



# News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana  
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**DECEMBER 2020**

## MEET MARILYN GENSLE ...

Marilyn has been a member of the Guild for 11 years and many of those she has been a volunteer member of the AGL Board. She previously served as Secretary and is currently serving as Member-at-Large, focusing on publicity.

Marilyn began her art journey in her high school years. She says with a grin: when it came time to choose electives her sister enrolled in music, however, Marilyn's understanding was the music teacher was "mean as hell"... which did not appeal to her at all so she enrolled art. It was then that she discovered her passion as an artist. She found out she liked everything about art from lettering to sketching, drawing, design and especially color.



She continuously practiced art throughout her earlier years, as a wife and mother of five (three of which are triplets), but time for such frivolity as drawing or painting was very limited other than forays into art for the children. As the children grew to be more self-reliant and retirement from work became a reality in 2010, Marilyn has dedicated her time to her artistic learning by joining the Guild and taking some workshops. Marilyn says her purpose in art is not to deliver some deep-seated spiritual awakening or social justice message, or even recognition... just that viewers see her work as lovely pieces of art. Her purpose is to keep learning, and exploring and having fun with all the aspects of different art mediums and techniques.

Marilyn painted mostly in watercolor until about six years ago when she discovered pastels. She was immediately attracted to the intense colors and texture. Just transitioning from a transparent to an opaque medium presented its own set of interesting challenges. But she continued the bold adventure of learning about and loving the medium of pastel. About a year ago she began dabbling in oil because she finally overcame her inner fears of painting with that medium. She had the inner thought that oils were only for "serious painters" and she never took herself that seriously. Today, she continues her learning journey with oils striving for the rich colors that can be achieved while exploring a different texture. But she says she has not given up any of the other mediums. She still enjoys the attributes of each in its own right. And, she still uses watercolor for quick sketches, some of which have later become oil paintings.

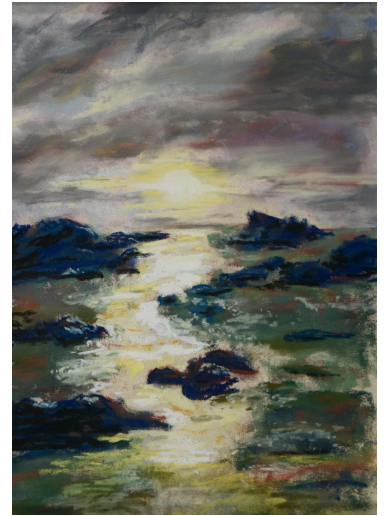


Marilyn says she really puts forth the effort to practice art at least every day. While she may not "paint" daily she relishes daily excursions into sketching using photographs that speak to her from her collection of vacation photos. Sometimes she just sketches whatever is in front of her and often finds herself doing value sketches. Most people find thumbnail value sketches to be boring and laborious; Marilyn finds these value sketches to be very interesting and relaxing. Also, she believes that it is an invaluable practice and provides a leg up in planning for future paintings. She also occasionally ventures out for some plein air work on Thursdays with the Baton Rouge Plein Air group or Saturdays with the Baton Rouge Urban Sketchers group.

A little-known fact among Marilyn's artist friends and Guild members is she does many other creative things, one of which is whittling. And of all things, tiny pencil whittlings. It all began with a wood sculpture course which continued into a self-taught woodworking venture, building such things as outdoor furniture and swings. After discovering Woodworking magazine at a local store, she began carving wood pencil sculptures for family and friends.



Marilyn's advice/tips for beginning artists: practice, practice, practice and sketch, sketch, sketch! Try to put out of your head any expectations from anyone other than yourself. In fact, put all expectations out of your head and just sketch for the sake of sketching. Keep working and experimenting in any medium that "calls" your name and try not to be too frugal with your materials.



## PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a year! So many setbacks and hardships for so many people, and so much division across our nation. Yet .... At the same time there has been so much learning and growth, so much love shared and so many people coming together in support of each other. In this holiday season let us focus on those positive things that have risen to the top.

The Guild has been forced to take a very deep look at where we stand financially. The Board is having to make adjustments and changes in the face of significant economic losses this year. As we come out of this challenging year we will continue into 2021 hopefully filled with renewed strength, motivation and new ideas in the new year.



Several options have been discussed in regard to implementing new and creative ways to continue to grow. I encourage you to share YOUR ideas with the Board. We want to remain relevant and meet the needs of our membership as we enter the Guild's 68<sup>th</sup> year. And we need member input to do that. It is more important than ever that we have your support in dollars, volunteer time, and creative ideas as the Guild slowly rebuilds and recovers from 2020.

I pray that each of you, whatever your belief may be, enjoy a 2020 holiday season that is filled with love and joy and that you all have the best possible celebrations in our strange new world.

**"The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude" - Oprah Winfrey**

### Guild Christmas Party Cancelled

It is with much regret that I inform you that the Guild Christmas Party for 2020 is cancelled. Our members' health is foremost in our thought, and we just do not have the space to have that number of people together safely. The Winter Judged Show will hold its Awards Presentation on December 17, 2020 at the State Archives Building from 2:00-4:00p.m. The judge for the show, Libby Johnson, will be there to present the awards and

make personal comments about the winning works of art. As an alternative to the party we will award door prizes to three lucky attendees.

## **NOTICE TO MEMBERS**

Like many business and organizations, the pandemic has struck a mighty blow to the finances of the Guild. Cancellation of workshops in the first quarter and inability to host any high profile workshops for the entire year, which also negatively affects membership numbers and lack of regular exhibits has effectively wiped out our revenue streams for the year. We will close our books this year with a significant deficit. We have initiated several cost cutting measures, most of which will be transparent to members and others that are noted below. In addition to cost cutting measures we are exploring new ways to offer educational and/or other opportunities.

In past years the Guild generously provided a beautiful River Road Show catalog to all AGL members at no charge. It is no longer economically feasible to continue to do that. Effective 2021 members who are accepted into the River Road Show will receive a free catalog. As a token of appreciation for service AGL Board members will continue to receive a free catalog. Members may pre-order River Road Show catalogs for a fee of \$10 each to be paid with their new or renewed membership. More details/options will be forthcoming as we work out the logistics of implementing this change.

Effective immediately, the AGL phone number, (225) 930-7542 is disconnected. The overwhelming majority of phone calls received are “junk” calls. As we move into a new way of doing business all communications/questions regarding the Guild should be submitted through the “Contact” form on the website.

As we continue the process of developing our 2021 Budget we are looking at other opportunities for revenue enhancement and cost cutting options. We urge our members to offer any suggestions that they may have and we encourage everyone to help us sustain our base with current dues paying members and with the recruitment of new members. This is the time for our members and supporters to think of the AGL in their end of the year charitable contributions as yearend approaches.

## **Exhibits at Independence Park Theatre Gallery to resume in 2021**

BREC Independence Park Theatre reopened its doors to the public on October 13. Currently every weekend in March, April and May is booked as they too are trying to recover from the loss of events and revenue due to the pandemic. In 2019, thousands of people passed through the doors of this venue to participate in activities hosted by the theatre including people from across the country for national dance competitions. And many other local people came by just to view our exhibits. We are moving forward to face 2021 with new hope and optimism and want everyone to know that we will recover from the unfortunate turn of events.

The first exhibit will be the **Winter Member Show** from January 14, 2021 through March 10, 2021. You will find the Call for Entry on page 6. For your convenience, an exhibit schedule through the end of 2021 is also provided.

Through the generosity of BREC, the Guild has access to the Studio in the Park, free of charge. The Studio in the Park allows the Guild to offer reasonably priced, high quality workshops in a pleasant and spacious environment to our members and other local artists; a great open studio space available to our members free of charge and a space to provide ongoing public exhibits for members and other local artists.

While the Guild certainly is supportive of exhibiting artists making sales (in 2019, two paintings were sold during the take-in), the Guild also has a larger mission to promote visual art and increase public awareness of local talent by hosting public exhibits and supporting the partners that support us. The Board encourages members to participate in the exhibits at Independence Park Theatre Gallery and invite fellow artists to participate along with you in the judged exhibits. Your support is critical now more than ever.



## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

Thank you for being a member of the Art Guild of Louisiana. We hope that you will continue your membership by renewing for 2021.

Art Guild of Louisiana annual membership runs from January 1 through December 31 (calendar year). We are accepting 2021 membership dues NOW! This is the time to get those dues paid so you can take full advantage of member benefits, workshop discounts, exhibits, having your artwork photographed and posted in your very own gallery on the Guild website, use of the art reference library and open studio space.

Annual membership is \$40 for regular membership or \$25 for full-time student membership. You may conveniently make a **Donation** to the Guild at the same time you renew your membership. The Guild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, making your donation and your membership tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

There are three easy and convenient ways to renew or give a membership to a friend or family member:

- 1) **Online** at [www.artguildlouisiana.org/join](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/join). You may pay with a credit card or via Pay Pal.
- 2) **Mail** your check and a completed Membership Form to the Guild. Be sure to note on your check "2021 Dues." Make Checks payable to Art Guild of Louisiana or AGL and mail it to AGL, P.O. Box 41115, Baton Rouge, LA 70835. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU INCLUDE A COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH YOUR CHECK.
- 3) **Pay in person** at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge during open studio hours: Currently that is Wednesdays from 11:00 to 4:00pm. If you pay in person you must also complete a Membership Form.

THE MEMBERSHIP FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND PRINTED FROM THE WEBSITE  
[www.artguildlouisiana.org/downloads/AGL-membership-form.pdf](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/downloads/AGL-membership-form.pdf)

Questions should be submitted to the Guild at [www.artguildlouisiana.org/contact](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/contact). Be sure to include a phone number if you want to speak to someone.

## ART OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT TOWN

### Contemporary Fiber Artists of Louisiana

Contemporary Fiber Artists of Louisiana is presenting a fabulous display of their talents in an exhibit at the Old State Capitol. The exhibit is open to the public until December 19, 2020. You can learn more about this great group of local artists by visiting their website: [www.contemporaryfiberartistsofla.com](http://www.contemporaryfiberartistsofla.com)

**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. The next venture is December 12, 2020 at 10:00am at the Cajun Village in Sorrento.

**Baton Rouge Plein Air**, a local group, facilitated by AGL member and local artist David Gary convenes weekly on Thursdays from 9:00am-noon. Artists of all mediums and skill levels are invited to participate. Just show up. A friendly group critique is available following the painting session. The location for each week is posted by the previous Tuesday on their Facebook page. **Be sure to check for last minute updates and changes at Facebook.com/batonrougepleinair.** For questions or further details contact David Gary at (225) 252-8384.

**Dana Mosby's** oil painting, *Florida @ Third*, tied for Peoples Choice at the Associated Women in the Arts exhibition. The show was held during October, 2020 at the Louisiana State Archives and was viewed by thousands of early voters. Congrats, Dana!



Congratulations to **Margaret Hawkins!** Not only was her painting accepted into the Arts in Medicine exhibit at Baton Rouge General but, she was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place. Margaret's winning piece, *Illuminate 8: 2020-Rough Year But We're Still Golden*, is a mixed media piece including squares of gold, copper and silver leaf on canvas.

Congratulations to **Patricia Ryan** who sold her painting *Cotton Cuttings* while showing in the Associated Women in the Arts recent exhibition at the Louisiana State Archives.



A group of Art Guild of Louisiana members and friends have banded together to present an exhibit of approximately 40 works of art featuring a variety of mediums.

Louisiana artists **Joette LeBlanc, Kathy Miller Stone, Emily Efferson, Lisa Sanchez, Cheri Fry and Chris Bajon Jones** invite you to enjoy their art at Bayou Smokehouse BBQ, 4355 Inniswold Rd., Baton Rouge, LA (225-412-0278) <https://www.bayousmokehousebr.com/> (off Jefferson Hwy near Bluebonnet-turn by Lagniappe Framing on to Inniswold and about ½ block down)

Show your support for our talented local artists and restaurants by stopping in during regular business hours, Tue: 11-2 and Wed to Sat 11-7 to enjoy art and taste the delicious culinary faire prepared by Chef Finn at the Bayou Smokehouse BBQ.

Coming soon! Also, in the works by this same great group is an Outdoor Tent Art Show at the same location



### AGL Winter Judged Show

The AGL Winter judged show is currently on exhibit at the Louisiana State Archives Building, 3851 Essen Lane. The exhibit is open and free to the public during regular business hours Mon – Fri from 9:00-4:30, through December 29, 2020. Face coverings are required to enter the building. The Awards Presentation will be Thursday, December 17, 2020 from 2:00-4:00pm. Local artist and instructor Libby Johnson is the judge for this exhibit and will be present to announce the award winners and make personal comments on the winning works of art. We encourage exhibiting artists to attend the presentation and invite your immediate family and/or members of your household. Face coverings are required and social distancing will be practiced.

### Call for Entry – AGL Winter Member Show - Independence Park Theatre

Exhibit Dates: January 14, 2021 to March 11, 2021

Entry Fee: \$5 per art piece

Take-In Date: January 14, 2021 – 11:00am – 1:00pm

All artwork must remain in the exhibit until the take-down March 11, 2021.

Awards Presentation: February 7, 2021 from 2:00-4:00pm. Exhibiting artists are encouraged to attend.

Awards: People Choice Ribbon

Pick-Up Date: March 11, 2021 – 11:00am – 1:00pm

A \$25 fee will be assessed on work not picked up during the designated date and time. Pickup reminder slips are distributed at the take-in. No additional reminders are sent.

This exhibit is open to all AGL members. We encourage a variety of traditional 2 dimensional mediums. All art works must be original in material and composition. Photography, prints/giclées, computer generated/enhanced, and other non-original art is not accepted. Entries are limited to 5 per artist. BREC retains a 20% commission on all sales.

This is a non-juried exhibit, which means that there is no selection process. Interested artists must simply bring their artwork to Independence Park Theatre on January 14, 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) then click on Winter Judged Show.

### 2021 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

#### Winter Member Show

Take-In: January 14

Reception: February 7

Take-Down: March 11

#### Spring Judged Show:

Take-In: March 11

Reception: April 8  
\*\*Thursday 5-7:00pm

Take-Down: May 13

#### Spring Member Show:

Take-In: May 13

Reception: June 6

Take-Down: July 8

#### Summer Judged Show:

Take-In: July 8

Reception: August 1

Take-Down: September 9

#### Workshop Show:

Take-In: September 9

Reception: October 3

Take-Down: November 11

#### Winter Judged Show:

Take-In: November 11

Reception: December 5

Take-Down: Jan. 12, 2022

**\*\* NOTE:** the awards reception for the Spring Judged Show will be held on a Thursday evening instead of the usual Sunday afternoon. All other receptions should be on a Sunday afternoon from 2:00-4:00p.m..

### Larry Downs – Drawing in the Shadows

Thursdays, January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2020 from 3:00-6:00pm

Early Bird Fee through December 24, 2020; \$60 members/\$75 nonmembers

Regular fee beginning December 25, 2020; \$75 members/ \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont, contact at [bandrepont@bellsouth.net](mailto:bandrepont@bellsouth.net) or 225-773-8020

Highlights, mid-tones, reflected light, cast shadows what does it all mean? Join local artist/instructor Larry Downs for a weekly drawing lesson focusing on the use and understanding of those terms. We will set up a still life with direct lighting and each week will build on understanding and gain hands on experience in the use of lights and shadows to capture the life of 3-D objects and a two dimensional surface. Participants should have some knowledge and experience with basic drawing concepts. Our classes are designed to give you as much information and experience as we can so that you feel comfortable to continue to draw on your own, or to continue your learning within a more advanced class.

**NOTE:** SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRACTICED DURING ALL WORKSHOPS; MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE STUDIO, ALONG WITH ANY OTHER PANDEMIC SAFETY PROTOCOLS SET FORTH BY OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALL NEWLY IMPLEMENTED SAFETY PROCEDURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED.



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



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**December 2020**

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".