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CONTACT: Kathleen Kaiser  
805-524-6970 - kathleen@kathleenkaiser.com

## **OJAI STUDIO ARTISTS TOUR GROWS BY 65% OVER 2006**

### ***Huge crowd attends Artists Palette Reception Raising \$7,000***

Ojai, CA (October 19, 2007) – Large numbers of attendees and hot bidding for Silent Auction items made the 24th Annual Ojai Studio Artists Tour a big success. Tour goers visited over 45 studios, seeing the latest works by OSA members and purchasing direct from the artist. One of OSA’s founders, Bert Collins, was completely sold out by 10:30 AM Saturday morning – just 30 minutes after the tour began.

“We had a wonderful turnout with all of the artists noting large crowds filling their studios this year,” said Jennifer Moses, OSA President. “With a 65% increase in attendance, by Sunday evening, many had sold all of their artwork.”

The Artists Palette Reception held Saturday evening after the tour closed, garnered over \$7,000 from the Silent Auction and raffle. All of these funds go directly to the OSA Art Scholarship Fund, benefiting talented young artists living in the Ojai Valley. Top bidder was Pricilla Beard of Washington State, who won two days of private instruction with sculptor Theodore T. Gall. It was fierce bidding right up to the last minute with Ms Beard submitting the winning bid of \$1800.

“Everyone was pleased with the reception this year,” said Tom Hardcastle, OSA Reception Committee Chair. “The wine flowed, everyone got to met and greet visitors and relax after a hectic day in the studio.”

Hardcastle thanked potter Bruce Tomkinson for all of the time he donated toward the creation of 15 stunning platters that comprised part of the Silent Auction. Tomkinson created the basic platters and then held classes for OSA members to create their own vision on each distinctive piece.

The 25th Anniversary Tour will take place next year on October 11th & 12th. Ojai Studio Artists is a non-profit community organization working year round to promote art awareness and education. OSA funds student art scholarships, purchase art books for local libraries, support public art projects and art outreach for people of all ages. For more information, visit [www.ojaistudioartists.com](http://www.ojaistudioartists.com).