



# News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana  
www.artguildlouisiana.org

agl@artguildlouisiana.org  
facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana

**APRIL 2021**

## Betty Efferson—artist...

On a whim, Betty Efferson at the age of 60, while still busy running the clock business owned by her husband and herself, registered for a one-day oil painting class. Understand, that up until that time, although she was always doing some sort of “craft” or creative project, Betty had been somewhat disappointed/frustrated by her ventures into “art” because, she just could not seem to follow instructions to “stay within the lines.”

As the workshop began, Betty discovered the other participants were much more advanced artists than she. Pulling on her inner strength, persevering through episodes of nervous tears and literally retching at one point, she made it through the day. Her reward, in the end, the instructor’s comments: “you have your own distinct style and energy to your work. Do not ever let anyone discourage you from painting ‘your’ way, paint what you feel.” That was 20+ years ago. Unbeknownst to Betty, that experience would be the start of a journey of artistic passion and travel. And to this day Betty is painting “her” way, from the heart – and outside of the lines.



We have all heard “practice makes perfect,” and in keeping with that advice from many instructors, so too does Betty practice her craft. She paints every day – either in her home studio or at Studio 9170 where she rents studio space along with 15 other local artists, several of whom are AGL members. Betty says she tries to make it to Studio 9170 five days a week, but if she cannot make it, she paints at home and regularly paints eight hours a day.

Betty paints primarily in pastels, acrylics, and oils but, if she decides to, she throws in a little ink, wax crayon, oil stick or whatever else takes her fancy to energize her paintings. She has works on paper as well as canvas. She says she is always “changing it up” because she enjoys the challenges of trying new things, new mediums/techniques/ideas. She refers to her work today as “abstract expressionism.” At one time she painted a lot from photo references; today she may take a photo so she doesn’t forget a subject or a place, but the painting never follows or looks like the photo...in fact oftentimes it is unrecognizable. Now, instead of referencing a photo, she references a feeling evoked by the photo. She no longer begins with a sketch or even a color scheme in mind. Betty says often when a subject or thought comes to her mind it appears a color and she just goes with it. She now approaches a blank piece of canvas (or paper) with a brush in hand and simply begins “mark making.” There were multiple canvases in her studio “marked up” waiting to see where her intuitive energy will take her on each one.



“Coloring outside the lines” has brought Betty much success in the art world. She is a mostly self-taught artist and travels extensively for exhibits and workshops. She is a national and international award winner. She is a three-time award winner in the Pastel Society of America’s Annual International Show “Enduring Brilliance” and each of those art works were selected to be on exhibit at the Butler Institute of American Art in Ohio. She has also been awarded three residencies in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, at the Atlantic Center for Art. Betty was, most recently, awarded an Honorable Mention in the annual Pastel 100 Exhibit by Pastel Journal. (You can see the winning painting in Member News section of this newsletter. )



It is Betty's hope that viewers of her art do not merely see a pretty piece of art on canvas or paper but, that they are drawn into the work, that they feel an emotional connection and somehow experience the energy that has gone into the piece. Her long term goal is to have work in public spaces, to perhaps connect with interior designers and to have her work displayed in a high-end gallery.

In addition to being active locally with Associated Women in the Art and Degas Pastel Society, Betty has been a long time member of the Guild. As a member of AGL Workshop Committee she has been instrumental in bringing, award winning oil instructors, such as Pam Ingalls and Bill Schneider, to our workshops.



Betty invites you to visit her website [www.bettyeffersonfineart.com](http://www.bettyeffersonfineart.com) and follow her on Facebook at: Betty Efferson Art.

## PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is "sprung" and as the earth moves out of the night of winter, I have high hopes that we can also move out from under the pandemic winter that the world has been held hostage by since March 2020. Mother Nature is dressed in her party finery with beautiful flowers of every color in bloom and trees and shrubs setting new leaf buds to lift our dreary spirits. I just love Spring!

The Guild is experiencing its own spring with renewed energy, new programs being planned and new people on the Board. I am happy to announce Marilyn Gensler, has accepted the nomination for President to be effective in May 2021 and I will move into the Immediate Past President position. Also, Lisa Sanchez has accepted a nomination and became the new Secretary effective March 2021. The previous Secretary, Emily Efferson has accepted an offer to remain on the Board as a Member at Large serving as the liaison to the Workshop Committee.



While we are steadily making progress resuming our robust exhibit and workshop programs, there is still much work to be done and being done. We are still observing safe health practices: masks required and social distancing being practiced at workshops and open studios. The Guild is moving forward with the 51<sup>st</sup> River Road Show, the prospectus is available on the website and calls for entry are in the process of being published and promoted. We are expecting 2021 to be a year of renewal and growth!!

The AGL is a historical part of the art culture in Baton Rouge and it serves a vital population in our community. Being a member of AGL means more than just belonging to an art organization. It means maintaining the passion of our founders to gather and to create and to share art. It means supporting and inspiring the development of emerging artists. It means supporting public art exhibitions in our community. If you have not renewed your membership, I ask you please take a moment and do that today! Thank you.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE.....RENEW OR JOIN TODAY**

## **51<sup>st</sup> Annual River Road Show -- Back on Track!**

After an unprecedented cancellation due to the pandemic in 2020, AGL's historic annual national River Road Show is back for 2021. We are honored to have been able to reschedule nationally acclaimed watercolor artist/instructor, Soon Warren, as the judge/juror for the show. She will also conduct a 3 day workshop at the Studio in the Park. The prospectus and entry form are updated and ready to accept entries on the Guild website [www.artguildlouisiana.org/river-road-show](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/river-road-show). The deadline for entry is Thursday, May 13, 2021. The show opens on August 3, 2021 and extends through October 3 (Early voting occurs at Archives from Friday, October 1 thru Sunday, October 3.) The exhibit take-down will occur on Monday, October 4, 2021.

## **Member Emails**

As a member in good standing with AGL, you should be receiving AGL member emails. We put time and effort into these emails to keep you informed of upcoming events, past events, schedule changes, art opportunities and other pertinent information regarding guild programs and activities. We do try not to bombard your inbox with a constant stream of emails. However, you should receive approximately one email a week (almost every week). If you are not receiving these important updates, please contact us via the contact page on the AGL website: [www.artguildlouisiana.org](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org). Please include your phone number in your contact message.

## **Tuesday Open Studios Are Back**

As of March 16, 2021 the Studio in the Park is once again open on Tuesdays from 11:00am – 4:00pm, for open studio. Enjoy networking with other artists and getting peer feedback, if desired. Artists are welcome to work in all mediums except oils.

Too many distractions at home to find time to focus on your painting passion? Come create art work for a couple of hours or all day at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge. The studio is a great workspace with good lighting, 8 foot long work tables, a cabinet full of items to set up a still life, an extensive art reference library and is equipped with a refrigerator and microwave.

## **Pastel Open Studio**

If you have been interested in trying out pastels, this is a great place to do so. Network with other artists working in pastel; exchange tips, ideas and conversation. If you would like to “try out” the pastel medium without the investment in a new medium, the studio has an assortment of “community” pastels that we are willing to share, but, you will need to bring your own paper. No fees, no registration ....just show up.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month from 11:00-3:00 the Guild invites members interested in working in pastels to join and connect with like-minded artists. Visiting artists are not required to work in pastels. Although this open studio is geared to pastel artists, other mediums are also welcome, except no oils.

REMINDER: Occasionally open studios may be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with workshops. Always check the website Calendar for the latest in scheduling changes.

## **Picture Day**

Picture Day will continue to follow the new process until further notice: Members who want to have paintings photographed must drop off paintings at the Studio in the Park Tuesday or Wednesday before Picture Day (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) between 11:00 am – 3:30 pm and can pick up their paintings the following Tuesday or Wednesday between 11:00 am – 3:30 pm. Occasionally Picture Day is not on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to a conflict. Picture Day Sunday for the entire year of 2021 is scheduled on the website Events Calendar, [www.artguildlouisiana.org/calendar](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/calendar). Face coverings are required in the studio and social distancing is practiced.

### Condolences:

Many of you may remember AGL member Don Schifferl, who also served as Vice President before moving. He had a passion for art and loved coming the Guild open studio sessions. He was a regular attendee at Wednesday open studio in the years before and after 2008/09 and often times on Sunday afternoon studios. One could have such great conversations with Don and he always had time to “share” about art; a very talented watercolor artist. Don passed away on February 6, 2021 in Chapel Hill, N.C., where he and his wife had moved a few years ago to be near family and grandchildren. The AGL sends our deepest sympathies and prayers to Don’s family and friends.

AGL member, Marilyn Mae Alexander Ehr, passed away on February 11, 2021 at Sunrise Assisted Living in Baton Rouge. Marilyn was a long-time member of the Guild, small in stature but large in personality and always dressed to the nines. She was an avid volunteer around town. And was an award winning member artist participating in what was then Louisiana Art and Artist’s Guild exhibits. The AGL offers prayers and condolences to her family and a multitude of friends whom she leaves behind.

## ART OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT TOWN

**Urban Sketchers Baton Rouge**, a certified chapter of the international Urban Sketchers’ movement. The group is open to artists of all skill levels. Just show up at the designated location and time. For questions contact Bill Buck at [wdbuck@me.com](mailto:wdbuck@me.com) or by phone at (225)916-8406. Events will be posted to their Facebook group, USk Baton Rouge as well as Instagram @UskBTR .

Apr 11th - Downtown Plaquemine  
Leader - Bill Buck

Apr 24th - Burden Gardens  
Leader - Brian Goad

May 6th – St. Gabriel Catholic Church  
Leader - Lisa Davis

May 22nd. BREC Dog Park  
Leader - Adam Werth

**Baton Rouge Plein Air**, facilitated by AGL member and local artist David Gary convenes weekly on Thursdays from 9:00am-noon with a friendly critique following. David encourages artists of all mediums and skill levels to participate... you just need to show up at the designated time/location. Follow them on Facebook for weekly updates, specifics and changes. [facebook.com/batonrougepleinair](https://www.facebook.com/batonrougepleinair). Contact David at (225)252-8384 for questions or further details.

Apr 1: Levee (Yellow Butterweed Bloom)  
Apr 8: Istrouma Brewery  
Apr 15: Houmas House (Lunch at 12:40)  
Apr 22: Istrouma Brewery (Show here May 1-3)  
Apr 29: White Oak Estate and Gardens

May 6: Hilltop Arboretum (Wildflower Meadow)  
May 13: Cohn Arboretum



## MEMBER NEWS

AGL member, **BETTY EFFERSON**, was recently honored when her pastel painting "Playing with Color" was awarded Honorable Mention in the Abstract Category in the "22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pastel 100", Pastel Journal's annual art competition. Betty's winning art piece was published in the Spring 2021 Issue of Pastel Journal.



Another painting sold! **MARILYN GENSLER's** painting "Flowers" that won the People's Choice ribbon in the Winter Member Show at Independence Park sold during the show. The new owner was very happy to have purchased a piece of art that ended up being an "award winning" piece of art. In addition to the live exhibit AGL also ran the show as a virtual exhibit on the AGL Facebook, allowing visitors to vote on their favorite painting.

Congratulations to AGL member, **DAVID GARY**, who was juried into this year's, Plein Air Competition at the Shadows on the Teche in New Iberia, a week long plein air painting competition. For the week of March 13-19 David had the opportunity to do daily plein air painting in any of 7 surrounding parishes. In addition to a full week of painting the event included attending painting demonstrations by Ken Backhaus, a shrimp fest and other activities. The week culminates with an award ceremony and sale of the art works completed during the week, held at the Shadows Visitor Center. This is the third year David has been accepted into the competition.



In the October issue, of News from the Palette we shared with you the pandemic project of **BETTY GRAVOIS**. She challenged herself to complete a painting/drawing a day during the "shut down". At the time of that printing she was up to about 180 something pieces. As the pandemic appears to be slowing due to vaccinations, and people are once again being allowed to come together, we revisited Betty to check in on her project. Betty shared with us, four journals completely filled with sketches, studies of art works by well-known artists and full color paintings. She now has completed 314 daily drawings/paintings and 15 studio pieces. Her new challenge—3 small paintings a week...an inspiration to us all!

## EXHIBITS

### Plein Air Exhibit

As an alternative to the Spring Judged Show, the Guild proudly sponsors an exhibit by the Baton Rouge Plein Air group, facilitated by Guild member David Gary. Nine talented local artists submitted 32 beautiful pieces of plein air art for the enjoyment of local art enthusiasts. The exhibit is currently open to the public at Independence Park Theatre Gallery until May 12, 2021, Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 – 5:00. The Independence

Part Theatre Gallery is located at 7800 Independence Boulevard (across the street from the Department of Motor Vehicles). Support your local artists—stop by and enjoy the beautiful plein air art. Also, a great place to purchase original local artwork. Face coverings are required for entry.

### Call for Art – AGL Spring Judged Show

The Art Guild of Louisiana is calling for art for their Spring Judged Show at Independence Park Theatre Gallery, Baton Rouge. The exhibit is open to all two-dimensional artists age 18 and up. We encourage a variety of traditional two-dimensional mediums. All entries must be original in material and composition. Photography, prints/giclées, computer generated/enhanced and other non-original art is not accepted.

This is a non-juried exhibit, which means that there is no selection process. Artists interested in exhibiting must bring their entries to the Independence Park Theater on May 13, 2021, between 11:00am and 1:00pm. All art work must meet the Art Guild of Louisiana Exhibit Requirements found at [www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits).

A total of \$400 in cash awards and 2 Honorable Mention ribbons will be presented at an awards ceremony on Sunday, June 6, 2021 from 2:00 – 4:00pm. Face coverings required and social distancing practiced.

Entry Fee: AGL members \$10 per entry/ nonmembers \$20 per entry

Location: 7800 Independence Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge

Exhibit dates: May 14 – July 7, 2021

All art must remain in the exhibit until the takedown date, July 8, 2021 from 11:00 – 1:00 pm. BREC retains 20% commission on all sales.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

### Kathy Redmond – Tangled Gems – Zentangle

June 4, 5, and 6, 2021 (Friday – Sunday afternoons) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m

**Early bird registration** through May 20 - \$60 member, \$75 nonmember

**Regular fee** begins May 21 to June 3, 2021 - \$75 member, \$90 nonmember

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - contact at 225.773.8020 or [bandrepont@bellsouth.net](mailto:bandrepont@bellsouth.net)

The simplicity of traditional Zentangle meets the sparkle of beautifully colored gemstones. We will open with basic Zentangle theory and techniques for the first day. Day two will cover the method used to create sparkling gemstones and integrate them into Zentangle drawings. We will continue to explore the gemstones on Day three and more complex use of Tangles with the stones.



### Kathy Redmond - Traditional Compass Rose meets Zentangle

June 25, 26, and 27, 2021 (Friday – Sunday afternoons) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Early bird registration** through June 10 - \$60 member, \$75 nonmember;

**Regular price** June 11 through June 24, 2021 - \$75 member, \$90 nonmember

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - contact at 225.773.8020 or [bandrepont@bellsouth.net](mailto:bandrepont@bellsouth.net)



Day one will be a discussion of eco-dyed papers – and then we will create our own “faux” eco dyed foundation paper for our project. Day two and three will focus on the creation of each student’s unique compass rose on the paper we dyed on Day one. We will also integrate quotes, lettering or maybe a treasure map to finish out the project.

### **Soon Warren – Vibrant Watercolor**

August 21-23, 2021 (Saturday – Monday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m

**Early bird registration** through July 7, 2021 - \$350 AGL members / \$400 nonmembers

**Regular fee** beginning July 8, 2021 - \$400 AGL members / \$450 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Betty Gravois: contact at 732.216.1095 or [elizabethgravois@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethgravois@gmail.com)

AGL is honored to host the national and international award-winning artist/ instructor and judge, Soon Warren, as the judge for the 2021 national River Road Show. In conjunction with the River Road show she will also present a 3-day workshop at the Studio in the Park. If you enjoy working in watercolor this is a workshop not to miss. Soon Warren is widely known for her skills in the use of color, light and contrast.

If you enjoy watercolor realism you will not want to miss this workshop! The workshop will focus on bringing a new vibrancy to your work. In class you will learn how to create an image of chosen subjects, such as a cut crystal bowl with flowers, Koi pond water, or silver pots with watercolor using a step by step process. To gain the most painting time in class, Soon will provide a reference photo and drawing for the group exercise. Following a painting demonstration by the instructor, workshop participants will do their own painting in order to fully understand the process. While concentrating on technique, the concept of color theory, composition and color values will also be included in the workshop.



Visit her website at [www.soonwarren.com](http://www.soonwarren.com) to see the wide variety of subject matter that she skillfully fills with light.

**More Upcoming Workshop:** Watch for further details on the following workshops on the AGL website at [www.artguildlouisiana.org/workshops](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/workshops), in newsletters and member emails.

### **Larry Downs**

Acrylic Painting from the Start (Beginning) - June 3, 10, 17, & 24

Drawing (Intermediate) - July 8, 15, 22, & 29

Acrylic Painting (Intermediate) - Aug 5, 12, 19, & 26

Drawing (Composition & Perspective) - Sept 9, 16, 23, & 30

### **Alan Flattmann - Painting Impressionistic Landscapes - Pastel or Oil**

October 9 –October 11, 2021 - Friday - Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Face coverings are required and social distancing is practiced in all AGL workshops. Each workshop participant is responsible for bringing their own personal table covering (plastic table covers are available for \$1 at Dollar Tree in the party section).





**Art Guild of Louisiana**  
PO Box 41115  
Baton Rouge, LA 70835



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If you would like to help with any aspect of producing the newsletter please contact Leah Schwartzman at [newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org](mailto:newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org).

Send member information for the newsletter to [newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org](mailto:newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of every other month : January, March, May, July, September, November.



### **Do You use FACEBOOK? Friends? Family?**

Calling ALL MEMBERS who use FACEBOOK ... Be sure to visit the Art Guild of Louisiana's Facebook page and "Like" us. "Share" AGL with your friends and family and ask them to do the same. Let's get the word out about YOUR organization ... we want Louisiana and surrounding artists to know what great opportunities we have to offer and we want friends and family who are not artists to know what we are doing ... to visit our exhibits and support our artists. We want to "connect art and people".