

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 2016**

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**Event Listing:**

**Call for Artists to Participate**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Open Your Eyes studio tour

When: June 25 & 26, 2016

Where: Towns of Litchfield, Thomaston, and Plymouth

For Info & to Register: <https://2016openyoureyesreg.eventbrite.com>

## **7th Annual OPEN YOUR EYES STUDIO TOUR CALL FOR ARTISTS – Deadline March 4, 2016**

### **NW CT Arts Council Brings Studio Tour To Litchfield, Thomaston, and Plymouth!**

The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council is calling artists and artisans in the towns of Litchfield, Thomaston, and Plymouth to participate in its seventh Open Your Eyes Studio Tour weekend, being held June 25 and 26, 2016. Registrations are being accepted through March 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 and are available online at [2016openyoureyesreg.eventbrite.com](https://2016openyoureyesreg.eventbrite.com) or by contacting the Arts Council.

The 2016 tour will feature over 25 artists and artisans who have their studios in Litchfield, Thomaston, and Plymouth. Participating artists and artisans will open their creative spaces and show their processes to the public during the days of the tour.

Each year the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council selects groups of towns within its 25-town service area for the tour. Over the past six years, the event has drawn audiences from 14 states, with many visitors returning annually. The aim of Open Your Eyes Studio Tour is to shine a light on the many artists who live and work in our region, to give the community a greater understanding and appreciation for the arts and the creative process, and to draw attention to the towns in which these artists live and work. Once this tour comes to a close on the eve of June 26<sup>th</sup> 2016 the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council will have brought the Open Your Eyes studio tour to all the towns in its service area. This does not mean the end of the tour but a chance for the Arts Council to return in 2017 with fresh and exciting aspects of the tour, which we have not had before!

“Each year, we receive an overwhelming number of comments from visitors who are enthusiastic and appreciative of this first-hand view into how and where the artists do their work. Many had no idea there were so many creative, productive artists working throughout the region, and they are enthralled. On top of that experience, people going on this tour will discover truly beautiful sections of our lush region that they might not otherwise find. The Open Your Eyes Studio Tour recognizes that when the public learns in-person from the artist about what is involved with the making of a work and the ‘story’ behind it, a deeper connection and involvement with the art work happens, and this is what the Tour is all about,” said Amy Wynn, Northwest Connecticut Arts Council’s executive director.

The Northwest Connecticut Arts Council is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting the arts and cultural resources of northwestern Connecticut. The Council considers arts and culture to be integral contributors to the quality of life in the region. The Council focuses on assisting artists and cultural organizations in their efforts to thrive, informing the public, and giving access to the arts across the region.

The 25-town region served by the Arts Council includes Barkhamsted, Bethlehem, Burlington, Colebrook, Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New Hartford, New Milford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Plymouth, Salisbury/Lakeville, Sharon, Roxbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington, and Winchester/Winsted.

To register and for information about Open Your Eyes Studio Tour go to [2016openyoureyesreg.eventbrite.com](https://2016openyoureyesreg.eventbrite.com) or contact the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council at (860) 618-0075 or [maggie@artsnwct.org](mailto:maggie@artsnwct.org).

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