



November 2007

Hi!

I'm writing to invite you to my Studio Tour Open House on Thanksgiving weekend, an event I've been preparing for more than three months.

In case you've never come, my open house is part of a broader tour of the working studios + galleries of some of Delaware's most talented artists. It's free, self guiding, and maps to all 16 artists are available at my gallery.

Since the tour began in 1994, it has become an annual tradition for many, an event where you can bring your family, friends + holiday guests and enjoy being the first to see new inspirations brought to life.

For me, the tour is a way of saying Thank you in person for your support of my work + gallery — and for your many words of encouragement and appreciation. They bring me much happiness!

Like many of you, my year has had challenges. But then there have been many blessings — my Marine niece and nephew returning safely from their second Middle East tours among them!

I've found focusing on good enables me to shut the door on fears and go forward with hope. And hope opens doors to new ideas. And new ideas bring answers and healing. What a wonderful and important holiday Thanksgiving is.

Each year, I search my heart for meaningful things to paint for the Studio Tour. This year, I drew inspiration from my past and present hometowns of Rehoboth and Bethany, painting them in ways not typically portrayed. Both oils, and others, will debut Friday morning at the beginning of the tour.

I hope you will join me — and enjoy them — and all of the holiday cheer planned. Take good care.

Blessings to you + yours this holiday season!

Allen

You, your friends & family are invited to enjoy art, music and holiday cheer at Ellen Rice's annual Studio Tour Open House this Thanksgiving weekend!

— Friday and Saturday, Nov. 23 and 24, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days —

For the second year in a row, Ellen will host her annual studio tour in her gallery, filled with new original paintings, debuting prints, paintings in progress, and the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the holidays, including Ellen's favorite hot apple cider, apple & date breads & Christmas cookies.

Ellen's annual open house is part of the free, self-guided Southeastern Delaware Artists Studio Tour, which this year features 16 artists and craftsmen. *(The gallery will be handing out maps to all artists on the tour.)*

We'll be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the day before Thanksgiving, to give Ellen and her helpers time to deck the halls and fill the walls with new works fresh from her easels.

Originals collectors alert: For those hoping to acquire an original by Ellen, this November may be your best opportunity. For several months, Ellen has been holding back new originals to make her Studio Tour extra special.

Among paintings making their debut Thanksgiving weekend will be:

- A 30" x 20" oil of Bethany Beach.
- A 30" x 20" oil of Rehoboth Beach.
- A 30" x 24" pastel.
- Three 11" x 14" oils.

- An additional 30" x 24" oil of Bethany may be available, but Ellen doesn't know if it will be completed in time for the tour. If it isn't, it will be among a handful of works that will be shown in progress, including Ellen's next painting in her *Strength of Woman* Series.

proofs that haven't made it into the gallery in the hustle and bustle of the past season. *(Included will be some of the proofs Ellen created while adjusting colors for the new Bethany and Rehoboth giclées.)*

Ellen's giclée proofs are very popular for small spaces and as Christmas gifts. Early birds will get the best!

This is a fun and casual event, so we hope you'll dress comfortably, bring friends, family and holiday guests and plan to have a wonderful time!

Ellen will be available all day on both days of the tour, so take this rare opportunity to meet and talk with her and find out what motivates one of Delaware's "10 most collectible shore artists." to do what she does!

Questions from children are especially welcome!

SNOW DATE: *Since we never know what Mother Nature will bring, if the weather is too bad for people to attend (meaning snow or ice storms that make driving hazardous), Ellen will host an open house the following Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2, from 10 to 5. We hope to see you either weekend!*

A Thanks-Giving Gift from Ellen

As a heartfelt thank you to tour goers and all who have supported Ellen's work through the years but who can't make it to the tour, Ellen is giving \$30 off each standard edition giclée of her two debuting prints for one week, starting Friday, Nov. 23, and ending the next weekend on Saturday, Dec. 1, at closing — including phone orders.

The 2-day Studio Tour festivities will kick off at The Ellen Rice Gallery on Friday, Nov. 23, at 10 a.m., with the unveiling of Ellen's newest paintings and the debut of two beautiful new prints — *The Best Time*, Rehoboth Beach, and *The Best Time*, Bethany Beach.

Reproductions of each painting are limited to only **100** signed, numbered and embossed 22" x 15" (image size) standard edition archival giclées on paper, **20** artists proofs, and **30** 27" x 18" ER Edition hand embellished giclées on either canvas or paper.

As an extra special thanks to tour goers, they will have the first chance to get the lowest numbered prints, **starting with standard edition print no. 1/100!** Those not attending can still receive \$30 off the standard edition giclées by calling the gallery at 302-539-3405, however, in order to eliminate confusion, print numbers won't be assigned for phone orders until the conclusion of Ellen's open house, Sunday, Nov. 24, at 5 p.m.

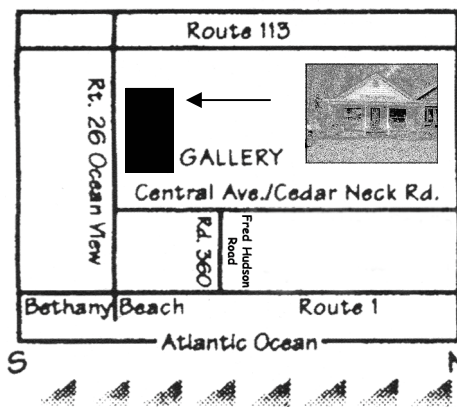
To be fair to all, we will take names at the door in the order guests arrive and print numbers will be assigned on a first come, first served basis! So plan to come early!

In addition, Ellen's collection of childhood works will make a return visit. It's a favorite exhibit she uses each year to encourage tour-going children with an interest in art.

Ellen and her elves have also been busy searching the nooks and crannies in her printing room to find and wrap any remaining small, one-of-a-kind archival giclée

Directions

Ellen's Studio Tour Open House is in the Ellen Rice Gallery on Rt. 26 (Atlantic Ave.), Ocean View, 2.2 miles west of Bethany Beach, in the west end of the building housing Country Wicker. Ample free parking is available!



Address: 103 Atlantic Avenue, Ocean View, DE 19970
Phone: (302) 539-3405, or toll-free outside of Delaware, 1-888-ELL-RICE
E-mail: ellenrice@mchsi.com **Website:** www.ellenrice.com

From Rehoboth Beach and points north, take Rt. 1 to Rt. 26, Bethany Beach. From Bethany's totem pole, go west for 2.2 miles. The gallery is on the right just after Bootsie's Barbeque in the west end of the same building as Country Wicker. If you get to the Food Lion or Giant Food, you've gone too far!

From points west, take Rt. 26 headed east. The Ellen Rice Gallery is 2.2 miles west of Bethany Beach on the left just past the Lord Baltimore Elementary School. If you get to the light at Central Avenue and Rt. 26, you've gone too far!

From Ocean City, Fenwick Island and points south, take Rt. 1 to Rt. 26 at Bethany's totem pole, turn left (west) on Rt. 26, go 2.2 miles. The gallery is on the right just after Bootsie's Barbeque in the west end of the same building as Country Wicker.

The gallery is tan & white, has a red & gold sign and two big butterfly benches in front.

Maps to all 16 studios on the free, self-guided Studio Tour are available at The Ellen Rice Gallery.

The Old, the New . . . the Timeless

Ellen's debuting works depict what she considers "The Best Time" at Bethany and Rehoboth beaches

There is nothing like a stroll on a deserted beach or boardwalk to make your spirits soar.

I rarely go to the beach in the two primary months of "The Season," but once mid-September hits and the roads are clear, I breathe a huge sigh of relief and head for the ocean.

The beach is "mine" again and will be until well into the spring. This period from mid-September until mid-May I've come to calling "The Best Time."

I had no idea when I started painting "*The Best Time—Bethany Beach*" (yes, a bit of a play on words, as you'll see on the tour) what controversy would be stirring about the beach and its replenishment. I just hadn't thought about what the coming replenishment would mean. Apparently few others did. I'm glad I painted this, even though the beach has changed! It captures Bethany the way I grew to love her.

It's the end of the day, the end of a season, quiet, beautiful, just a few gulls flying overhead, a jogger heading down the boardwalk, a boy flying a kite on the beach, a lone surfer in wet suit off in the distance waiting for the next swell. . . .



Ellen's painting of the Addy Sea, *Out of the Mist*, has been her most popular print this year. If you haven't seen it in person, be sure to do so before it sells out!

The shadows are long across the beach and a light jacket might be needed later, but for the moment, it's just plain perfect. I love this painting. I hope you do, too.

Juxtaposing *The Best Time — Bethany Beach*, is *The Best Time — Rehoboth Beach*, the "after" in what has turned into an unplanned "before and after" beach replenishment pair of paintings.

When I first heard about the downtown renovation and beach replenishment project in Rehoboth Beach, I was prepared to dislike it very much and avoided seeing the results for quite awhile.

My Delaware roots are in Rehoboth. I love Rehoboth. I spent my first glorious Delaware summer babysitting for three of my cousins there in 1962 and watched the rebuilding of the boardwalk after the infamous Storm of '62 — spending day after sun-filled day caring for my cousins on the beach.

Delaware never stopped calling me after that summer. I came back the next summer, then the next, and the next . . . working my first real job at age 15 at Snyder's soda fountain on Rehoboth Ave., then Gus & Gus Place on the corner of Wilmington Avenue.

I sold my first oil painting to a fellow high school art student in 1963 for \$15. I really liked it, but \$15 was enough for pay for my bus fare

from my suburban Washington home to my summer job. Several summers later, I met my late husband at Gus & Gus Place, married him the following year, managing to stay in Delaware for good!

Rehoboth holds so many memories and I didn't want it to change. But lately, I've been trying to see all the changes happening in my precious little state through fresh eyes, to see all these changes as a younger person might view them, without the memories attached and full of good expectations.

It was in this spirit that I ventured to Rehoboth one fall evening and to my immense surprise, I liked what had been done. No, correction, I loved it.

You'll see the beauty I found in Rehoboth's replenishment project in *The Best Time — Rehoboth Beach*. No, I can't see under the boardwalk where one of my long-ago bosses, the founder of *The Leader* newspaper, sometimes wrote his stories in the 1930s on a portable typewriter so his children could go to the beach, and it doesn't look exactly like the beach where my cousins and I once played.

But the town is more secure from storms, and the results are a beautiful blend of the old with the new. I think perhaps those of us who love Bethany as she has been for so many years will come to love her changes, too, as they reach completion and settle in.

Today, as I write, my feet are covered with grains of sand from Bethany's in-progress project. It's early going yet. It is quite a change, and the change doesn't look all that good at this point, but I am reminded of some words from a poem my mother once wrote, called *Citadel*:

*Oh, walk along the shore, I say: Oh feel and taste and smell,
The cool and salty ocean spray, And why you love it, tell....
With gladdened eyes behold and stay, Awhile beneath the spell,
Of restless waters on display; the timeless, tameless swell....*

No matter what man does, the "timeless, tameless swell" will eventually have its way.

For now, I plan to enjoy the "best time" of year on a larger beach and cherish the beauty of the moment and the memories I hold dear of both of my coastal Delaware hometowns.

I hope my paintings of these two beautiful beaches bring you enjoyment, too!

Gallery News

NEW FOR THE HOLIDAYS — From fused glass candy canes, hand blown ornaments with glass candy canes inside, gift wrapped glass candy "kisses," and real homemade fudge, to our brand new *Dreams of Nature* Christmas cards and new larger framed *Nature* pieces, beautiful and functional sea life pottery, Bezak stunning diamond Wave pendants, Storypins, Create Your Own Kaleidoscopes kits, hand-blown seashell fan pulls, beautiful easy-to-read ceramic tide clocks, new Leaf Leather designs . . . we've got an especially tasteful & meaningful selection of **American handmade works of art** for you and your special holiday gift recipients — **many priced well under \$50, some under \$20!**

And remember, we're just a toll-free call or email away, and all of Ellen's prints and many of our American handmade crafts are available on www.ellenrice.com 24-7! And we're here happy to help!

ORIGINALS NOTICES — If you've requested to receive email notices about Ellen's new originals but haven't received any, it may be because of a problem between our email service and yours. Please call our toll-free number, 1-888-355-7423, so we can work it out for you.

If you'd prefer, you can also go to www.ellenrice.com and click on the SUBSCRIBE button at the bottom of the page. Then choose your areas of interest. You'll receive only the notices you request.

Please note: some corporate email servers will bounce even subscribed emails, so please use a personal email address if possible.

Thank you for your interest in Ellen's work and your patience. Your support is truly appreciated.

We wish you all the best in the year ahead!

— The Ellen Rice Gallery Staff, Duane & Jenny

The Ellen Rice Gallery is open all year !

We're open every week of the year — every single day from mid-May to mid-January, then four days a week through April. We're available every day all year by phone, **302-539-3405** or toll-free, **1-888-355-7423**, email at contact@ellenrice.com and **24-7** at www.ellenrice.com. **We monitor emails & send out orders across the country daily.** You can also get email news from Ellen by going to her website, clicking on the SUBSCRIBE button at the bottom of the page, then selecting your areas of interest. We're always glad to hear from you!