

We're having a Birthday Party, and you're invited!

This year, **Princeton Arts is turning 35**, and we plan to celebrate in style, with a full year of special exhibitions, concerts, workshops, innovative classes and guest lectures, in addition to our spring and fall gallery shows, the weekly portrait group with live models, and weekly open studio gatherings. The full calendar of events can be found on our website and in the monthly newsletter.

The festivities begin in January with a show at the Gallery at Briarwood in Worcester. The show will exhibit the work of gifted artists from Princeton and beyond and is open to all our members. On January 11, all Princeton Arts members are invited to a gala reception at the Briarwood show to celebrate our anniversary and to honor our founders.

In 1991, a small group of Princeton artists and friends founded the Princeton Arts Society, dedicated to supporting local art and artists. Thirty-five years later, we celebrate their visionary idea that through creativity we build community. All year long, you can come to a concert, attend a lecture or a gallery show, take a class or come to a work-shop. We hope you'll be inspired to paint, draw, sing, sculpt, learn, dance, take a picture, write a poem, take a photo, knit a sweater, flex your creative muscles. Join us whenever the spirit moves you!

At Princeton Arts we believe the romantic ideal of the starving artist, cut off from society, working alone in his or her garret, is anything but ideal. Artists, like the rest of us, need to be acknowledged, supported, seen and heard. They need community. And we, in the community need artists, because artists teach us to recognize our universal humanity, to bridge the distances. They teach us to feel, to connect, to care about and for one another. Art can be challenging, moving, compassionate and healing. Don't let anyone tell you that the arts are optional or elective. They are essential... water for the soul. Art is the food that feeds human connection.

Princeton Arts believes that art should be shared. Artists don't create in a void. You are vital to our community, and you will thrive with our support, friendship and the chance to come out in the world and strut your stuff. We encourage all artists to show your work, open your studios and let in the light and the community!

We are planning several exciting new collaborations with other community organizations, so stay tuned to the website and the newsletter for updates. And please, tell us how we can best serve you. Communicate with us about your interests, needs and talents, and how we can best showcase your creative work.

Remember, Art is not expendable. It's not something we give up when times are bad; in fact, that's when we need art more than ever. So be kind to yourselves and to your community. Nurture the arts and the artist within you.

Joanna Lancaster, President