

ON TOUR



THE CULTURE CLUB

A piecemeal community of artists throws open its doors in East Vancouver. *By Reg Street*

On a Friday morning not long ago, deep in the dusty, open corridors of the warehouse at 1000 Parker Street, two artists were taking time out to gab about selling their work through galleries. "There's a sense of being removed," fresco painter Veronica Foster says to Louise Pagé, "[when] you give a piece to someone else to sell, and you don't know who bought it or where it goes. It's nice to have a personal contact."

Foster says she was delighted when a customer once invited her over to see where her piece was hung. "There's something very validating about sharing that experience," she says. "That's not what I get when I sell through galleries." The women agree on a general disaffection with gallery representation. That's why the Eastside Culture Crawl, now in its seventh regeneration, is decidedly about

artists doing it for themselves.

The Culture Crawl is a loosely organized, twice-yearly open house during which the public is invited into the normally private spaces of Vancouver's artists. There will be 70 artists participating this month, November 27 to 29, in at least five buildings all within walking distance of one another. Potters, painters, sculptors, cabinet makers, glass blowers and makers of jewellery, tableware, paper and clothing accessories are all participating. There are room-size corporate commissions and affordable stocking stuffers; some pieces are friendly and recognizable, some will scare the cat. Some of the artists, too, are friendly and recognizable, and most encourage questions about their materials, equipment and techniques. Some studios offer hands-on instruction and some artists will actually be puttering on works-in-progress.

Painters Veronica Foster and Carl Michael Oleinyk are two of almost six dozen Vancouver artists who will open their studio doors to the roving public this month during the seventh East Side Cultural Crawl.

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