

## Autumn Art Trail



Diane Aeschliman's studio will be open to the public during the Autumn Art Trail

# Blazing an Autumn Art Trail in Killingworth

By Linda Ahnert

Poets write odes to the beauty of spring, but here in New England many of us consider autumn to be the most glorious time of the year. The falling leaves of red and gold, the warm days and nippy nights make for ideal weather conditions. Just the season to take a spin around the countryside. Against this natural backdrop, what could be nicer than stopping along the way at the private studios of artists and crafters and watching them at work? On October 15 and 16, the Arts Center at Killingworth is hosting an "Autumn Art Trail" with exhibitions, art and craft demonstrations, and the chance to talk with the artists and to purchase their works.

The trail will be open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and are valid for the entire weekend and for all of the events. According to

Barbara Nair, Executive and Artistic Director of the Arts Center, people can go at their own pace and "get on and off the trail." Once you purchase a ticket, you receive a 10-page program which details the locations of the open studios (including maps) and the schedule of demos. The program also has bios of all the participating artists.

Killingworth is home to a number of award-winning and nationally recognized artists. Day-trippers can visit Diane Aeschliman and Cora Ogden in their studios. Or watch pastel artist Gloria Nilsson painting en plein air near the gazebo at her home. Muralist Randy K. Davis will demonstrate a variety of decorative finishes and ornamental painting including trompe l'oeil.

Not only can you chat up the artists; you can get up close and personal with some animals. On Saturday, Melissa Ferrara opens her studio (or should that be pasture?)

She raises alpacas and visitors can watch the animals and view spinning and knitting demos.

There are more alpacas as well as angora goats at the Ox Bow Studio at Twin Gate Farms. On Sunday, Laurie Sanford will demonstrate how to create yarn from natural fibers.

In addition to the private studios, activities are scheduled for both the Arts Center at Killingworth and the Art Gallery at the Mill House (in Chester) throughout the weekend. These will include demonstrations by potter Evelyne Foster, sculptor Leon Laime, botanical artist Joanne Martin, and crafter Patti Pippin. Pippin will give a "trash talk" and show how to use recycled materials to create figures.

The weekend gets off to a festive start with a reception on Friday, from 6 to 9 p.m., in Chester's Art Gallery at the Mill House. The preview party is a free event.

This is the first ever "art trail" for



Vase with Eucalyptus by Gloria Nilsson

the Arts Center at Killingworth. The non-profit organization was created in 2003 "for the people of

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Killingworth and the surrounding shoreline area to explore and share their artistic talents through teaching, mentoring, and participating in events." Executive director Barbara Nair is also the founder and explained that it all began by surveying people in the community about their vision for an arts center. "We spoke to politicians, teachers, artists, soccer moms, and seniors," Nair noted.

The inaugural event was an origami workshop and mobile exhibition during the 2003 holiday season. Since that time, there have been puppet shows, storytelling sessions, craft workshops, outdoor art shows, a classical concert, and a "jazz night out." This fall the center offered an expanded schedule of art classes for both children and adults.

Nair said, "It's surprising how fast we've grown," and that "what it says is there is a need" for these programs. This growth puts "new demands on the organization, but it also pushes you to expand," she



added.

Nair herself has a background in the arts. She majored in theater in college and earned an M.F.A. degree in theater directing from NYU. She took time off to raise her family but

recently returned to school to study arts management in non-profit organizations. She spoke highly of her co-workers at the arts center "who are totally devoted to our mission." Nair added, "We like people and we love

the arts; it's a good combination we have."

The Autumn Art Trail starts in Killingworth but also winds into Chester. Nair noted that, in the future, the trail could be extended into other towns within driving distance. But, right now, there's plenty to see and do on the trail. After all, there are 17 participating artists, five private studios, two exhibition spaces . . . and all that fine fall scenery.

Tickets for the Autumn Art Trail are \$25. Children under 12 are free. You may purchase tickets in advance by calling the Arts Center at Killingworth at 663-5593. The center is located at 276 North Parker Hill Road in Killingworth. Tickets are also available at the Art Gallery at the Mill House, 5 West Main Street, in Chester and at the Inn at Chester, 318 West Main Street (Route 148). The days of the events, tickets will be sold at the Arts Center's tent outside the Copper Skillet at 184 Route 81 in Killingworth. For a complete schedule of events throughout the weekend, you can visit [www.artscenterkillingworth.org](http://www.artscenterkillingworth.org).

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## Artists' techniques on display at Killingworth event

By Peggy Schenk  
Register Staff

**KILLINGWORTH** — The Arts Center at Killingworth is forging a new trail through the area, opening artistic vistas at every turn.

The event will feature a variety of artists demonstrating their works in various locations.

During the event, people can visit alpacas, learn to create a work of art using recycled and found materials, paint and non-toxic glues, and discover the difference between carving and sculpting.

It's a "top pick of the weekend," said Barbara Nair, the Arts Center's executive and artistic director.

It's a rare opportunity to see and ask questions of artists such as Diane Aeschliman and Cora Ogden and others at work in their private studios, she said.

In addition to the private studios, there will be a weekend of demonstrations at the Killingworth Arts Center and at the Art Gallery at the Mill House in Chester, where exhibitions will be on display through October.

Ticket holders can see Gloria Nilsson's outdoor exhibit and *plein air* demonstration, or watch Randy K. Davis create a mural.

There are Melissa Ferrara's New England alpacas to photograph and enjoy, and Laurie Sanford will be spinning yarn.

Exhibiting artists include potter Evelyne Foster; painters Felipe Molina, Bill Hosking, Michael Faulkner, Mary Ann Rupp, Daria Jankuria and Irene Laime; New York crafter Patti Pippin; botanical artist Joanne Martin; and sculptor Leone Laime.

All along the trail, a variety of crafts will be available for

purchase.

Nair invites ticket holders to spend the entire weekend on the trail, visiting restaurants such as the Copper Skillet or the Inn at Chester, which are supporting the event.

On Saturday at the Arts Center at Killingworth, 276 N. Parker Hill Road, Foster will demonstrate hand-building pottery at 2 p.m., followed by a demonstration of transfer collage at 3:30 p.m.

At the Millhouse Gallery, 5 W. Main St., Chester, Pippin will present "Trash Talk" at 2 p.m., featuring the use of environmentally friendly materials in art, and Nilsson will demonstrate how to create dimension and depth with pastels at 4 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Sunday at the Arts Center, Leon Laime will demonstrate sculpting and the casting process, while Pippin will reprise her Trash Talk.

At the Millhouse Gallery on Sunday, Foster will again illustrate transfer collage at 2 p.m., and Martin will demonstrate how to draw a curled leaf in four strokes at 3:30 p.m.

Trail tickets for all venues are \$25, and children under 12 can go for free.

The trail will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

A preview reception at the Mill House Gallery will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday.

For advance tickets, call (860) 663-5593 or purchase them at the Inn at Chester. The weekend of the event, tickets can be purchased in Chester at the Art Gallery at the Millhouse or in Killingworth at the Arts Center tent outside the Copper Skillet.

For more information and directions, call (860) 663-5593.