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# COS NEWS

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BY ROB WILKINSON.

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## Cowal artists go off the beaten track

The west and north routes for this year's Cowal Open Studios (COS) weekend (September 20-23) have plenty to offer art lovers according to Jenny Phillips of COS.

Jenny explained: "Painters Marie Briggs and Monya Wren will be setting up their studios in the beautiful Kilfinan forest and will be welcoming everyone to the Kilfinan Forest Centre where visitors will be able to enjoy artworks inspired by the nature around them.

"There are many forest walks to enjoy or the on-site florist and Argyll Botanical that is full of lovely soaps and body products with the wonderful aromas filling the air long before you even enter the shop.

"Hungry visitors can pop into the Tea Room or Five West in Tighnabruaich. Further afield there is Botanical at the Barn, Millhouse or the Bothy at Kilbride Farm, at the start of the walk to Ostel Bay.

“Visitors can make a day of it, they can carry on round the coast to the atmospheric Lachlan Castle and on through Glenbranter to Strachur where they will find two more artists.

“Printmaker Sheila Rodger will be in her studio on the edge of Loch Fyne together with painter Jules Cadie who is based at Quarry Cottage, Glensuain. The road then takes you on to Cairndow and Kilmorich Schoolhouse where mixed media artist Louise Day will be hosting visitors in her studio.

“Louise’s work is inspired by the natural forms of coast, woodland and garden then perhaps round the day off with a cuppa at the Tree Shop!

“Whilst the majority of the artists and makers taking part in this year’s weekend are based around Dunoon, Innellan and the Shore Villages, there is a lot to be gained by going off the beaten track and exploring our west and north routes around the Cowal peninsula,” concluded Jenny.

Visit [www.cowalopenstudios.co.uk](http://www.cowalopenstudios.co.uk) for more information about all of the creatives of Cowal involved in this year’s COS weekend.

