klaproth and Donna Arganbright of Lafayette.

Donna Arganbright works in high fire porcelain, creating functional pieces that are meant to be used in daily life, while nature photographer Bill Klaproth seeks out "the flora, fauna and landscapes that are deemed fragile, threatened and worthy of preserving."

"My passion has taken me to six continents to capture moments in wildlife and nature," Klaproth said. "By sharing these images with others, I hope to encourage stewardship of our threatened planet."

Over time the Open Studio event has evolved to be a community event – not just for art enthusiasts, but for children, parents, and teachers, Cuming said. It's for whomever loves art.

"Last year I sold a small glass cabachon to one of my students who was interested in glass art. It was absolutely tear-jerking to see someone so young take an interest in art - whatever form," Cuming said. "I know that art will be in her life for years to come."

For more information about Spring Open Studios 2008, or to receive a map of studio locations, you can contact the Moraga Art Gallery at (925) 376-5407 or visit the Lamorinda Art Alliance Web site at [www.laa4art.org/openstudios2008.html](http://www.laa4art.org/openstudios2008.html).

An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Moraga Art Gallery (570 Center Street, Moraga).