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## THE ARTISTS' VALLEY IS SITE OF 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OJAI STUDIO ARTISTS TOUR

(Ojai, CA - September 6, 2007) Nestled in the hills thirty miles south of Santa Barbara, the Ojai Valley has sheltered artistic temperaments and free spirits since the early 1900s. Residents include Aldous Huxley, Krishnamurti, Beatrice Woods, Maynard Ferguson and Anthony Hopkins who migrated to Ojai for its beauty, serenity, and low-key lifestyle. Vital to the community is its artistic soul, celebrated through music, theater and a multitude of painters, sculptors and designers. Only ten miles in length, the valley fosters the highest concentration per capita of visual and performance arts groups in America.

Twenty-four years ago, three internationally recognized artists created the Ojai Studio Artists Tour with twenty artists opening their studios to art lovers and collectors. The annual October pilgrimage now brings nearly 2,000 people to over forty artists' studios to see their new creations, view works in progress and enjoy a weekend steeped in fine art conversation.

"In 1992, we moved to Ojai," said photographer Cindy Pitou Burton, "and decided to take the Tour. It was stimulating to be at the creative hearth where painters and sculptors manifested their inspirations into reality. To sit under an ancient oak sipping fresh lemonade and debating the transparency of color was thrilling. The artists explained their style and methods, which gave us more insight into the pieces. My biggest impression was of how many varied and interesting people there were in this small town. By Sunday evening, we had purchased enough to fill our new home." In 1998, Cindy was accepted into the group and her studio on the east end of the valley will be on the 2007 Tour.

The Artists Palette Reception held Saturday evening, caps off the weekend. Held after the studios close, the reception is a gathering place where all of the artists gather to meet visitors and continue the conversations. A special raffle will be held this year featuring themed gift baskets, each created around an original piece of artwork and including other items from Ojai merchants and farms. Additionally, a Silent Auction of ten artistic plates, each created by a different OSA member, will be held. All proceeds from the evening benefit the OSA Scholarship Fund, which has awarded over \$120,000 in scholarships to gifted art students over the last twenty years.

Tickets are available in advance at the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce, 201 S. Signal St, or by calling (805) 646-8126. They may be purchased the day of the tour at the Ojai Art Center; 113 S Montgomery St. Tickets can be purchased online at [ojaiarttour.com](http://ojaiarttour.com).

**TOUR FACTS:** October 13 & 14, 2007, Saturday & Sunday, 10am to 5pm. Artist Palette Reception, 6 to 8 PM, October 13 at the Ojai Art Center. Tickets are \$20 each in advance or \$25 each during the tour weekend. Children 12 and under are free. Call (805) 646-8126 from 10am to 4pm or fax (805) 646-9762 for ticket assistance. Tickets are available online at [www.ojaiarttour.com](http://www.ojaiarttour.com).