



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana

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FEBRUARY 2022

Anna Hingle talks about Anna Hingle..

Anna is the most recent addition to the Membership Committee. With a background in technology, she will be helping to maintain membership data files. She has been very engaged since joining the Guild and is also active with the AGL exhibits both as an intake/installation volunteer and an exhibiting artist. When we sent Anna some interview questions and asked her to tell us about her art journey this is what she shared with us.

"I always wished that I could paint, but I never even picked up a paintbrush to try - I just assumed I couldn't! I retired from Shell after 30 years in Information Technology (IT), using the other side of my brain. Juggling a career and raising a family didn't give me much time to even consider it. A few months after I retired, on a whim, I purchased a watercolor course from Great Courses, and from the first painting (a bowl) I was hooked! Over the next year or so, I tried different mediums, mostly teaching myself from YouTube videos and reading, but I was still struggling from my complete lack of fundamentals. I never even had an art class in high school! That's when I discovered the Baton Rouge Art Academy and Larry Casso. Larry sparked my love of charcoal, and taught me the supremacy of value, to GO DARKER, and how important it is to spend time learning the fundamentals. He believed that anyone could paint if they put in focused time and built from the fundamentals up, and he convinced me that I could too.



I continued learning about different mediums after that class, but I didn't consider myself an "Artist" until a year ago when I decided that I would start using the "A word" and start acting like I believed I was an "A word" lol. I made a 2021 New Year's resolution to paint daily and more than 200 paintings later, it was the first new year's resolution I've kept in my entire life.

I probably paint or study painting one way or another, an average of 4 hours a day. Even retired, I must consciously make time for it, or it won't happen. Sometimes that means prioritizing it over other things. It's the running joke in my house that I only do dishes on Thursday since I discovered painting, but that's an exaggeration, because I also do dishes on Sunday. :) My favorite painting time is at night. I'd probably paint until 2 am every day if I was younger lol.



I never get "painter's block". Mostly I feel like that there's not enough time in the day, or time in my lifetime, to paint everything I want to paint and try every medium and style that I want to try.

I am a landscape painter. When you ask what I hope others see in my art, I must admit that I've always marveled at other artists' statements on what they were about and why they paint. I just paint because I love to paint and need to paint. As I look at many of my paintings, I realize that's what I'm shooting for in most of them - communicating that "peace" and "rest" you can find out in nature, whether it's in the shadows under a tree, or the light glinting off the water, or moonlight in a garden.

Nature is the great equalizer for me - the place where you can step away from the constant noise of our lives and put things in perspective. I guess that's what I'm hoping someone else might feel while looking at a painting of mine - just a moment's rest and maybe, once in a while, a perspective reset.

I paint primarily in charcoal, oil, soft pastels, and gouache. I have also spent time in watercolor, colored pencil, wax pastels and oil pastels. In the end I prefer the forgiving nature of opaque mediums where I can paint light over dark and easily correct mistakes. If I could only choose one medium, it would have to be oil - nothing matches the feel of it for me. But I also love gouache because it has almost all of the pluses of oils, but it dries fast, soft pastels because nothing can match that brilliant color, and charcoal because I love the drama and I can get completely lost in creating a painting where the only thing I have to focus on is value.



My advice to beginning artists is to never give up. I believe you only need three things to be successful: Passion, Practice and Peeps. You need passion to keep you going through all the paintings that will line your garbage can. Practice will *always* lead to progress - if you recognize what you learned through every "failure". And finally, it helps tremendously if you find people who share your interest in painting. Find your peeps, whether in online artist groups, or through taking part in Art Guild events and making new friends who share your passion. They will give you someone to share your art journey with and keep you motivated!"

PONDERERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the first AGL Newsletter of the new year, and in spite of the pandemic, the hurricanes and other happenings wreaking havoc in 2021, we (AGL) ended the year on a couple of happy notes.

First, I am grateful to all who donated to the \$4\$ match campaign, and especially thankful to the anonymous person who put up the match money. It was a successful endeavor and helped us make up some of the financial losses incurred by the pandemic.

Second, let me extend the gratitude to the 29 artists who participated in the Goodwood Library Exhibit. We had a total of 81 paintings! Hopefully the enthusiasm to display your work will continue for the exhibits at our Independence Park Theatre gallery. The Winter Member Show is currently up, and next will be the Special Exhibit to "Interpret This Photo". Remember to download the photo from the website. And, please NOTE, we have a special incentive for this "Special Exhibit": Each painting from an exhibiting artist gets 1 ticket in a drawing for a Mo's Gift Certificate! Thank you to Anna Hingle for coming up with this idea.



Other good things that happened in 2021:

The River Road Show made a comeback! Thanks to Claudia LeJeune, Chairman of that committee, Leah Schwartzman, Bruce Elliott, and the host of on-call volunteers who made that happen.

A new project of the Workshop Committee was our first online workshop, with artist David Boyd Jr. Thanks to David Gary for donating his time and expertise along with other committee members. Several of our talented members donated their time and talent to present workshops. A special thanks to Larry Downs for continuing with his workshops and, Emily Efferson, Lisa Sanchez, Betty Gravois, Kay Bailey and Kathy Redmond who presented several workshops and donated all the proceeds to AGL. There is so much behind the scenes activity happening in this all-volunteer organization that I could go on for pages with gratitude to all of you who have been there for AGL during these difficult past couple of years—but the editor of this newsletter is begging me to stop.

So, for now, Happy 2022!

..... *Marilyn Gensler*

PICTURE DAY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 – 1:00 – 4:00pm

AGL hosts a photography services for members at the Studio in the Park on the third Sunday of every month, from 1 pm – 4 pm. Your artwork will be photographed in a semi-professional setup using appropriate equipment and techniques. The final images will be provided to you via your choice of email and/or your thumb drive.

You can wait while paintings are photographed, however photographs are done on a first come first served basis. If you do choose to wait, please try to come early. A more popular option is to drop off your artwork. Artwork that is dropped off can be picked up on the following Tuesday or Wednesday, between 11 am to 3:30 pm..

- Maximum of 3 paintings per artist each Picture Day
- No Wet paint - all paintings should be thoroughly dry.
- No paintings under glass
- All works on paper should be attached to a rigid substrate to ensure the art work will remain straight/flat while photographing.

NOTE: Sometimes, Picture Day may not be scheduled on the 3rd Sunday, due to holiday or other conflicting events. Members should check the online “Calendar” before heading out to the studio.

www.artguildlouisiana.org/calendar

Pastel Open Studio

Come network with other pastel artists to exchange ideas and techniques and meet new friends. AGL members interested in trying their hand at pastels or who are interested in “honing” their pastel skills are invited to join other like-minded members once a month from **10:00am to 2:30pm** at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue in Baton Rouge.

The studio has several containers of “community” pastels available if you just want to “try out” working in pastels without having to make a full investment. Save the dates for the following pastel open studios:

February 24	May 26
March 24	June 23
April 28	July 28

The **Baton Rouge Garden Club Tablescapes** exhibit returns to the Independence Park Botanical Gardens on March 19-20, 2022, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm, in the Baton Rouge Garden Center building, 7950 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge. It is curated by the Baton Rouge Garden Club in coordination with Louisiana Watercolor Society (LWS) member Kathy Miller Stone of Baton Rouge.

The Tablescapes project is always a very interesting and unique exhibit as Garden Club members interpret the accepted art pieces in creative table settings and flower arrangements. Several of the LWS exhibiting artists are also members of Art Guild of Louisiana. A \$5.00 donation, collected at the door, will benefit the Garden Club's Scholarship Foundation Fund.

USkBR (Urban Sketchers Baton Rouge) is an official regional chapter of Urban Sketchers, an international nonprofit dedicated to fostering a global community of artists who practice on-location drawing. **USkBR** is facilitated by Guild member Bill Buck. The sketching sojourns are open to all interested artists. They meet once a month on Saturday at various locations in Baton Rouge and the surrounding area.

For more information and location updates get on the email list by contacting Bill at (225)916-8406 or by email at wdbuck@yahoo.com or follow the FB group ... **USk Baton Rouge**. To find out more about the international group visit UrbanSketchers.org.

February 19, 2022	10:00am	meet at the corner by Poboy Lloyds's downtown Baton Rouge
March 19, 2022	time TBA	Farr Park
April 9, 2022	time TBA	Joe May track and field event at LSU

Baton Rouge Plein Air, facilitated by AGL member and local artist David Gary, convenes weekly on Thursdays from 9:00am-noon with a friendly critique following. David encourages artists of all mediums and skill levels to participate. You just need to show up at the designated time/location.

In order to allow participating artists to paint more than one subject at a location and possibly create early studies and later, more finished works the Plein Air group is trying something new in 2022. Rather than painting at a different location every week, they will paint at the same location for a month.

February — location will be Spanish Town
March — location will be the Istrouma Brewery in St. Gabriel.

Follow them on Facebook for weekly updates, details and schedule changes: facebook.com/batonrougepleinair. Contact David at 225-252-8384 for questions or further details.

MEMBER NEWS

The following note from AGL member **Margaret Hawkins**, of Ponchatoula, was received in response to our request for "member news". Margaret is a talented, always smiling, on-the-go artist who is certainly out to show us that there are opportunities out there. One has only to "get 'er done". Congratulations, Margaret, on your awards and sales!!

"I am currently exhibiting paintings at Oak Knoll Country Club in Hammond with the Hammond Art Guild; in October won an award of excellence in the Louisiana Watercolor Society member show at the same location;

...Had two charcoal drawings included in the "BROADS" art show at the Hammond Regional Art Center in November; and have two paintings on exhibit in the Cafe' Gallery at Baton Rouge General Hospital;

...Recently sold a large metal leaf abstract through Moss and Berry in Ponchatoula (photo shown), and several small paintings at the Rural Life Museum at Burden Gardens in Baton Rouge;

...Have been invited to have paintings included in the Baton Rouge Garden Club Tablescares exhibit March 19 and 20 in the Independence Park BRGC building. It is curated the Garden Club in by Kathy Miller Stone of Baton Rouge;

...Showed several paintings in the Art Guild of Louisiana member show recently held at the main library on Goodwood.

Art definitely has a place (or places), COVID or no COVID, and AGL has certainly made opportunities for art! Thank you very much."



Sometimes it is all about the timing. **Frances Bayham** tells us the story of her parking lot sale while bringing paintings to the December holiday exhibit at the Goodwood Library.

"As I was walking across the parking lot toward the Goodwood library, paintings in hand for the December exhibit, I heard someone calling to me,, I turned to see a gentleman saying "Is that a painting? Let me see. Is that for sale?"

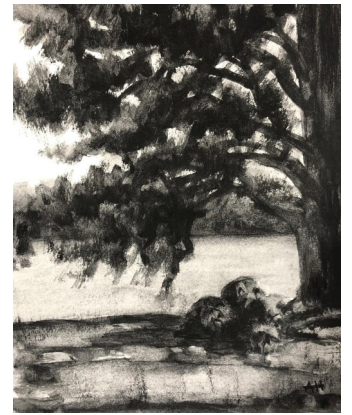
Having been parked right next to my van, a man quickly caught up to me and we negotiated a price, with the understanding that I would hang the painting first in the exhibit. As I opened the back of my van to set some things down and take his information, he saw one of my other paintings. "Jesus, the Light of the World," the painting for my 2018 Christmas cards, based on the scripture John 8:12 NASB. "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life." Upon seeing this painting, he immediately said, "Is that Jesus? I want THAT painting – never mind about the other one. I love Jesus. Can I buy that one?"

My response after a second was, "Well, I guess this was just meant to be, since I only decided to frame this painting this morning ," the morning of the exhibit, thinking that since it was close to Christmas, someone might like to see it. The painting sold on the spot out of the back of my van, in the parking lot. We took pictures, and he then told me, as he put the painting in the car, "This is my mother's Christmas gift." That statement warmed my heart and I went away smiling.

So, you never know what can happen when you enter an Art Guild of Louisiana art exhibit. The right person for your painting may just be waiting to see it."



Congratulations also go to **Anna Hingle** who sold her charcoal wash painting "Sanctuary" during the December, holiday exhibit at the Goodwood Library.



EXHIBITS

Holiday Exhibit at Goodwood Library

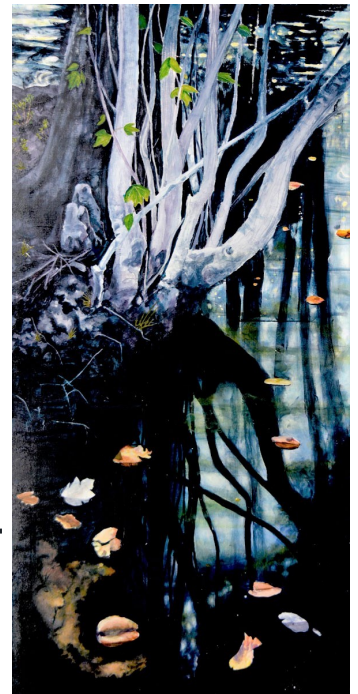
The Art Guild of Louisiana (AGL) sponsored a special holiday exhibit during December 2021 at the East Baton Rouge Main Library, 7711 Goodwood Boulevard in Baton Rouge. There were 31 AGL members participating with 81 works of art that encompassed a wide range of mediums and subject matter. It was an exceptional exhibit...thank you exhibitors!



Voting boxes were set up on each floor of the Library for visitors to cast a vote for their favorite painting. Two People's Choice Awards were awarded, one for each of the two floors of the exhibit. The following artists took the top honors of People's Choice:

Olivia Pass's oil painting "Dappled Woodsy Walk" won on the second floor

Larry Downs' acrylic painting "Bluebonnet Swamp" won on the first floor.



Call for Entry - AGL Member Challenge -- Interpret This Photo Exhibit

In the December, News from the Palette, AGL published a photo and challenged AGL members to "interpret this photo". The photo may be used in it's entirety, or only a portion of it, in any medium or several media. A maximum of 5 entries per artists will be accepted. So get painting and enter YOUR interpretation(s) in this fun exhibit. Get the photo: www.artguildlouisiana.org/interpret-this-photo-member-show-2022 .

The exhibit will be open to the public, free of admission, from March 10 until May 12, 2022 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery, during regular business hours Tuesday – Friday, 10:00am till 5:00pm., 7800 Independence Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

Interested artist must bring their entries to Independence Park Theatre Gallery on March 10, 2022 between 11:00am and 1:00pm. All artwork must meet the AGL exhibit requirements found at www.artguildlouisian.org/exhibits.

TAKE-IN: March 10 – between 11:00am -1:00pm

ENTRY FEE: \$5 per art piece

PRIZES: People's Choice Ribbon + Gift Certificate to Mo's Art Supply

AWARD RECEPTION: Friday, April 15; 2:00-4:00pm;

EXHIBIT TAKE-DOWN: May 12

If the artist is not available to pick up their art work on the designated date/time, May 12, 11:00am-1:00pm, please make arrangements for someone to pick up your painting(s). A \$25 storage/handling fee will be assessed to the artist if art work is not picked up timely.

All art work must remain on exhibit throughout the entire show timeline. Please, be sure you haven't promised the piece elsewhere before the show is over. If a piece is sold it may be picked up at the end of the exhibit, May 12. BREC retains a 30% commission on all sales.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Larry Downs – Color Your Life (Beginning Acrylics)

March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2022 (Thursdays) from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Early Bird fee thru February 19 - member \$60/nonmember \$75

Regular fee starting February 20 - member \$75/nonmember \$90

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont – contact at 225.773.8020 or bandrepont@bellsouth.net

Larry's class will get you into using acrylics from the beginning in four 3-hour sessions – a lovely way to start 2022.



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. Participants will end up with at least one completed painting.

Larry Downs – Creating Starts Here (Beginning Drawing)

April 7, 14, 21 and 28 (Thursdays) from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Early Bird fee thru March 24 - member \$60/nonmember \$75

Regular fee starting March 25 - member \$75/nonmember \$90

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont – contact at 225.773.8020 or bandrepont@bellsouth.net



Drawing provides shape for a good painting. A good drawing is a map, a plan, the cornerstone for a strong composition. In this class, you can hone your drawing skills regardless of your current skill level. Larry is a local artist/instructor who also has years of experience conducting workshops at LSU in the Lagniappe program. He will cover the hows and whys of drawing, first through demonstrations, followed by hands on exercises and personal guidance. You will work from still life set ups arranged by Larry using direct lighting. You will find Larry's teaching methods effective but relaxing and friendly.

Larry Downs - Painting Your Way (Intermediate Acrylics)

May 5, 12, 19 and 26 (Thursdays) from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Early Bird fee thru April 21 - member \$60/nonmember \$75

Regular fee starting April 22 - member \$75/nonmember \$90

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont – contact at 225.773.8020 or bandrepont@bellsouth.net

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 - Composing in Depth (Intermediate Drawing)

June 2, 9, 16 & 23 (Thursdays) from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Early Bird fee thru May 19 - member \$60/nonmember \$75

Regular fee starting May 20 - member \$75/nonmember \$90

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont – contact at 225.773.8020 or bandrepont@bellsouth.net

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





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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.



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