Deana Evstefeeva ... written by Jennifer Cutrer, Ph.D.

As a 6-year-old, Deana was placed in an art school and was told that pencils and crayons were the only thing that would settle her down. "If I ran out of space to draw ...I would draw on the walls of the house." Deana, a Russian by birth, attended the Khabarovsk Art School for Children and the Khabarovsk Regional College of Arts as an adult. She credits her mother for first noticing her ability and encouraging her to pursue her work and her sister who has always been an inspiration to her. She spent two decades in Australia where she had exhibitions and painted commissions. She now resides in Breaux Bridge where her husband’s home town and has been a member of AGL since 2017. She is a fulltime mother of a 2-year-old which allows time for her art. She is proud to have accomplished one of her personal art goals--having a presence in the New York market. Deana and her artwork were recently featured in an article titled "AlbaVibrante - The Art of Deana Evstefeeva" in "Guild" magazine, Issue #2 December 2018.

Deana's work takes on a 3-D appearance as she relies on texture, bold colors and high contrast to define her style. Her piece "The Old Absinthe House" was accepted into the River Road Show this past year. "I paint in oils. Oil paints give me range of effects from transparency to sculpture, like texture. Also, not always finishing my art piece in alla prima, I have a chance to continue working later." Her creative processes and technique are guided by her extensive preparation and organization which precedes her work. She relies on sketching and photography so that she can create a finished product in her mind. Her goal is to enable the viewer to be pulled into the piece removing them from their current environs and placing them into her crafted world. The subject of "painter's block" came up to which Deana responded: "I have had "painter's blocks" in the past, influenced by various reasons and events which occurred in my life that lasted sometime... But no matter what happens or where life sends me, a natural calling to grab brushes and paints comes through. When indecisive moments strike, I go for a walk somewhere beautiful. I look at beautiful gifts of nature and creative ideas always pop back in."

When asked what she considers her best work. She promptly responded as if that was the easiest question ever asked of her. "My best creation of art would be my little boy, he is perfect like any mother would say about her child. I look at his face and know that my pursuit of my work serves as a strong model for him to follow his passion." But as per paintings, "I live through each piece leaving a part of my heart and soul in each work."
Deana has a firm understanding that there are many perceptions, interests and styles in the world and knowing “You cannot be everyone’s cup of tea”...gives her freedom to paint without internal limitations or fear of “rejection.”

In discussing her work as an inspiration to others she notes: "I would encourage beginning artists to never give up and never surrender to criticism no matter how difficult it gets.

Understand that you can learn from criticism even though it is hard to accept. There is always a lesson to be learned. Remember, constructive criticism is meant to push you forward not condemn you. There are always valid points in every comment."

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year Everyone!!! Here we are at the beginning of another year of opportunities. The end of the year is neither an ending nor a beginning but a continuation of all that we have learned in the previous years. As we flip the pages of the calendar to a new year, and we list resolutions carefully, we have an opportunity before us, a challenge to look back over the past year and determine how will we best fulfill our life in 2019.

One of my personal resolutions is to be a better time manager, to make time for art and not just the stolen moments for a sketch or two here and there, or three days in a workshop, but real time with moments to think, plan, savor and enjoy the characteristics of whatever medium I am using. Art is one of the best things that one can do for oneself and for others. For the artist it is fun, therapeutic, fulfilling, revealing regardless of whether it is in a color book or sobering works proclaiming social injustices of the world. And to the viewer, whether shared with friends and family or in a public exhibit, it brings joy and inspiration into the lives of others.

In this New Year I hope that your list of resolutions includes the renewal of your membership with the Art Guild of Louisiana. It will be one of the best $40 you will spend, because, it gives back to the community that you live in. Far beyond the benefits you receive as a member; your membership supports art appreciation and education for artists in Baton Rouge and the surrounding area. RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY....SHARE THE JOY AND ENCOURAGE A FRIEND(OR TWO) TO JOIN OR DONATE ALSO!!!

We need art.
We have been telling stories since the beginning of time.
As human beings we need it for our survival ... Lili Taylor
AGL ART OPPORTUNITIES

Studio in the Park — Open Studio
Artists of all levels are welcome to the open studio sessions. We especially encourage new members and artists who want to network with other artists. Open studio sessions provide a unique experience for learning from each other. Also, occasionally an impromptu demo happens or a Youtube lesson.

Tuesdays (no oils) 10:00 — 4:00
Wednesdays from 10:00 — 4:00
Sundays from 1:00 — 4:00pm.

NOTE: Members should check to AGL Calendar, www.agrtguildlouisiana.org/calendar to ensure the studio is not closed due to an AGL reception or scheduled workshop.

Weekly Life Drawing Open Studio
Every Wednesday every from 6:00—9:00pm, AGL member Steve Shamburger facilitates an open studio with a live model. The fee is $10 per session paid at the door. One session a month is a costumed model. Several short timed poses, serve as warm up exercises, preceding longer timed poses.

The Life Drawing session are open to members and non-members. So share this great opportunity with fellow artists. No need to pre-register; just show up at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest, by 6:00pm on Wednesdays. Attendees must be at least 18 years of age.

Cancelled sessions are posted on the website calendar: www.artguildlouisiana.org/calendar

2019 Thursday Evening Open Studio Returning Soon!
For the convenience of our members who cannot take advantage of the daytime (10:00- 4:00) open studio hours; AGL has been offering an additional Open Studio session on Thursday evenings during Daylight Savings Time. The first 2019 Thursday open studio will begin April 4, and run through October 24, 2019 from 4:00 – 7:30 pm.

It is a great time to get some painting in while the five o’clock traffic dies down. Hope to see you there!!!.

ABOUT TOWN ART OPPORTUNITIES

Baton Rouge Botanic Garden Foundation Plein Air Event

March 28-29-30, 2019
This event is sponsored by the Baton Rouge Botanic Garden Foundation to support the maintenance and improvement of the public gardens.

Location: Independence Botanical Gardens – Baton Rouge, LA
Entry deadline: February 28, 2019
Entry fee: $25.00
Paint-out – March 28-29-30 (artist to paint at least one day).
Reception, Sale and Awards: Saturday, March 30, 4:00-7:00 p.m.; Garden Cafe banquet room, Main Library plaza, Goodwood Blvd. entrance. 30% commission on sales.
Acceptance notice: by email, within a week of receipt of registration information.
Awards: “Best of Show” and “People’s Choice” by vote of those who attend the public reception, Saturday, March 30, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Only art work painted during the plein air event will be eligible for the reception, judging and sale.
For details, registration and questions contact Mary Tharp at mtharp6@gmail.com

USk Baton Rouge – Plein Air Sketching
USk Baton Rouge is an "open" plein air sketch group; all you have to do is show up at the correct location/time. Artists interested in participating in the USk Baton Rouge "plein air" sketching can stay up to date with when and where the group will be sketching by getting on their email list. The group is coordinated by AGL member artist Bill Buck. Bill encourages artists to meet up with this fun, friendly group on their monthly painting ventures. Upcoming locations are:

February 23rd  Burden Gardens or the LSU Rural Life Museum
March 16th  Kleinpeter Cemetery.

For questions and further details or to get on the email list 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.

Baton Rouge Plein Air
The Baton Rouge Plein Air is another local plein air group, facilitated by AGL member and local artist David Gary. That group convenes weekly on Thursdays from 9:00am-Noon with a friendly critique following. David encourages artists of all mediums and skill levels to participate in their weekly adventures to practice art in the great outdoors...just show up. The location for each week is posted the previous Tuesday on their Facebook page. Be sure to check Facebook.com/batonrougepleinair for weather changes or last minute updates. For questions or further details about the group and their schedule contact David Gary at (225)252-8384. Below is the current schedule through April 2019.

Jan 24: White Oak Plantation
Jan 31: The Cabin (Gonzales) - Lunch following at the Cabin Restaurant
Feb 7: Highland Park
February 10: (Sunday) Phil Sandusky Spanish Town demo and afternoon workshop 9a-3:30p ($90/person)

Feb 14: Spanish Town - Lunch following at Spanish Town Grocery
Feb 21: Denham Springs Antique Village - Lunch following at Cafe DuJour
Feb 28: Denham Springs Antique Village
Mar 7: Perkins Rowe - Lunch following at La Madeline
Mar 14: Perkins Rowe
Mar 21: LSU Lakes, Lunch following at D. Gary’s home (2737 E. Lakeshore)
Mar 28: Arsenal Park
Apr 4: Afton Villa, Lunch following at Magnolia Cafe
Apr 11: Afton Villa. Lunch following at The Francis
Apr 18: Butler Greenwood, Lunch following at Magnolia Cafe
Apr 25: Butler Greenwood. Lunch following at The Francis
MEMBER NEWS

New AGL member Margaret Hawkins was recently accepted to exhibit works in the Revival Art House gallery, 495 SW Railroad Avenue, Ponchatoula.

Ms. Hawkins has been diligently pursuing watercolor for only two years, and she was awarded "People's Choice" for her sculpture, "Warrior, After" in a 2018 Hammond Art Guild show.

Ms. Hawkins and her husband Bill have lived (in the same house) in Ponchatoula for 47 years. She previously was a professional photographer for 30 years with studios in Hammond and Ponchatoula. "Retirement is good", she said.

EXHIBITS

Winter Members Show Winner

Congratulations to Bing Zheng!! Bing was awarded the People’s Choice Ribbon at a reception on January 20, for his intriguing acrylic landscape painting titled “Fall”. You can still view this and all the other artwork until March 13, 2019 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery, no admission.

The reception also featured a presentation/demo on how to make your paintings stronger using “composition” by local artist/instructor Sandra Zaid. It was an action packed and informative demo; a prelude to a work shop that Sandra will present at the Studio in the Park later this year. Everyone got involved and members Kay Baily and Trish Poynot got a little hands on creating black paper compositions.

Call For Entry---Spring Judged Show

The Art Guild of Louisiana is calling for art for its first judged show of 2019. The exhibit will be open from March 15 through May 2, 2019 at the Independence Park Theater Gallery. The exhibit is open to all 2 dimensional artists age 18 and up in the Baton Rouge area. Photography, giclées, computer enhanced images/prints and other non-original media will not be accepted.

Artwork must be the artists’ original composition; no copies of work by other artists or published material is acceptable. Artwork completed, derived or copied from a workshop is not acceptable.

This is a non-juried exhibit, however, all artwork must meet the AGL exhibit requirements. Please, read the detailed Installation Requirements at www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits to ensure your painting will be accepted at the take-in.
The entry fee is $10.00 per painting. Artists interested in exhibiting must bring their entries to the Independence Park Theater on March 8, 2018, between 11:00am and 1:00pm.

BREC retains 20% commission on all sales. Sold artwork is available at the end of the exhibit.

An artists' Awards Reception will be held at Independence Park Theater Gallery on March 31, 2019 from 2:00-4:00pm when AGL will present a total of $350 in cash and ribbon awards to the winners. Exhibiting artists are encouraged to attend the reception.

**RECENT WORKSHOP**

Cheri Fry’s exuberance and passion for art is evident in each one of her workshops and you just can’t help but catch the energy and inspiration. As usual Cheri Fry provided an unforgettable workshop experience. There was laughter and friendship and lots of painting as Cheri shared her knowledge about capturing the “atmosphere” in your paintings.

Cheri provided individual critiques to participants on previously painted works they were having problems with and suggestions on how to approach a particular painting from their personal photos.

**UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

**Adrian Deckbar – Popping Up Your Color in Pastel - Part II**
March 7-9, 2019; Thursday-Saturday from 9:am – 4:00 pm
Early Bird Registration until February 14, 2019 - $200 members/$250 nonmembers
Regular Registration Beginning February 15, 2019 - $250 members/$300 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Trish Poynot at grannytrish@yahoo.com or (225) 985-237-5977

March is a great time to work with the beautiful assortment of colors pastels offer! Join Adrian Deckbar for a three day Popping Up Your Color workshop. From beginners to advanced, there will be exciting new techniques to learn: we’ll create a 3-D effect, getting your work to “pop” and vibrate. We will create dimension by using complementary colors and analogous colors. To achieve clarity and avoid that smudgy look, we will work with edges, soft and hard, to control the viewer’s eye. Adrian will help you with composition choices: laying out composition, cropping, sketching or gridding – getting the best image to work from, whether abstract or a realistic image. There will be lots to do and learn!

**Robertta Loflin – Going to the Birds – Water Media**
February 15 & 16; Friday & Saturday from 9:30 - Noon
Regular Registration : $75 members/$90 nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont at bandrepont@bellsouth.net or (225) 773-8020

This 2-day workshop is open to people who work in water media (watercolors and/or acrylics). Participants
will experiment with a variety of different techniques to paint bird portraits working from your own photos of your favorite feathered friends. Roberta provides daily step by step demonstrations with lots of time for personal painting as she provides individual guidance and critiques.

Roberta Loflin – Your Values! Basic Acrylic Workshop
Mondays - March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2019 from 9:30 AM to Noon
Early Bird Registration thru February 17, 2109 - $60 members/$75 nonmembers
Regular Registration Beginning February 18: $75 members/$90 nonmembers
DEADLINE TO REGISTER – MARCH 3, 2019
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont, (225) 773-8020, bandrepont@bellsouth.net

This workshop is for people who want to learn the basics of acrylic painting, and for those who are already familiar with the medium but want to hone their acrylic skills. Roberta will discuss color mixing, composition, and how values and color can guide your eye through the painting to your focal point. You may then bring your personal photos to work from. Roberta will provide daily demonstrations and then give participants the opportunity to paint under her guidance working with participants individually. Roberta will discuss materials and supplies for acrylic painting at the first class. So please don’t panic if you are not sure of supplies. You can bring what supplies you do have.

Kim Santini – REFresh Color and Brushwork – Acrylic
April 10-13, 2019; Wednesday-Saturday from 9:00am – 4:00pm
Early Bird Registration until February 24, 2019; $275 Members/$325 Nonmembers
Regular Registration beginning February 25, 2019; $325 Members/$375 Nonmembers
Workshop Coordinator: Betty Klenke at biklenke@gmail.com or (225)755-2449

Kimberly Santini, renowned daily painter and colorist, brings her unique approach to a 4-day workshop packed with demos and exercises designed to help artists broaden their understanding of color while loosening up. Additional modules will focus on elements of a strong painting like line, contrast and design. Participants will work a wet palette system, learn to paint what they see, when and how to use artistic license, and practice a structured approach to color usage.

If you want to see more of Kim’s work visit her website: www.Kimberlysantini.com

COMING TO STUDIO IN THE PARK THIS SUMMER…..

August 16–19 Bill Schneider — Portraits — Oil or Pastel
NOTE: Bill is the River Road Show judge; this workshop is limited to 15 participants.