



News from the Palette

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August 2018

IAIN STEWART ON IAIN STEWART....Interview by Leah Schwartzman

Are you self-taught or did you study at an institution?

My background and training is not in fine art. I received my degree in architecture from Auburn University and did residential design before making the transition to commercial architectural illustration in watercolor--a career I have held for the last 22 years. During the "great recession" there was so little financing for the building industry and work was scarce. I knew that I needed to change gears so I began to seriously paint as a fine artist, as did many of my friends. I still do some illustration but the bulk of my painting is now of subjects of my choosing. While I continue to be drawn to architectural or manmade subjects, the intensity of detail and the style in which I paint has changed dramatically. For the most part I am self-taught. The lessons I teach come from the many mistakes that I have overcome, and I believe that every failed painting can be the next step in your journey to become the artist you wish to be. You just need to be willing to make mistakes and ruin a particular painting. Good paintings are like drinking buddies.



Do your children or family members paint?

Yes, my father, Muir Stewart, is an extremely talented watercolorist and architectural illustrator. Over the years our shared passion has sometimes caused a bit of competition between us, but now we just paint for ourselves and enjoy the ups and downs of the work. He has probably given me five or six formal lessons in my life. The real education came in the form of impromptu critiques with amazing accuracy. I still feel the sting of those to this day and silently thank him. Learning to take a full barreled "crit" with the understanding that the outcome is meant to help you is something very hard to learn but extremely necessary to forward your work.

What about my life experiences made me understand that art was my passion.

I remember clearly in fourth grade math when the teacher stopped at my desk and noticed I was doodling in the margins of the paper. She made a point of informing me and the entire class that these little cartoons would never lead me anywhere. I enjoyed drawing my entire life and that moment stuck with me. Even at that tender age I knew she was absolutely wrong. I've always found solace and refuge in drawing and later painting. It is where my mind takes me when I need a break from the everyday. I imagine the physical process of painting as I go to sleep. It is ingrained so deeply in me that I don't even know when I've drifted away from a conversation and am painting a sky in my head. It can be a little frustrating to my children but at this point they understand how weird their dad can be.

When, how often, and how long do you paint?

Daily...as much as possible and for as long as I can get away with. I run two businesses, I travel a lot, and there is always some email or phone call I need to make, but I insist on creating studio time. I call it going back to the 80s. No cell phone, no social media, nothing but some good music and time to paint. For me, painting is somewhat of a selfish act and I guard my time very carefully. It can be hard when your studio is in your home,

along with the family and the hounds, but they know when I have those doors closed I might as well be in another building.

Do you get painters block and how do you deal with it?

Oh, yes! I do. I believe we all do! It is just how we deal with it that makes us the painters we are. Almost like clockwork every year I begin to ruin paintings. I know when this happens I have to work through it. My style changes slightly year-to-year and this is part of the process. I need to shed the old skin to make room for growth, which can be frustrating. The upside of this is that the block indicates that I am struggling to express myself in a different way. Soon enough I have a breakthrough and the painting gets better. If I'm not ruining a few paintings then I'm not pushing myself hard enough.

What was your worst painting nightmare?

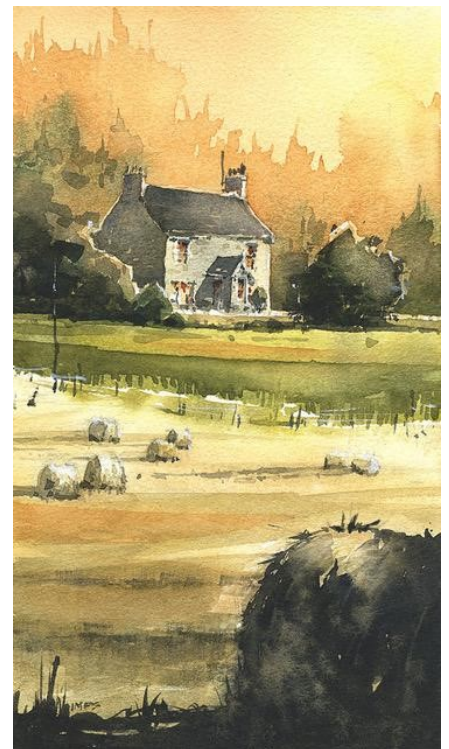
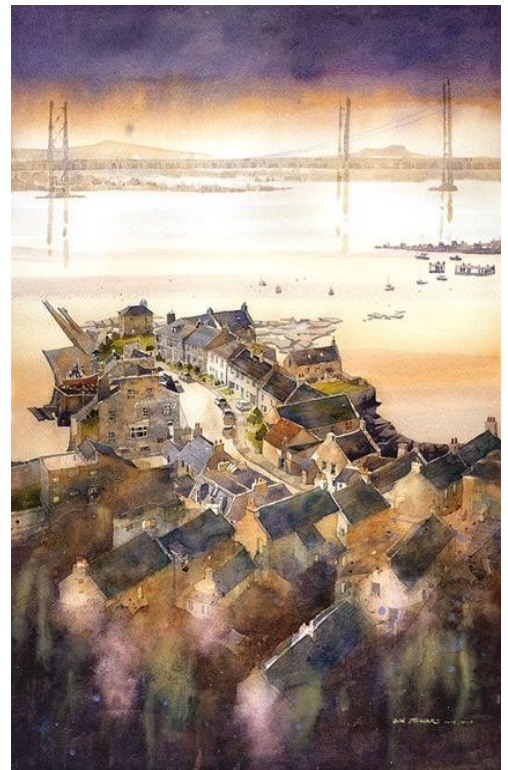
I don't know why I chose to answer this question. It just seemed fun. I have so many painting nightmares I don't know how to start. Rest assured all of your heroes and master painters have all ruined more paintings than you can imagine. But surely not so and so, you say? Yes, them too.

I'll leave you with this. "Most paintings have a small nightmare in them; they also have a beautiful dream--conflict and resolution. I say the following in all of my workshops: I want you to paint with abandon--don't let the painting become too precious because as soon as you do, it's toast. That little voice you hear in the middle of completing a painting that whispers: Ooh, this is going to look great with that frame or I'm going to enter this one in this show, is lying to you. What it's really telling you is to protect your painting at all costs. It's so important. Hmm... Well, no...it's not. When your painting becomes precious before it's finished and had some time to rest it's possibly time to light it on fire. In saying this, I mean no disrespect. 'Painting with abandon' means that right up to the last brush stroke you are walking the razor's edge of success and failure. It's an exhilarating way to work and also results in the occasional nightmare. If you're going to fail--why not do it spectacularly? You just may find that you surprise yourself."

What advice would you give to beginning painters?

"Play ... don't put pressure on yourself to perform ... just play". Exploration for the pure enjoyment of it without the worry of the outcome is essential to gain experience. Experiment with your palette. Mix your paint and see if you can create any color you see. Learn how different pigments react to one another.

Once you decide that you want to become serious about painting, then learn to draw. There are a number of books out there on the subject and I typically recommend Richard Scott's *Sketching from Square One to Trafalgar Square* (no, I don't receive any kickback). For me drawing is the heartbeat of a painting. A good drawing can carry a poorly executed painting, however, the opposite is almost never true. Grab a sketchbook and a pencil or pen and go outside. Drawing in the great outdoors will teach you everything you need to know about composition, editing, drawing from memory, and the dreaded perspective. I keep a sketchbook in anything I carry, drive, or pedal. There is no way to better your work than by taking the time to observe and record your life.



Ponderings from the President

Lyrics to one of my favorite songs are “Summertime.....and the living is easy...” and certainly the humid Louisiana summers conjure up visions of laid back relaxation —sitting on the porch with a cool drink enjoying an evening breeze. Fast forward to reality however, we find ourselves in the midst of the “dog days” of summer and everyone seems to be working hard trying to stay cool, keep the plants watered, make sure outdoor pets have plenty of water and staying inside. And, hopefully spending many hours in the coolness of a studio working on some fabulous art pieces. The Guild has been busy planning and organizing several events where you can come by relax a bit, enjoy some art and certainly stay out of the heat. Spend a lazy afternoon visiting one of our exhibits or painting at Studio in the Park. More information about the following events can be found throughout this newsletter.

The **Member Workshop Show**– currently showing at Independence Park Theatre Gallery until September 5.

The **Summer Judged Show** at Louisiana State Archives through August; reception on August 16

The **Young Louisiana Artists** exhibit at Independence Park Theatre Gallery, September - November; reception October 7.

Open Studio sessions at Studio in the Park every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon; life drawing sessions with a live model on Wednesday evenings.



IT'S ELECTION TIME!!

The mission of the AGL... “to promote visual art and artists and to increase public appreciation and awareness by providing education and exhibition opportunities to artists of all proficiency levels.” We currently have a very team-oriented Board of Directors committed to our mission and to supporting each other. However, we are looking for a few new people with new ideas and visions who are also committed to the AGL mission.



Are you looking for a more active involvement in the Baton Rouge art community? Do you like connecting with other artists? Do you want to know what happens behind the scenes? Would you like the opportunity to put forth your visions and ideas for promoting art in Baton Rouge? Or connect with other art organizations in the State? The AGL Board of Directors is looking for people like YOU!

Beginning **August 1, 2018 through September 4, 2018**, the AGL Board of Directors will be accepting nominations for the positions of President and Secretary. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of what makes things happen in promoting art in Baton Rouge contact one of the Board members listed below. Most of the responsibilities can be accomplished from home via computer and/or phone and on a schedule set by you, convenient to your life.

The term (2 years) for both the President and the Secretary will run from January 2019 – December 31, 2020. The President of the Board is responsible for directing and coordinating the activities of the Guild with the help of very supportive Board members and committees. The Board holds monthly meetings that generally run 2 hours, and is currently held on Thursdays from 1:30–3:30 at Studio in the Park.

The Secretary attends monthly Board meetings, takes the minutes, maintains the Board meeting binder, and provides support to the President as needed for meetings.

For questions or to discuss details regarding the positions contact any of the Board members listed below. All nominations should be submitted in writing. If you do not use email and you would like to make a nomination you may mail your nomination to AGL Nominations, P.O. Box 41115, Baton Rouge, LA 70835.

Claudia LeJeune (Treasurer) - claudiale@aol.com

Betty Klenke - (MAL) bjklenke@gmail.com

Barbara Andrepont (MAL)- bandrepont@bellsouth.net

Karen Coffman(Vice President) - karencoffman60@hotmail.com

Kay Bailey - (MAL) baileykay7850@gmail.com

Leah Schwartzman - (President) jleahschwartz@gmail.com

Marilyn Gensler Secretary whelangal@bellsouth.net

*MAL — Member at Large



ART OPPORTUNITIES

William “Bill” Buck has organized an Urban Sketchers Baton Rouge group. It is an “open” group as anyone may participate. Urban Sketchers Baton Rouge gets together once a month on Saturdays at specified locations in the Baton Rouge area to sketch and draw on location both indoors and outdoors. The next sketch event will be **July 21** downtown at the area around the State Capitol/Pentagon Barracks/Arsenal Museum.

The schedule for the next 4 months is as follow:

August 18th – Mall of Louisiana

September 15th – Old State Capitol

October 20th – LSU Lakes

November 17th – To be determined.

For questions and further details contact Bill Buck at 225-590-2778 or by email at wdbuck@yahoo.com; interested parties may also visit the FB Group Page ...**Usk Baton Rouge**.

Open Studio Sessions

The Studio in the Park offers free studio space to AGL members. The space is a large well lighted space with 8 foot work tables, easels, objects for still life setups and many amenities such as refrigerator, microwave, coffee. Several artists paint there on a regular basis and they often have potluck lunches and snacks to share. Open studio hours are Tuesdays &



Wednesdays from 10:00am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays during the summer from 4:00pm to 8:00pm; Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Stop by to paint or just to have cup of coffee and visit with the artists and “check it out”. You can also register for a workshop or just get information about the Guild.

AGL also offers weekly life drawing sessions on Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00pm, with a live model at the Studio in the Park. Life drawing is open to non-members as well as members and there is a \$10 fee for each session payable at the door. All attendees must be at least 18 years of age.



MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations! AGL Members Juried into the River Road Show

The entries for the 49th River Road Show are in and we are sure to have another fabulous exhibit. We received 407 entries from 137 artists from 10 states. The juror and judge, Iain Stewart, has completed the task of choosing the final 70 pieces of art that will be in the exhibit at the Louisiana State Archives Building.

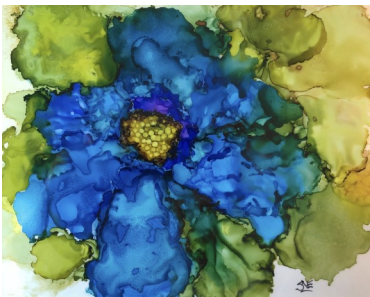
We would like to send out special **Congratulations** to the following 18 lucky and very talented members of the Art Guild of Louisiana who have been juried into this year's River Road show:

Judi Betts, Cheryl Caro, Emily Efferson, Elaine Erikson, Deana Evstefeeva, Ken Hopel, Ellen Jenkins, Julie Krutz, Ralph Marino, Donna McGee, Arnel McMillin, Barry Owen, Scott Pogue, Trish Poynot Carlos Setti, Nancy Smitherman, Kathy Miller Stone and Pat Wattam

Everyone mark your calendars for the ever popular awards reception to be held on September 20, 2018 from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Louisiana State Archives Building, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge. There will be art exhibited from ten states, delicious hors d'oeuvres and refreshments and lots of fellow artists and art fans to meet and talk with. Come see who will walk away with the awards --\$4,000 in cash and prizes! Invite you friends, family and colleagues for a fun evening of art and socializing.

Exhibiting members are encouraged to bring a finger food for the table.

The exhibit will be open and free to the public through September 27, 2018, during regular business hours 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday –Friday. Share the information with friends, family, colleagues; invite them to see stop in to see some great art from across the nation. Share it on your Facebook page!! Also, we will soon be sending out an electronic invitation that you can share.

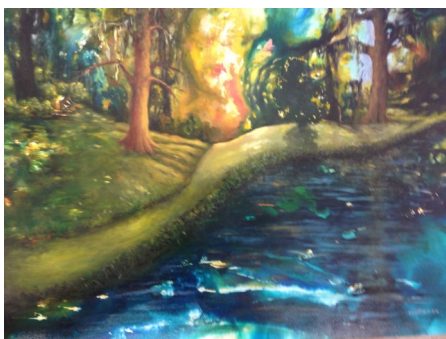


Sue Warnock's painting in alcohol ink “Blue Velvet” won a People's Choice Award in the Pops of Color Exhibition at the Tibbits' Opera House in Coldwater, Michigan, in July. Sue Warnock was a very active local AGL member, who now continues her AGL membership from Centerville, MI. Congratulations , Sue...we miss you down here.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS: The Guild will hold a special members meeting on Sunday, August 12, 2018 at the Studio in the Park. The focus of the meeting is to give you a “sneak peek” at the paintings that were juried into the River Road Show.

EXHIBITS

Winners of the Summer Member Show



The Summer Member Show was on exhibit at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery from May 10 through July 12, 2018. Congratulations go to Larry Downs and Nancy Smitherman for their winning artworks; “Study for First Rush” (watercolor) and “Luminous Pathway” (acrylic) respectively; they tied for the People’s Choice Award. Each received a People’s Choice award ribbon and shared the \$50 cash prize.



Workshop Show

The AGL Member Workshop Show will be open at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery, 7800 Independence Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge through September 5. The exhibit is free and open to the public, during regular business hours Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am till 5:00 pm. The exhibit consists of 36 paintings in a variety of mediums, including watercolor, pastels, acrylics, oils and pencil submitted by 20 artists.

Congratulations to Patricia Ryan, who won the People’s Choice award for her fabulous oil painting of “Beau”, the beloved pet next door.



Summer Judged Show

The Summer Judged Show is on exhibit at the Louisiana State Archives Building, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, on August 1st. The exhibit will remain open until August 30, 2018 and is free to the public, during regular business hours Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm.

An awards reception will be held at the State Archives Building on Thursday, August 16, 2018, from 5:30 – 7:30. There will be refreshments/snacks. Exhibiting artists are encouraged to bring a finger food dish for the snack table.

We offer our sincere thanks to Rodneya Hart for agreeing to be the judge for the exhibit. Rodneya, a graduate of LSU with a double concentration in sculpture and painting, is the Exhibition Manager for Louisiana Arts and Science Museum, earning the museum the 225 Magazine’s “Best Museum” Award in 2016 & 2017. And, she is the Art Manager/Curator for the Healthcare Gallery in addition to many other accomplishments throughout her art career.

Young Louisiana Artists Exhibit

Last year one of AGL’s member artists, Heather Ricard, approached the Board regarding classes for youth. This was a new venture for the Guild. However, in keeping with our mission ... “to promote visual art and arts and to increase public appreciation and awareness by providing education and exhibition opportunities to artists of all proficiency levels,” the Board supported Heather’s desire to provide art education for youth at the Studio in the Park.

The classes held at the Studio in the Park on weekday evenings after school, 5:30-7:00pm were open to youth ages 7-11 years. The classes covered color theory, a variety of topics and mediums including oils, mosaics, use of texture medium, collage, cubism, and more.

Having now completed 3 sessions of classes, AGL presents an exhibit of 20 pieces of art from these “Young Louisiana Artists.” The exhibit will be on display at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery, 7800 Independence Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge.

An artists’ reception will be held on October 7th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Invite your friends and family to join you and stop by to meet the artists and help us to support and celebrate the accomplishments of these “Young Louisiana Artists.”

There are also plans to have a fun and informative demonstration during the reception. Look for details about who will be presenting the demo and what they will be talking about in upcoming emails.

RECENT WORKSHOPS

Don Andrews – “Landscape Color and Composition – Watercolor”

In Don Andrews’ stress-free approach to teaching his workshop, participants walked away more confident and relaxed knowing their own work achieved a greater degree of skill and satisfaction. Don was able to easily convey his techniques to the group, with quick mini demonstrations and individual guidance. Participants completed the 3 days with several works of art at least started and a wealth of new tips, ideas and inspiration.



Louise Hansen – “Capturing Your Vacation in Pen and Ink”

Among other talents Louise possesses “Pen and Ink” is her forte. If you have ever seen her sketchbooks, you’ll understand the depth of her work. Having a background in graphic arts, she demonstrated how to combine watercolor with pen and ink techniques. Louise taught pen strokes to enhance drawing skills, with emphasis on values and composition. There was lots of time to practice the techniques Louise taught, with plenty of one on one guidance.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

DVD Lunch & Learn with Terry Madden - Watercolor

Thursday, August 23, 2018 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Fee - \$25 (pizza & refreshments provided)

Deadline to Register: August 20, 2018

To register contact Kay Bailey at baileykay7850@gmail.com or 225-933-6008

It’s a pizza and painting party!!! Come join the fun!

This popular art experience, facilitated by Betty Gravois, will focus on a DVD from Terry Madden's 1500 series. The subject matter will be a "Field of Poppies" or a "Field of Lavender.”



Terry Madden, who passed away in 2017, was one of America's favorite television art instructors. We will paint along with Terry as he demonstrates his watercolor techniques. The facilitator will stop the DVD at specific intervals to allow participants to catch up with the instructor so that we can truly "paint along with Terry."

****We are able to offer this unique painting opportunity, at such a low cost, because, the facilitator has volunteered her time. All proceeds, after expenses go directly to the operations of the Guild.**

YOUTH ART CLASSES RETURNING SOON!

Heather Ricard -- Oil Painting Techniques

Thursdays, September 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 5:30pm – 7:00 pm

Second Session — Heather Ricard—Exploring Different Mediums

Thursdays, October 4, 18, 11 and 25 from 5:30pm — 7:00pm

Registration fee per session: Ages 7 - 16 \$100 for a child only, parent accompanying a child \$160 and adult only (no child) \$200

Maximum number of students--10. All materials are supplied for both sessions.

Oil Painting Techniques:

Children, parents and adults are welcome. Participants will break out into groups by age and each group will be provided with appropriate skill level projects. Older students and advanced children will be given a still life to paint. The younger students will be given a choice of photographs to work from. Heather will discuss how to break down objects into simple shapes for easier sketching. She will also

discuss visualizing and capturing lights and shadows and how to mix colors. Older students will be given an advanced color wheel and mixing charts. Heather's goal is to bring all students to the next level and to challenge everyone.



Exploring Different Mediums :

This session will focus on portraits in different mediums: oil, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, pencil or charcoal. Each student will be given a photo of a celebrity to recreate in a medium of their choice. Heather will discuss face shapes and focus on eyes, nose and mouth. She will work with each individual on their skill/age level.

Iain Stewart – “From Sketchbook to Studio – Watercolor”

Friday – Sunday, September 7-9, from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Early Bird Registration (until July 22) - \$350 AGL members / \$400 non-members

Regular Fee - \$400 AGL members / \$450 nonmembers

To register, contact Nikki Spencer at nspence@lsu.edu or 225 928-001

Iain Stewart is a very accomplished watercolor artist/illustrator from Opelika, Alabama. “My watercolors are not only a translation of what I see, but more importantly, an expression of how I choose to view the world.” And his views are well-noted in his vast collections of paintings. He tends to rely on what he captures in his sketches and in memory, focusing on atmospheric and lighting conditions and how they influence shape and value. In his workshop, Iain will demonstrate the steps he uses in transferring what is recorded in his sketchbook to the canvas where he wishes to tell a more permanent and expressive story.



Bill Farnsworth – “The Value of Three Values – Oils”

Monday – Wednesday, October 15-17, from 9:00am to 4:00pm** (see NOTE below)

Early Bird Registration (September 1) - \$375 AGL members / \$425 nonmembers

Regular Fee - \$425 AGL members / \$475 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Gravois at elizabethgravois@gmail.com or 732-216-1095.



Bill Farnsworth is a skilled artist from Southwest Florida. “The light is what makes something [paintings] very special or just forgettable.” Bill expresses *value* to the viewer using a painted, visual language on canvas, capturing the very essence of what he’s trying to portray. No matter where you are as an artist, whether novice or pro, he teaches you to improve the skills and techniques that you bring to his workshop.

****NOTE**:** There has been a slight change to the Bill Farnsworth dates: Previous dates: Tuesday, October 16-Thursday October 18

New dates: Monday, October 15-Wednesday, October 17, 2018