

artsource

MEDIA RELEASE, 15 November 2012

Artists open their doors at former Leederville maternity hospital turned inner-city creative hub



Kimberley Pace is one of the 21 artists and 'creatives' leasing a working space at 'The Ward'. Photo: Eva Fernandez

On Sunday 25 November, Artsource is lifting the veil on the 'The Ward' studios in Leederville; a former maternity hospital which has been given a new lease on life by a burgeoning collective of visual artists.

The Ward Open Studios event signals the first - and possibly the last - chance for art lovers to explore the working spaces of this artists' sanctuary, as the building is earmarked for commercial development in 2013.

Artsource secured a short-term lease on the vacant building in February this year, revitalising it as artist studios and throwing a lifeline to 21 emerging and established WA artists; to whom affordable inner city working space is a precious commodity.

"Taking on the head lease at *The Ward* studios presents a great opportunity for Artsource and our artist members." said Artsource Chief Executive, Gavin Buckley.

"While we only hold the lease for a relatively short period, Artsource is confident that this venture serves as an inspiring model for future partnerships, acting as a catalyst for more inner city studio locations." Gavin continued.

“The importance of affordable urban studio space for our artists cannot be underestimated. What it means is that artists are able to develop their work, skills and ideas in a convenient, central location without the hefty rental rates usually experienced in the Perth metro area.”

The Ward Open Studios is the third and final event Artsource is hosting in its series of behind the scenes events in November, following the Fremantle and Midland studio openings earlier this month.



Artist Rina Franz working in her studio at *The Ward* in Leederville. Photo: Eva Fernandez

This final event will not disappoint, with a stunning array of arts practice on display including photography, textiles, painting, film production, ceramics, digital media, performance, sculpture, and illustration.

An ephemeral installation by Claire Bushby and Claire Canham is shaping up to be a highlight. The artwork will hold pride of place outside the *The Ward* and in view of the building's bustling Newcastle and Loftus street frontage.

Collectively, the stable of creative workspaces managed by Artsource make up 80 private studios. Artsource's additional studio locations include Fremantle, Midland, East Perth, Kelmscott, Churchlands and Two Rocks.

Artsource is committed to providing affordable creative spaces for artists in order to develop their careers and foster a vibrant arts community in Western Australia.

EVENT DETAILS: 'The Ward' Open Studios **COST:** FREE event

'The Ward', Leederville – Sunday 25 November, 2-5pm
590 Newcastle Street, Leederville (corner Loftus). Parking offsite.

ARTISTS OPENING:

Tarsh Bates, Kirsten Biven, Claire Bushby, Jo Darbyshire, Giovanni Di Dio, James Foley, Ruth Halbert, Rina Franz, Brad Ladyman, Tessa McOnie, Elisa Markes-Young, Elizabeth Marruffo, , Deborah Oakley, Kimberley Pace, Perdita Phillips, Josephine Pittman, Christopher Young, Alucinor Productions, Stephen Burge Marketing.

- ENDS -

ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES + IMAGES:

Ros Brennan, Marketing Coordinator, ros@artsource.net.au; 08 9335 8366

About Artsource

Artsource is Western Australia's peak representative body for visual artists. A not-for-profit organisation in operation since 1986, Artsource works to expand and improve the sustainability and profile of artists through practical services and support.