



Creative environment: Maria Hildrick in her Artsource studio in Fremantle. Picture: Christophe Canato

Artists open their world to the public

■ Kaylee Martin

Irish-Australian artist Maria Hildrick is excited that she will be able to share her fascination for creatures great and small when she opens her studio to the public tomorrow.

Hildrick is one of 26 artists welcoming people to take a glimpse into their private creative sanctum during the Fremantle Open Studios event at the Old Customs House run by Artsource.

"It's my chance to talk to people about the process you go through,

and it can seem a bit abstract to people," Hildrick said.

She is taking part in her third open studios event.

"It makes it more tangible for them to come in and see some of the things that inspire you, or the objects you work from," Hildrick said.

Her work mostly looked at human self-identity but she was inspired by bugs and animals.

"I look at how insects engage with one another, their markings and how this can relate to a sense of one's self and identity," she

said. Although she first drew artistic inspiration from her Irish history and various objects, WA's intriguing wildlife changed her perceptions when she moved to Australia six years ago.

"There's so much diversity here," Hildrick said. Open studios will showcase how each artist uses their personal space, where they draw inspiration and the artistic mediums they use.

Open studios, part of the Fremantle Festival, runs from 2pm to 5pm tomorrow at the Old Customs House in Phillimore Street.