

Contact: Rebecca Meekma
Tel: 949-497-0517
Email: RMeekma@SawdustArtFestival.org

Digital Images Available

January 27, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNLEASH YOUR INNER ARTIST AT THE SAWDUST ART FESTIVAL'S SPRING INTO ART

Weekend art classes in March are taught by professional artists at the Sawdust Art Festival in Laguna Beach.

Laguna Beach, CA – Come on, admit it – you, or your best friend, or parent, or co-worker, have always wanted to try your hand at some kind of art. Well, if your secret wish has been to study glass blowing with a master, learn how to paint with oils or even to discover the pleasures of crochet, the Sawdust Art Festival's **Spring Into Art** program has the class for you.

Held over the weekends of March 11 & 12, March 18 & 19 and March 25 & 26 at the beautiful Sawdust Art Festival grounds in Laguna Canyon, the classes of **Spring Into Art** cover a wide variety of art and fine craft. All the classes are taught by professional artists, many of whom are exhibitors at the famed Sawdust Art Festival.

Susan Wade has been teaching her very popular Beginners Oil Painting Class for Spring Into Art since the program's beginnings five years ago.

"The opportunity to teach new adult painters is wonderful. I admire their courage and the leap of faith it takes to sign up. I enjoy watching the students discover their talents in a few hours," said Wade, a noted oil painter and Sawdust Art

(Continued)

Page 2/Spring Into Art at the Sawdust Art Festival

Festival exhibitor. “The Sawdust really is a magical place and Spring Into Art allows people to tap into that magic.”

Lisa Mansour of Laguna Beach is a frequent visitor to the summer art show. A few summers ago, Mansour bought a painting right off of Wade’s easel before it was even dry. That meeting led her to take Wade’s class last year.

“This [the Sawdust Festival] is my favorite place to be...I’ve wanted to learn how to paint and this was a great chance for me to work with a true professional in an incredible setting.” Mansour enthused.

Many students return each year to try a different class. They mention a wonderful sense of camaraderie that develops over the weekend and that the program, and its magnificent setting, creates the effect of “... going away to an art-retreat for the weekend”.

“Students always tell me how the Sawdust grounds have an atmosphere of creativity that allows them to really get inspired,” said Mollie Bing, program coordinator.

“Of course the excellent teachers, small class size and hand-on experiences have something to do with it,” Bing added.

Class size is limited to ten students, allowing for a personalized experience with lots of one-on-one time. Fees for the 2-day classes range from \$100 to \$250 and include all supplies, as well as continental breakfast and gourmet lunch.

(Continued)

Page 3/Spring Into Art at the Sawdust Art Festival

New this year is a class in leather-working taught by Staci Schubert, whose eponymous line of accessories is carried by Fred Segal in Los Angeles. Also new are Dennis Junka's Flower Arranging Class, Lynne Everett's class on Gourd & Basket Weaving and Catherine Reade's Silver Jewelry –making class.

Returning classes include Ashley Pidgen-Helmsley's Vintage China Mosaics, John Barber and Loren Chapman's glass blowing classes, Impressionist Oil Painting with John Eagle, Susan Wade's Beginning Oil Painting class and Karen Mills' Watercolors on Ricepaper classes.

For information on the Sawdust Art Festival's **Spring Into Art** and a complete listing of classes, please call Mollie Bing at **949-497-0520** or visit www.SawdustArtFestival.org. All classes are held at the Sawdust Art Festival, 935 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach.

The 40th annual summer Sawdust Art Festival, themed "40 Creative Years," opens on June 30 and runs through September 3. This world-famous art and fine craft festival hosts over 200 Laguna Beach artists as well as three stages of entertainment, artist demonstrations and art activities for children and adults, all included in one admission price. For additional information, please call 949-494-3030 or visit www.SawdustArtFestival.org on the web.

The Sawdust Art Festival is a non-profit organization, dedicated to educating the public about the art created in the Laguna Beach community, as well as being a venue for Laguna Beach artists to exhibit their work.

###