

Seattle Sampling, Seattle's oldest and largest holiday arts and crafts tour celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, with 46 of the city's finest craftspeople opening shows at twelve locations throughout the Seattle area. This self-guided tour of artists' studios and homes opens with vibrant artists' receptions at the artists' studios and homes on Friday, November 30 from 4-9 pm, continuing Saturday and Sunday December 1st and 2nd, 10am-5pm, in sites from Ballard to Madrona, Wallingford to West Seattle. A map and complete listing of artists and locations is available for download at www.seattlesampling.com, or by calling 206-937-8237. Some of the sales also have additional hours.

In February of 1987, ten artists who had had independent shows for years met at the home of jeweler Judith Starbuck to discuss pooling mailing lists and energy and cooperating on a studio tour. That December eleven studios coordinated their holiday shows and the first Seattle Sampling tour offered holiday shoppers an opportunity to meet the artists in their own spaces on the same weekend. Six of the artists at that first meeting continue to show with the group: Gay Jensen (fiber), Loretta Werner and Joan Bazaz (glass), and Paddy McNeely, Ginny Conrow and Paul Lewing (clay). Coincidentally, these three clay studios are also the three studios that have remained in the same locations. Although about half of the tour's artists have participated for over ten years, each year new faces and new places keep the tour fresh.

Three new studios have joined Seattle Sampling this year. In Wallingford, Diana Aurigemma shows her watercolors with those by Javier Roca, Hossein Peigahi, and Scott Moore, as well as photographs by Andy Watson. Potter Ken Turner hosts Marilyn Moore's basketry in his South Seattle studio, and Angela Ehrig exhibits her wearable art with jewelry by Lee Klastorin and stained glass by Joan Young and Robin Tinha at her Crown Hill studio.

This holiday season, Seattle Sampling invites you to avoid the malls and support local artists. These seasoned professional artists have thrived in their profession over the years, their work growing and changing. They invite you to visit their studios, have some treats, and see some of the finest arts and crafts in the area, on Seattle's oldest holiday tour.