



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana

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December 2025

Getting to Know Claire Pasqua ...

Claire's tenure as the AGL Vice President will begin January 1, 2026 and extend to December 31, 2027. This is what she shared with us about her path to being an artist.

"My first venture into creating art was painting on the lanai of my aunt's home in the suburbs of New Orleans. While playing with the children's watercolors on a canvas, I recall the quiet feeling inside that I realize now was a spiritual and emotional escape. I was 5 years old.

During my 6th grade year, I began taking art classes in a woman's home in Marrero, LA. Her home was very loud and busy with children arriving and departing at different times. Again, I was able to ignore the bedlam while retreating into the creative side of my brain. Here, I was exposed to drawing with charcoal, pastels, and oils. I recall winning an award at a local art show for a charcoal drawing of cocker spaniel. I was thrilled. The schools I attended did not have art programs, so I had no further instruction for many years.

Prior to retirement in 2015, I was an RN and nurse practitioner for 34 years in various healthcare fields. When not working, I was occupied with a husband and two active children. I did sporadically enroll in private art lessons during the years in the Baton Rouge area.

The late Teddi Ruiz was a mentor and friend for many years. During this time, I received awards from art shows such as the Acadian Art Show, the Jambalaya Festival, and the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival. I was a member of the Gonzales Art Guild for several years, which I really enjoyed. Since then, I have had entries accepted into the juried River Road Show in 2016 and 2022.

In addition, I have participated in art classes by well-known Louisiana artists such as Alan Flattman, Judi Betts, Frederick Guess, Larry Downs, Heather Harney, Nanci Charpentier, and Carol Hallock. The Art Guild has provided opportunities for me to receive instruction from national artists such as Bill Farnsworth and Kim Casebeer. In conclusion, I have participated in workshops with international artist, Guido Frick, in Opp, AL at the Opp Cultural Arts Center.



South Louisiana has had an important influence on my art. Growing up in New Orleans, I learned to experience life through all five senses. Yes, even smell. My bright and bold colors reflect my experiences there. Residing in the Baton Rouge area in my adult years with a husband who loves the outdoors, has offered me a life more connected to nature. At home, I am inspired by flowers, birds, insects, and my husband's garden. Whether I travel in the backwoods and bayous of Louisiana, around the USA or Europe, I am always on the look-out for interesting subjects to paint.





The subjects of my art are as varied as my focus during my nursing career. I enjoy painting flowers, birds, still lifes, and landscapes. In other words, anything but people. I have spent most of my art years painting in oils, but I have begun dabbling in acrylics. But I have tried pastels, collage, and gouache.

If I recall correctly I joined the AGL in 2017, but participation was sporadic. Since then I have become increasingly more involved in activities such as the setting up of the River Road Show and our garage sale fundraiser. I enjoy it all!!! I also support and participate in Open Studio. I love the camaraderie and the input of fellow artists. If I could, I would move in the Studio in the Park.



Even now, when I paint, I still escape into that quiet place within myself".

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we close out 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an extraordinary year this has been for the Art Guild of Louisiana. Our exhibits this year have been strong and well attended, and I'm especially proud of the dedication from our volunteers who continue to keep our programs moving forward, from Open Studio, to workshops, to committee work that doesn't always get seen but keeps the Guild thriving. Thank you for showing up with your time, your energy, and your heart. Did I mention that our membership is at a record level?



We've also spent the last several months focused on our long-term partnership with BREC and the future of "Studio in the Park." These conversations matter, and I'm grateful for a board that asks good questions, stays steady, and works toward solutions that set AGL up for many healthy years ahead. I'm optimistic about where we're headed. We have no shortage of ideas, and the more we align with the goals of the "Imagine Your Parks 3" plan, the more opportunities we'll unlock for our members and the broader arts community.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're planning fresh programming, new learning opportunities, and more ways to engage member artists. You'll see some exciting workshops, relaxed creative gatherings, and a few experimental ideas we've been developing behind the scenes. My hope is that every member finds something that recharges them, stretches them, or simply gives them one more reason to pick up a brush.

Thank you for being part of this Guild. Thank you for supporting one another. And thank you for keeping art alive and visible in Baton Rouge. I'm grateful for each of you, and I'm looking forward to a bright new year together.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and an inspired start to 2026.

Warmly,
David Gary

The AGL has an extensive art reference library housed at the Studio in the Park, covering a variety of painting and drawing media and subject matter. Books in the AGL library are available for members to check out. Or hang out during open studio thumbing through books of interest. Come see what treasures you can find!

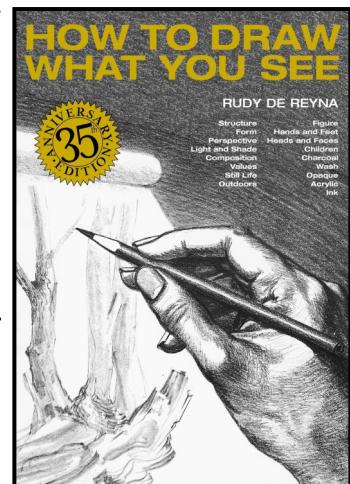
President's Pick: From the AGL Library: *How to Draw What You See*, by Rudy De Reyna

This month's President's Pick comes from what I would call the "back to basics but better than you remember" section of our library: *How to Draw What You See* by Rudy De Reyna. If you've never picked it up or if it's been awhile, this classic is worth rediscovering. In my journey, I find the more I draw, the better painter I become. Therefore, this was a welcome rediscovery.

De Reyna teaches you to look, *really* look, and then translate what you see using simple shapes, strong observation, and clear value relationships. His approach is direct, practical, and surprisingly confidence-building. Beginners get a roadmap for understanding form and light, and more experienced artists are reminded of the fundamentals that quietly power every great painting or drawing.

If you've been feeling stuck, rusty, or just want to sharpen your eye going into the new year, this is the perfect book to spend an afternoon with. It's a reminder that drawing well isn't magic; it's attention, patience, and practice. And De Reyna shows you exactly how to get there.

Swing by the AGL Library and check it out. Happy drawing!



Update - Board Members

Linda Pace, who has served as the Board Secretary for AGL during 2025 has submitted her resignation due to personal reasons. We will miss Linda and are grateful for her services this year. Thank you Linda - wishing you all the best in the new year.

We are happy to announce that Anna Hingle has agreed to accept a midterm appointment to the Secretary position and will complete Linda's term through 2026. Anna has been a very active member of the AGL serving previously on the Board as acting Membership Chair and currently serves on the membership, workshop and newsletter committees. Welcome, Anna! The Board looks forward to working with you!

A list of all AGL Board members can be found on the AGL website by clicking on the "Contact" tab in the menu bar. Clicking on the name of a specific Board member will allow you to send an email directly to that Board member.

Pastel Open Studio returns January 23, 2026

After taking a holiday break, Pastel Open Studio will resume on January 23 from 10:00 a.m – 2:30 p.m. Pastel Open Studio is a monthly open studio occurring on the fourth Friday of each month. Check the Events Calendar on the AGL website for any changes to that schedule: www.artguildlouisiana.org/calendar

Pastel Open Studio is a special opportunity for pastel artists to come together to create art, to network with others interested in pastels, and to share feedback with each other. Interested in pastel but don't want to invest in a new media? AGL has an assortment of "community" pastel sticks and pans to share. Bring your pastel paper/substrate of choice. Come create—share ideas—connect with other members!

Pastel Open studio is facilitated by Dee Dee Wilbert and questions may be directed to her at deedewilbert@gmail.com. Dee Dee is a local award winning pastel and oil artist.

Everyone works at their own pace on artwork of their choice. No preregistration or fees; just show up. This is free open studio time to members. Members who work in media other than pastel, but just want a few extra hours of creative time may also attend this studio time (no oils, please).

A microwave oven and refrigerator to heat/store lunch/cold drinks are available to members attending open studio times.



AGL CHRISTMAS PARTY - DECEMBER 7, 2:00 – 4:00

Studio in the Park @ Cedarcrest Park

2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge

AGL Board members invite all members and their "plus one" to join together for a couple of hours to celebrate the holidays together. The party kicks off with a short member meeting to update members on any recent news, followed by food, conversation, and fun gift exchanges that always guarantee a lot of laughs. For members who have never participated before, here are the details:

Potluck Christmas party: Each member is asked to bring a finger food dish for the refreshment table. Cold are 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 drawings.

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

Members are invited to participate in both the gift exchange and the painting exchange (which many people do) or choose your favorite one. Some folks choose not to participate in either of the games, and come to eat, visit and watch the fun. Looking forward to seeing you there! It's a great time to connect with fellow members.

Baton Rouge Garden Club - Tablescapes - Call for Art

The Baton Rouge Garden Club has invited AGL artists to participate in their very popular 2026 *Tablescapes* annual event by exhibiting artwork along with their inspired arrangements. Each garden club member selects one of the provided paintings to "interpret" in a flower arrangement and table setting. *Tablescapes* is a public event and fundraiser for their scholarship program which goes to a student of landscape architecture.

The show takes place in the Botanic Garden Center on Independence Blvd and is open to the public on Saturday February 21 and Sunday February 22, 2026 from 1:00 to 4:00pm. An awards reception will be held Sunday afternoon February 22, 2025. Awards for the artwork and for the arrangements will be determined by public votes collected during the show.

Artwork will be collected from participating artists the last week of December/first week of January (additional details will be provided to participating artists). Artists must pick up their artwork from the Botanic Gardens immediately after the reception.

Members interested in participating in this fun and unique exhibit opportunity please contact Leah Schwarzman at jleahschwartz@gmail.com or 225-205-0522 between as early as possible before December 25, 2025.

Submission Requirements:

No paintings of flowers

Minimum size approximately 9 x 12 (previously stated as 11 x 14)

Maximum size approximately 30" in any direction

Gallery wrapped canvas with sides painted if unframed

Please no heavy frames

MEMBER NEWS

Pat Wattam is happy to share that she sold two paintings at the fall Open House of N the Art Space on Jefferson Highway where her art studio is located.



Sizing Me Up, a charcoal on canvas by **Anna Hingle**, was selected by jurors into the national exhibit "Amazing Black and White," at the Modern visual Arts (MVA) Gallery in Bethlehem, PA.

Cheryl Anne Grace: "Moving forward, in 2026, "I'm honored and thrilled to have been invited to be in a four-person show at the Hammond Regional Arts Center in January and February. And our Renegade Art Collective will be showing at the Saint Tammany Art House January 9 through March 28. I've closed out 2025 in the Miniatures Show at the New Orleans Academy of Art."

Autumn Judged Show

Our thanks to local instructor and award-winning artist Kathy Miller Stone for taking on the task of judging the Autumn Judged Show.

Winners

1st Place Anne Elizabeth Pickering: *Jungle Tree Frog* (Watercolor)

2nd Place Paris Williams: *Goddess in Green* (Pastel)

3rd Place Emily Efferson : *Tree Hugger* (Watercolor)



Honorable Mention

David Gary: *Acadian Emberlight* (Oil)

Robn Cook: *Elmer's Barn* (Oil)



Current Member Exhibit: “A Retrospective” - November 13, 2025 – January 9, 2026

Thank you to all the members who ventured down memory lane and contributed some of their favorite earlier works of art to the current “retrospective” exhibit. The exhibit featuring 39 beautiful works of art in a variety of media from 16 local artists, is open to the public throughout the holidays at Independence Park Theatre Gallery, 7800 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge. Be sure to check the Independence Park Theatre website for special business hours during the holidays.

In addition to a “People’s Choice” ribbon, which will be presented at the December 7 AGL Christmas Party, one lucky exhibiting artist will win a \$25 cash prize in the random drawing; this is for exhibiting artists only. We hope you will join fellow members in the festivities from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Studio in the Park, Cedarcrest Park.

Call for Entries: Winter Member Show - January 8 - March 12, 2026

Let's start the New Year off with a great member show at Independence Park Theatre Gallery! It begins with take-in on Thursday, January 8, 2026 from 11:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. The show is open to all two-dimensional mediums except non-original prints, photography, and computer generated/enhanced work. The exhibit is a non-juried show, and all entries are accepted; however, all entries must meet the AGL entry and originality requirements. To ensure your entry will be accepted, click [here](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits) to read the requirements: www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits.

The entry fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry. A maximum of five entries may be exhibited. The exhibit will be open to the public, free of charge, during regular business hours, Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. until March 12, 2026.

All art must remain in the show until the end of the exhibit. Note: BREC takes 20% commission on all art sold.

A “People’s Choice” Ribbon will be presented at an artists’ reception on Sunday, February 8, 2026. There will also be a random drawing for a \$25 cash prize for exhibiting artists only, who will receive one chance in the drawing for each art piece entered. Exhibiting members are encouraged to attend the reception and to bring a finger food dish to contribute to the refreshment table. The reception is open to the public so we invite family and friends to join us in an afternoon of art and conversation.

2026 WORKSHOPS

Larry Downs: The Complete Artist Using Eyes, Hands, and Brain: The Basics of Art

January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12 (Thursdays), 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Early Bird fee thru December 21: \$125 members / \$150 nonmembers

Regular fee begins December 22: \$150 members / \$175 nonmembers

Workshop Coord: Karri Oakes, karrilouwho@gmail.com, or 225-405-3988

Become an artist in six weeks with Larry Downs. Learn the fundamentals of both drawing and painting in this innovative new class. Larry will cover all the basics to begin your magical journey.



Kerry Curtin: Stained Glass – Create Your Own Treasure

January 9 –10 (Fri-Sat) and January 16–17 (Fri-Sat), 9:00 am – noon (until 2:00 pm last day-finalizing)

\$200 members / \$250 nonmembers

Additional supply fees for glass estimated at \$40-\$50, depending on the design.

Workshop Coordinator: David Gary, dgary@redstick.com, or 225-252-8384



Limited to 10 participants, students will enjoy step-by-step demonstrations from the instructor and will work on their own stained-glass piece with personal direction and assistance as needed. All tools are provided to complete the piece. The instructor will provide five design options for a design template, and students will choose their own colors and purchase their own glass from Michaels, Hobby Lobby, or Online Supplier, etc. The instructor will provide information to the students as to the glass they will need to purchase based upon the design selected by the student prior to the beginning of the class. With the holidays coming up, this class would make a great Christmas gift! Come join us as we make something beautiful together.

Kerry Curtin of Denham Springs is an accomplished artist and educator with decades of experience inspiring creativity. A graduate of Live Oak High School, he earned a BA from Southeastern Louisiana University and an MFA in Painting and Drawing from Louisiana State University, and has over 30 years of teaching experience. Kerry retired from the Louisiana State Department of Education, but couldn't stay away from the classroom. He continued shaping young artists through the Talented Visual Arts Program in Livingston Parish Public Schools until December, 2024. Mr. Curtin teaches stained-glass and visual arts classes for children and adults through the Arts Council of Livingston Parish, and has led adult stained-glass workshops at the St. Tammany Art Association and Southeastern Louisiana University's Walker Center. His deep knowledge, approachable teaching style, and dedication to the craft make him a sought-after instructor for aspiring stained-glass artists at all levels.

Roberta Loflin: Watercolor Basics – Tools and Techniques

January 31, February 7, 14, 21 (Saturdays), 9:30 am – noon

Early Bird Fee thru January 17: \$70 members / \$90 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins January 18: \$90 members / \$110 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepon: barbara.andrepon@gmail.com or 225-773-8020



New desire to engage with watercolors? Just so happens we have this class to work with you. We will explore the supplies you need and how to use them. We will focus on setting up your palette and work space, mixing colors, composition, and values.

Claudine Diamond: Intro to Gel Plate and Collage

February 22 (Sunday), 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

\$85 members / \$110 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Anna Hingle: anna.hingle@gmail.com, 225-572-5975

Get ready to become addicted to printing with a gel plate and making collage papers. Bring whatever paper and paints you have on hand. Look around your house to see what you can find that will make an inter-

esting piece. Almost any type of acrylic paint will work. Come to class with your curiosity turned up and be ready to explore the magic of creatively creating papers.

Students will create enough collage paper using the gel plate to complete one or more pieces of art.

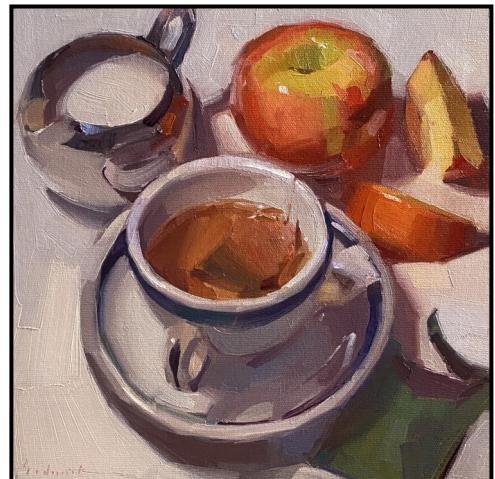
Claudine Diamond is a local self-taught multi-media artist. She creates art to uplift the spirit, calm the mind, and take the viewer on a whimsical journey to places they never knew they wanted to go. Her work, often found under the name [Blue Lotus Visions](#), can be seen and purchased at local venues like The Foyer and Soul Roots in Baton Rouge, San Souci Fine Crafts Gallery and Magnolia Art Collective in Lafayette, and at The Art House in St. Francisville. She is also an active participant in the local art scene, with her work having been featured at events like the Baton Rouge Arts Market, The Baton Rouge Zoo, Bluebonnet Swamp and other venues for a variety of different exhibitions.



Sarah Sedwick: Dynamic Still Life in Oil or Acrylics

February 27, 28, March 1 (Friday - Sunday), 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Early Bird fee thru January 15: \$475 members / \$525 nonmembers
Regular fee begins January 16: \$500 members / \$550 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Nanci Charpentier: nancicharpen-tierart@gmail.com or 225-936-7784

This workshop is SOLD OUT. To add your name to a waiting list contact the Coordinator.



Dana Mosby: Interpreting the Landscape in Pastel—Infusing Your Work with Passion

March 14 (Saturday), 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Early Bird fee thru February 20: \$100 members / \$125 nonmembers
Regular fee begins February 21: \$125 members / \$150 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Anna Hingle: anna.hingle@gmail.com, 225-572-5975

Pastels...looking at a collection of them is like looking at a candy counter. So many beautiful colors! Where to begin? Pastel is a fascinating medium. It is tactile, instant, and perfect for painting landscapes.



This one-day workshop will provide beginners and experienced pastelists an opportunity to get down and dirty with this hands-on medium. The participants will leave with a composition depicting a landscape with an emphasis on mark making, texture, and use of bold color.

The workshop will begin with a demonstration, after which participants may choose to use provided resources or their own to paint a 9"x 12" pastel. Maybe even two!

Dana Mosby was born and raised in northeast Mississippi, but now considers herself a native of Louisiana. After graduating from the Mississippi University of Women with a BFA, she began a 36-year career as an art teacher in public schools. In addition to pursuing her own painting, Dana earned a Master's degree in education from LSU, attended workshops, and joined several art organizations. Since retiring, she has become very active in plein air painting groups and events. She currently spends time in both the studio and on location, using both oils and pastels.

Kay Wallace: Realistic Collage

March 20-21 (Friday-Saturday), 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Early Bird fee thru January 31: \$200 members / \$225 nonmembers

Regular fee begins February 1: \$225 members / \$250 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Cherie Gravois: cherie.gravois@gmail.com or 225-938-0355

Come discover the exciting challenge of creating realistic collage art. We will explore fundamental art principles in composition, texture, values, and color theory through the various applications of collected papers. Students will create their own artwork selected from their own photos or art references. This workshop is suitable for all art levels and no prior experience with collage is required.



Kay R Wallace has been creating since childhood with an emphasis in graphic design and painting with acrylics. Over the last few years, she has been using paper to create realistic collages.

Kay had the honor of recently being chosen to participate in "Artport" at the Shreveport, LA. Airport where her painting *Herby K, Inside Out*, will hang until 2028. Her work has been juried into the national River Road Show in Baton Rouge, the International "Bloom" Art Show in Shreveport, LA and the New Orleans Art Association National Juried Show. Her art was chosen for multiple hospital rooms throughout Children's Hospital in New Orleans, LA and she received 1st place at the Art Guild of Louisiana Summer show and Honorable Mention at the Art Guild of Louisiana Spring show.

She is a member of the Art Guild of Louisiana, Associated Women in the Arts (AWA), the ArkLaTex Art Guild, and the Louisiana Animal Art Association. Her work can be seen on her website at kayrwallaceart.com, Facebook, and Instagram at Kay R Wallace Art.

Roberta Loflin: Watercolor Basics–Flowers and Leaves

April 11, 18, 25, May 2 (Saturdays), 9:30 am - noon

Early Bird fee thru March 28: \$70 members / \$90 nonmembers

Regular fee begins March 29: \$90 members / \$110 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepon: barbara.andrepont@gmail.com or 225-773-8020



This basics class begins with a quick review of watercolor materials (e.g., paint, paper, brushes, palettes, etc.), Roberta will demonstrate and discuss composing a painting, mixing colors for a variety of flora using a limited palette. You will work with shapes of flowers and leaves. You will provide your own supplies for the workshop and bring your own photos or live/dried flowers and leaves that you want to use.



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