2026 Estes Park Artist Studio Tour Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Together We Build, August 7, 2026

By Thomas Beck, AIA, NCARB

On Saturday and Sunday August 15 and 16 our local Estes Park Artist Studio Tour will mark its 10 year anniversary. (https://www.estesparkarttour.com/) This year a total of 19 artists can be visited in 13 home studios, all open to the public free of charge. The hours next weekend will be 10am to 5pm both days.

This year is special as the Estes artist tour's 10th anniversary. It is also noteworthy for myriad creative projects and initiatives around town. At the July 28 Town Board Meeting, Mayor Gary Hall read the official proclamation declaring August "Estes Arts Month." The Mayor said (in regard to moving on to the other business of the meeting) that the arts are "really the real business and purpose of the town — the soul and the heart of the town." This year a brand new position, Arts and Culture Program Director, was created as a collaboration of the Estes Arts District (EAD) and Visit Estes Park (VEP). The Art Center of Estes Park (approaching its 40th year since its establishment in 1987) donated space in the gallery to showcase work by the studio tour artists during the current exhibition cycle. Funds from the Trust of late heiress Barb Marshall, a huge supporter of the arts while she was alive, are being applied to numerous creative-forward projects around town. Creative events can be found in film, music, and theater arts as well.

The tour's non-profit status is made possible by the Estes Arts District. The studio tour is funded by artist participation fees, as well as by the generous donations of sponsors who are invited by the artists to support the tour. T.W. Beck Architects is one of those sponsors. Why? Because architecture is art in engineering. Both art and architecture enhance our lives and community.

The Estes Park art tour gives one a chance to experience the stunning vistas these artists live and work in. As we wrote in 2023 "Those of us who are so fortunate to live in this spectacular valley can reap new inspiration from a tour of the local artists' spaces here in Estes Park. Visitors are afforded a unique chance to see our valley through the eyes of our extraordinary artists." (https://www.eptrail.com/2023/07/27/together-we-build-2023-art-studio-tour-enhances-our-community/) Our "Together We Build" columns in the Trail Gazette in 2022 and 2024 also highlighted the tour. This year is the 4th tour for Laura Davis, Thomas' wife and ghostwriter of this column.

The opportunity to experience the spaces that these artists inhabit, create in, and call home is priceless. And perhaps you will use the opportunity to do some early holiday shopping (132 days to Christmas!). Many of the artists will work with you on commissions. A few of the artists' studios feature "guest artists" who either do not have appropriate home studio space to open to the public, or live and work outside of the Estes Valley. Most of the artists offer a range of artwork to fit budgets large and small. The media this year include sculpture, ceramics, glasswork, painting, pastels, mixed media, woodworking, photography and collage. Profiles of all participating artists can be found on the Artist Studio Tour Estes Park website. Posters around town have a QR code to access the interactive map of studio locations. Brochures can be picked up at locations throughout town including the Art Center of Estes Park and the Visitor Center.

It is more important that ever to support local community events. The human-made work by these artists speaks to us in a much more meaningful way than robot produced goods ever will. If you are a visitor, use the opportunity to take home a memento of our special home. If you are a local, renew your love of our inspired surroundings. See you next weekend!

Thomas Beck, AIA, NCARB, is an architect based in Estes Park, Colorado, who has been deeply involved in sustainable building practices since he was a student at CU Boulder in the 1970's. www.twbeckarchitects.com

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