



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana

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DECEMBER 2022

Introducing Betty Gravois ...

Betty Gravois was born in Newark, New Jersey, the oldest of five girls. Art was her favorite subject in grammar school but the art teacher was scheduled just once a month. As a child, she practiced her art via paint by number kits and color pencil kits called Venus of Paradise. Her father would paint their front windows at Christmas with poster paint and Betty had enough of an artist's eye to eventually take over that job. In high school Betty got to take more art classes and became Art Editor of the school's Literary Magazine. Betty wanted to go to college for a degree in Art but her parents wanted her to get a degree in something that would generate a stable income. So, Betty ended up earning her BS in Business Administration and an MBA in Finance. However, whenever she could, she would take art classes.



The last six years of her career, Betty worked in New York City as a Disaster Recovery Planner that included a daily commute of over three hours. So, no time for art. But after that she retired and moved to Gonzales to be near their son's family and her husband's parents, she finally had time to focus on art.

Betty says, "The best decision I made since moving to Louisiana, was to join the Art Guild." Betty thinks her work has improved dramatically due to attending Life Drawing for several years and participating in multiple workshops hosted by the Guild. Betty also attends Tuesday Open Studio and the monthly Pastels Open Studio. As a result, Betty says she has a large group of artist friends that enrich her life and encourage her art.

Betty enjoys painting when she travels and has several travel journals. These journals and the photos from those trips often end up as studies for larger studio pieces. She has traveled to Paris with Paul Jackson and has studied with British artist, Mike Wildridge, while staying at The Watermill in Posara, Italy. Betty and her husband are planning a third trip to The Watermill in September of 2023.

Betty's primary medium is watercolor but she also works in acrylic, graphite, oil, pastel, and color pencil. She has done work in stained glass and mosaics.

The tricks Betty uses for painters block include: signing up for a workshop, looking through her travel journals for inspiration and using a book like *Watercolor Trip to France* or *Watercolor* magazine to do simple practice paintings. Betty finds that doing a small 5" x 7" painting/sketch takes away the fear of a blank page. This size is also easy to carry on trips.



During COVID, Betty did a small painting each day and placed them into a journal. Being isolated and unable to spend time with her artist friends was challenging and these daily paintings helped get through those months. She mainly used photos from past trips so that she could travel virtually and put all those photos to good use.

In addition to her artwork, Betty rides in Krewe of Iris in New Orleans and she enjoys painting Mardi Gras themed scenes. She also is the leader of a book club in her subdivision. Each December she hosts the holiday meeting. Part of the fun is a review of the books read that year and Betty paints a 5" x 7" watercolor for each of the 11 books that the group reads. These paintings become small gifts to the members of the book club.



Betty has previously served as chairperson of the Workshop Committee and continues to be a member of the Workshop Committee for the Guild. In addition to volunteering to coordinate several national artists' workshops for the Guild, she has also volunteered to teach several workshops herself. She believes that making both local and



national artists available to our art community is very important. These workshops allow artists to learn new skills and refine existing skills. They also provide a supportive environment to expand your art network.

Finally, Betty would encourage new and returning artists to spend time with other artists and paint as often as possible. She would welcome you to visit with her on a Tuesday Open Studio and talk about your art adventure.

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, the holidays are upon us, a time for fun, feasting, and family gatherings. By the time you read this, the fun and feasting of Thanksgiving will be in the past.

On to Christmas! On our recent vacation—a cruise up the Rhine and Moselle Rivers from Paris to Zurich—a fellow passenger was none other than Santa Claus! It was a bit of a downer to find out he now lives in Massachusetts, and more of a downer that he was on his honeymoon with his new wife. (No mention was made as to the whereabouts of the original Mrs. Claus) Anyway, he agreed to a picture. I happened to look down at the book he'd been reading and realized it was the Naughty and Nice List. Wow, was I amazed to see so many AGL members' names on the open page—and it must have been the "Nice List" because I saw many of the artists who had volunteered for committees and events, participated in exhibits, and donated to the AGL garage sale!



So, thank you to all of you on the "Nice List!" You have made 2022 a great year for the Guild. Next year will be our Jubilee Year—celebrating our organization's 70th year!

This year the Christmas Party/Member Meeting will be December 11, 2:00-4:00 PM at the Studio in the Park. It's a great time to gather with fellow artists for fun and games, a painting exchange and door prizes! (If you are not sure of your standing on the list, we could use some help preparing for this event and clean up afterward.) I hope to see you there.

Wishing you peace, love and joy. *Marilyn Gensler*

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night! Santa Claus

REMINDER!! Renew for your 2023 membership Now! - Get discounted dues!

The AGL membership term is January 1 - December 31!!!

JOIN OR RENEW BY DECEMBER 31 AT THE 2022 PRICE OF JUST \$40.

Effective January 1, 2023, annual dues for Art Guild of Louisiana will increase to \$45 per year. AGL offers a variety of educational programs and exhibition opportunities as well as volunteer involvement. But, it does all come at a cost. As a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization, AGL membership dues are tax deductible and as an all-volunteer organization, **100%** of your dollars go to the operations of the Guild.

When paying your dues, please consider giving a year end (tax deductible) donation to the Guild at the same time. Thank you. We cannot do what we do without YOU!

Three convenient ways to renew your membership or invite a friend to join:

ONLINE -- www.artguildlouisiana.org/membership-form - You can pay dues using PayPal or your favorite credit/debit card.

BY MAIL-- Download and print the membership form from www.artguildlouisiana.org/downloads/AGL-membership-form.pdf, enclose your check with the completed form and mail to AGL, P.O. Box 41115, Baton Rouge, LA 70835. Be sure to note "2023 Dues" in the memo section of the check.

IN PERSON-- Visit the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge 70816 and pay by cash or check. (We cannot accept credit cards at the Studio)

AGL CHRISTMAS PARTY – December 11

2:00 - 4:00 pm Studio in the Park - 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge

AGL Board members invite all members to join together for a couple of hours to celebrate the holidays together. We begin with about 20 minutes for a member meeting to update members on any recent news. Then we just visit and eat and play games for gift exchanges. For members who have never participated before here's the "scoop":

Potluck Christmas party - each member is asked to bring a finger food for the refreshment table. Cold drinks provided.

Each person who wants to participate in the Secret Santa Painting Exchange should bring one **unframed, original** piece of their artwork **wrapped in plain brown paper** so it is not distinguishable from any other painting. Paintings are distributed via random drawing.

Each person who wants to participate in the gift exchange must bring one gift, **wrapped** and **unsigned**; minimum gift **cost \$10**. We always have lots of fun playing games of chance to distribute the gifts.

You are invited to participate in both exchanges (which many people do), either exchange, or none of the exchanges - just come to eat and visit and watch the fun exchanges. Looking forward to seeing YOU there!

Donations for AGL at No Cost to YOU! Please Read and join in!

We are happy to inform members that AGL is a registered non-profit with the Amazon Smile nonprofit donations project. Please note we are registered with Amazon Smile as **Louisiana Art & Artists Guild** because that is our nonprofit registration name with the Secretary of State's Office, Art Guild of Louisiana is our "doing business as" name.

We want to encourage members who make online purchases via Amazon to please sign up for Amazon Smile. By registering with Amazon Smile (a onetime registration at no cost to you) and selecting **Louisiana Art & Artist Guild** as your nonprofit, each time you make a purchase via **smile.amazon.com** (no www in front) Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of the eligible purchase price to the Guild ... at no extra cost to you!! Please tell your friends and family members too, as this could really add up in sizable donations for us **from Amazon!** It takes less than 5 minutes to sign up.

How to set up donations:

Computer

If you use a **computer** to make Amazon purchases, the most straightforward way to sign up is to type **smile.amazon.com** in your web address bar on your computer (No www in front!) Press the **Get Started** button and you'll be lead through the process. Please note that you must use **smile.amazon.com** when placing an Amazon order if you use a computer to make purchases, or the donation won't happen. You may want to set up a shortcut on your desktop to get into Amazon this way. (Note that everything else about Amazon and your account is exactly the same when you use this entry point.)

Smartphone

If you use the Amazon mobile app on your smart phone, open the app, click on the menu icon on the bottom right (3 lines), click on **Settings** at the bottom, and click on **Amazon Smile**. Pick our charity (**Louisiana Art & Artists Guild**). Be sure to also turn on the **Mobile App button** on that page so that future purchases will *automatically* donate.

If you have trouble signing up with Amazon Smile call or text Anna Hingle at 225-572-5975.

Elections

In August 2022, nominations and elections were opened for the Board positions of President and Secretary. We are happy to announce that Marilyn Gensler has accepted the nomination for a second term as President and Emily Efferson accepted a nomination as Secretary. No other nominations were received from the membership; therefore, in accordance with the AGL Bylaws, the Board unanimously approved both appointments. Their new terms will be effective January 1, 2023 and run through December 31, 2024.

We want to thank Lisa Sanchez for her service as Secretary for the past two years. But we are happy to announce that Lisa will be stepping into a new role as liaison for the Workshop Committee.

Also changing is the Exhibit Coordinator. A big thank you to Frances Bayham who has been the Exhibit Coordinator for the past year and we appreciate the fresh new ideas that she has brought to our exhibits. Effective January 1, 2023, Jennifer Cutrer, Kay Bailey, and Judy Campbell will take the reigns as the AGL Exhibit Coordinator Team.

AGL Exhibit Requirements

The AGL prides itself in sponsoring non-juried exhibits for our members as well as for nonmember artists in the community via open call judged shows. And as far as we know, AGL is the only organization that offers member artists an opportunity to exhibit workshop artwork. In keeping with the AGL mission statement, we think it is important to provide education and opportunities for artists of all skill levels; to encourage and inspire them to continue reaching for their artistic dreams and goals.

Along with those opportunities to gain experience and learn comes a set of generally accepted requirements for exhibiting one's art. Those requirements help to ensure that each exhibiting artist is putting their "best foot forward." And certainly it is AGL's goal to present professional quality exhibits to our community, in addition to providing a foundation for artists to submit artwork in higher level exhibitions.

One important requirement seems to sometimes get overlooked - *Glass, Plexiglas, mat, and frame should be clean, free from damage, and properly sized, fitted for its frame and firmly seated.* Yes, judges do take "sloppy" (term actually used by a judge) presentation into consideration. Loose or ill-fitting glass, backing and frame often allow the art piece to shift within the frame.

You may think "oh this is just a little local show it doesn't really matter if that mark is on the mat or that frame is scratched and nicked." Wrong ... we have actually had instances when a judge has lowered a prize level (or in some cases not made an award) because of dirty or damaged frame, glass and/or mat. So, please keep these thoughts in mind the next time you prepare a piece of artwork. AGL exhibit requirements can be reviewed at www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibit-requirements.

AGL Donates Hand Painted Pumpkins to Family Road Project

Once again the Art Guild of Louisiana invited members to paint and/or decorate pumpkins to donate to the Family Road Pak n' Play project. They are a non-profit that "gives" the decorated pumpkins to individuals who make a certain dollar amount donation to the project. Road Home then purchases Pak n' Play cribs and distributes them to families who can't afford to provide safe sleeping accommodations for newborns.

The Guild says "Thank You" to each of the members who painted and donated pumpkins for the project. Thanks to the generosity of those members the AGL donated a total of 20 pumpkins to the Road Home project. (Not all shown)



Opportunities

Specialty License Plates - Call for Design

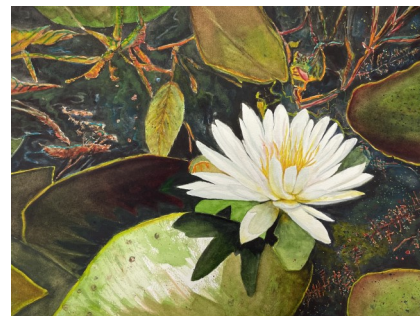
This year, the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts (LPA) received legislative approval to issue a Specialty Louisiana License Plate. Proceeds from the sale of the "specialty" license plates will be used for the LPA's educational and engagement efforts and other related programs on behalf of public support for the arts in Louisiana.

LPA is calling for design proposals from Louisiana artists for the Louisiana Specialty Prestige License Plate benefiting the arts. The winning designer receives a monetary award of \$1,000 and will also be invited to join the LPA at the unveiling of the new plate at the 2023's Arts Day at the Capitol. For more information regarding the Louisiana Specialty Prestige License Plate visit the LPA website at www.artforlouisiana.com/arts-license-plate?mc_cid=971bea2d61&mc_eid=19f568c312



The Louisiana Watercolor Society held a juried member exhibit at the Atrium Gallery at Christwood Retirement Community, 100 Christwood Blvd., Covington, LA 70433. The judge for the exhibit was local artist/instructor **Tracy Hebert**.

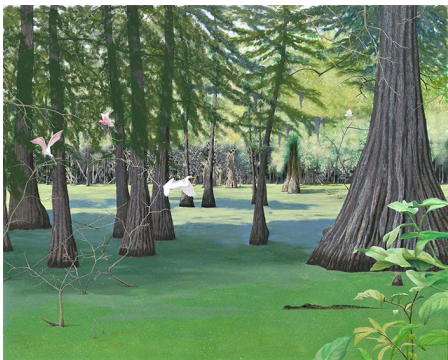
Congratulations go to **Diego Larguia** and **Emily Effer-son** who each won an "Award of Excellence" for their watercolor paintings *Big City* and *Pintail Lotus* respectively. Diego's winning painting was sold during the exhibit. The exhibit will be open to the public until January 5, 2023 so there is still plenty of time for a road trip to see the rest of the show.



Margaret Hawkins, of Ponchatoula, won 1st place for her watercolor painting, *View from A Bee*. The exhibit was sponsored by the Arts and Medicine program, celebrating their 10th Anniversary at Baton Rouge General Hospital on Bluebonnet. The exhibit is located in the Café Gallery located in the cafeteria of the Baton Rouge General Hospital on Bluebonnet (Entrance 3). The exhibit will remain open to the public during regular hours until a date TBA in 2023, so there is plenty of time to stop by and see some quality local art and grab a bite to eat while enjoying the art.



In the last issue of News from the Palette we told you about **Diego Larguia's** solo exhibit that was happening at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art during the month of October. Shown is the invitation image "November in Paris". We are very happy to congratulate Diego on the success of his solo exhibit. Of the 53 paintings on exhibit, 40 paintings were sold. Congratulations, Diego! Who said art isn't selling????



Vincent Wilson's painting *Lake Martin*, oil and acrylic, was juried into the International Guild of Realism's 2022 Fall Salon Online Exhibition. This is the fourth time Vincent has had artwork accepted into IGOR's juried online salons since 2019. Vincent says this years accepted painting began as an acrylic in 2001. He switched to oil before completing the piece in 2021. Sometimes you just have to take a break and look at it with fresh eyes Congratulations Vincent! You can see the show online at www.realismguild.com/2022FallSalon. Vincent's painting is listed under the Landscape & Architecture category near the end... as they are in alphabetical order.

Nanci Charpentier and **Dana Mosby** were juried into the Farm to Forest Plein Air Event sponsored by the Alexandria Museum of Art in Alexandria, Louisiana which took place October 13 - 16, 2022. The juror for the event was Suzie Baker, a Houston based and Louisiana born, nationally acclaimed oil painter and current President of Oil Painters of America.



Dana's oil painting *City Park Bayou* and Nanci's oil painting *Evening Light Near Bland* both won Honorable Mention awards at the event. And if winning Honorable Mention wasn't enough Nanci also sold five paintings during the event. Learn more about this event at farmtoforestpleinair.com.



EXHIBITS

Deck the Walls – Member Exhibit

Currently on exhibit at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery is the Deck the Walls member exhibit which will be open to the public until January 12, 2023. Fourteen talented local artists have filled the gallery with 45 beautiful works of art.

You are invited to the presentation of a People's Choice Ribbon at an artist reception on Friday, **December 2** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. There will also be a random drawing and one lucky exhibiting artist will win \$50.

Call for Entry – Winter Member Show

The first exhibit for 2023 is scheduled at Independence Park Theatre from January 12 until March 9, 2023.

This is a non-juried show, however, all artwork must meet the AGL exhibit requirements. Artists who want to participate must bring artwork to the Independence Park Theatre on, January 12, 2023, between 11:00am and 1:00pm. The exhibit will be open to the public, free of charge, during their regular business hours, Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am – 5:00pm.

Exhibit requirements can be found at www.artguildlouisiana.org/winter-member-show-2023

The entry fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry. All art must remain on display until the end of the exhibit. A People's Choice Ribbon will be presented at an artists' reception on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Exhibiting members are encouraged to attend the reception and to bring a finger food to contribute to the refreshment table.

PLEASE NOTE: RECEPTIONS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HELD ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN 2023.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Larry Downs - Composing in Depth - Intermediate Drawing

January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 9, 16 (Thursdays), 3 pm - 6 pm
Early Bird Fee thru December 22: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers
Regular Fee begins December 23: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - bandrepont@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020

Participants of this class should have knowledge of basic drawing skills. Larry will lead the class through more advanced discussion of elements and principals of design. Using those principals, participants will compose their own still life drawing. Participants will finish the class with a completed work of art.



Roberta Lofflin - Beginning Landscapes in Watercolor

January 7, 14, 21, 28 (Saturdays), 9:30 am - Noon
Early Bird Fee thru December 22: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers
Regular Fee begins December 23: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - bandrepont@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020

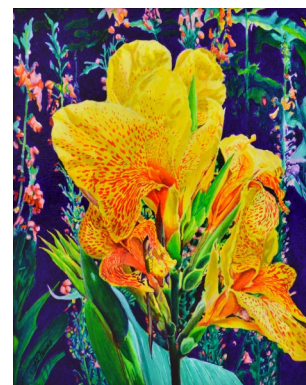
One of the biggest challenges in painting landscapes is determining what should be included in the painting. Not everything in a landscape scene or photo needs to be included in a painting. In this class we will work on composition - how to determine what to paint and what to leave out, color choices and subject matter. Students should bring their own photos to work from.



Larry Downs - Acrylic Painting Your Way - Intermediate Acrylics

February 23 and March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (Thursdays), 3 pm - 6 pm
Early Bird Fee thru February 9: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers
Regular Fee begins February 10: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - bandrepont@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020

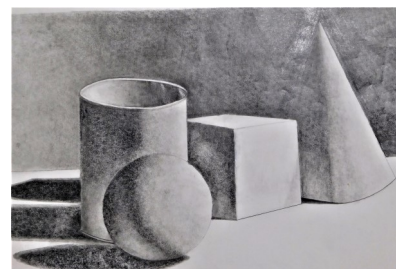
This workshop is for participants who have some background knowledge of painting with acrylics. The first day will be spent creating interesting compositions. You will create a view finder to use to reduce clutter of a panoramic view into a compact visual composition. The remaining classes will be spent in practical application of techniques learned. The final assignment will be to create your own composition.



Larry Downs - Drawing from the Start - Beginning Drawing

April 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18 (Thursdays), 3 pm - 6 pm
Early Bird Fee thru March 30: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers
Regular Fee begins March 31: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - bandrepont@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020

Larry is a local artist/instructor who has also conducted workshops at LSU in the Lagniappe program. He will cover the "hows" and "whys" of drawing - first through demonstrations, then by hands-on exercises and personal guidance. You will work from still life set ups arranged by Larry using direct lighting.



Larry Downs – Color Your Life – Beginning Acrylics

June 8, 15, 22, 29 and July 6, 13 (Thursdays), 3 pm - 6 pm

Early Bird Fee thru May 25: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins May 26: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont - bandrepont@bellsouth.net or

225-773-8020



Larry takes you step by step through the tools and concept and application of basic acrylic painting. Learn and practice the various ways that acrylic can be used like watercolor, oils or abstract acrylic. He will also cover geometric shapes, values and use of additives to create textures. You will learn first by observing Larry doing demonstrations and then by hands on practice under Larry's guidance. Participants will end up with at least one completed painting.

More to Come in 2023

Get ready to paint in 2023! If you have been meaning to paint more, let these upcoming workshops (still in the negotiation/contract signing stage) inspire you. There is something for everyone on the horizon.

Jan Wilken — Acrylics

Cheri Fry — Multimedia: chalk paint, ink, acrylic

Kathy Stone — Oil

Janelle Johnson — Colored Pencil

If there is a special artist instructor you think a group of people would be interested in taking a workshop from please make a recommendation. Keep in mind, if the instructor is from out of town/state and travel expenses are involved we usually need at least 10 workshop participants to make a go of it.

Early registration is the KEY to whether or not a workshop actually gets to take place. Instructors have schedules and arrangements that must be taken into consideration. We typically need to meet instructors' student minimum by 2-3 weeks (4-6 weeks for out of town/state) prior to the workshop.

AGL Wishes YOU the Very Best Holiday Season

And

A Very Happy New Year





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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.

Send member information for the newsletter to newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org by the 10th of every other month : January, March, May, July, September, November.



Visit Art Guild of Louisiana's Facebook page
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— ask them to do the same —

Get the word out about YOUR organization

"connect art and people"