

artsource

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More than 200 people flock to 'The Ward' Open Studios, an artistic haven in the heart of the city



A glimpse inside artist James Foley's studio at 'The Ward', Leederville. Photo: Dean Butler

Sunday 25 November saw more than 200 people descend on Artsource's The Ward in Leederville, witnessing the first time this unique artist studios building has been opened to the public.

Flocks of curious onlookers, including politicians, arts philanthropists and business people, relished the opportunity to step inside the private realm of studio practice and discover the creative process behind some of WA's most celebrated artists.

The Ward, a former maternity hospital, is home to a diverse mix of 21 artists and creative peers including painters, sculptors, ceramicists, video producers, photographers, illustrators, graphic designers and artists working across mixed media and installation.

"Open Studios events offer a fascinating and unrivalled insight into the working lives of visual artists." said Artsource Chief Executive Gavin Buckley.

"Studio practice is usually a strictly private affair, so our artists really appreciate the opportunity to tell the story behind their creative process and shed light on what goes on behind closed doors."

"We hope that all who attended yesterday's event were able to take something away from the day, whether it be a new understanding of the creative process, an appreciation of the value of affordable studio space, or perhaps an artwork to add to their collections."

The Ward Open Studios event may have been the final chance for art lovers to explore this Leederville artists' sanctuary, as the building is earmarked for commercial development in 2013.

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

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.

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.

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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.