



# News from the Palette

## Art Guild of Louisiana

[www.artguildlouisiana.org](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org)  
[agl@artguildlouisiana.org](mailto:agl@artguildlouisiana.org)

February 2026

### Unlock the Full Experience of AGL Membership

Hello everyone, welcome to 2026, a brand new year, with 365 more days for new opportunities, new inspirations, new artistic creations, thoughts, and perspectives.

AGL is happy to share that we are beginning the year on a strong financial footing and with a strong membership base. We welcome all the new members as well as the renewing members who are the stabilizing structure of the organization as we grow. We deeply appreciate your support and hope that you will find inspiration and opportunity to grow with AGL.

AGL has a continually growing and shifting list of activities and benefits! How do you keep your finger on the pulse of what happening? AGL offers a trifecta of resources to keep you informed and involved; to help you make the most of your membership:

**The newsletter**, *News from the Palette*, published bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, October, and December) on the day first day of the month. The newsletter informs you of upcoming workshops, picture days, exhibits, and inspiration by sharing the accomplishments of fellow members, along with other miscellaneous bits of news and art related events.

**Member emails** are generated weekly as reminders of specific activities, such as receptions, exhibit take-ins, and workshops that are coming up in the near future. We strive to remain respectful of your inbox while also keeping you informed.

[\*\*www.artguildlouisiana.org\*\*](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org) is perhaps your most significant resource. And the website **Calendar** is the most comprehensive schedule of all the activities available by current month as well as future months. The Calendar is where you will find scheduling changes, updates, and cancellations of regularly scheduled activities such as open studio, which is sometimes cancelled due to a workshop or AGL exhibit reception. The Calendar is your key to what, when, and where, 24/7. But, it is just one of the key components of the website.

The **Workshops** tab has the details of all upcoming workshops that have been contracted at any given time. While all our workshops are open to public participation, please note that most of the workshops offer a discounted price for members and an even deeper discount for early registration. The list of workshops will change as we add new learning opportunities throughout the year.

The **Exhibits** tab provides you with a schedule of exhibit dates for the entire year so that you can plan your paintings in advance. You have access to exhibit requirements, take-in/take-down times/dates, and award reception dates for each exhibit at your fingertips, 24/7. To encourage and provide opportunities for beginning artists as well as advanced artists, AGL exhibits are non-juried; all entries are accepted IF they meet AGL exhibit requirements. AGL typically sponsors five member exhibits awarding "People's Choice" ribbons and two judged exhibits with cash prizes and ribbons, which are open to members as well as non-member area artists.

With the **Galleries** tab, you can view artwork created by fellow AGL members who choose to have a gallery on the website. Members may have three art pieces per month photographed by the Guild volunteer photographer, (Picture Day) usually on the third Sunday of each month. Again, a schedule for the entire year is posted on the website Calendar at the beginning of each year. Members who wish to establish a gallery using their own photographs may do so by emailing your photographs (as attachments) to [webmaster@artguildlouisiana.org](mailto:webmaster@artguildlouisiana.org) .

**NOTE: Photographs submitted to the webmaster must be at least 1,200 pixels on the longest edge, must be in focus, and must not include the frame, the mat, or any background material in the image.**

The **River Road** tab shows the most current information related to the Guild's annual national, juried, and judged art competition. In addition to the judge's bio, you will find entry deadlines, exhibit requirements and timelines once those dates have been established and the call for entry is made public. A list of accepted artists are posted once they are received from the judge and award winners are posted after the awards reception near the end of August. The River Road Show is on display at the Louisiana State Archives through the months of August and September.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As we move into February, I'm struck by how much quiet momentum is building around the Art Guild of Louisiana. This time of year often feels like a bridge, past the excitement of the holidays and into the steady, meaningful work of making art, showing up, and staying engaged. From what I'm seeing across our programming and conversations, our members are doing exactly that.

I can't tell you how pleased I am to announce that Marc Hanson will serve as juror and judge for our "56th Annual River Road Show" this year. I have been working to bring him here for six years. Marc brings a rare combination of painting excellence, deep teaching experience, and thoughtful perspective to his work. Having him involved elevates the show and affirms our ongoing commitment to serious craftsmanship and artistic growth. We're honored to welcome him into this role and look forward to the insights he'll bring to both the exhibition and our broader Guild community.



I also want to celebrate the strong start of "The Guilded Page Book Club." The response has been energizing; thoughtful discussion, generous sharing, and a real sense of community forming around our first book, *Art & Fear*. We encouraged small, voluntary donations in conjunction with the series, and I'm pleased to share that this effort has already raised nearly \$2,000 towards upcoming studio upgrades. It's been gratifying to see artists from different backgrounds and experience levels come together with curiosity, openness, and a shared commitment to strengthening our organization.

I'm equally excited to share that we've secured an outstanding lineup of guest workshop instructors for the year - with more to come - including Sarah Sedwick, Vicki Norman and Charlie Hunter. By the time you read this, Kim Pierson will have completed her first "Perspective for Artists" workshop, with a second session already planned for the summer. Claudine Diamond, Kay Wallace, Dana Mosby and the hits just keep on coming! In addition, our own Roberta Loflin and Larry Downs continue to offer their popular classes in drawing, acrylic, and watercolor. With so many opportunities available, there truly is something for everyone, so follow our "Workshops" page, social media, come to Open Studio, get involved as a volunteer at any level, and be part of the creative energy that makes the largest organization of multimedia visual artists in Louisiana thrive.

I'm genuinely optimistic about the year ahead and grateful to be painting along this path with you all.  
At Your Service,  
David Gary

*"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." - Pablo Picasso*

### **Renew Now and Don't Miss a Single Benefit!**

AGL memberships begin and end with the calendar year; 2025 memberships expired on December 30, 2025. If you don't remember whether or not you have renewed [click here](#) to view 2026 members. If your name is not listed, you have not renewed your membership. Annual membership is \$45. Effective April 1, 2026, members who have not renewed their membership by March 31, will stop receiving member emails and newsletters.



The easiest way to renew is online via the website, [www.artguildlouisiana.org/join](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/join). You can pay using a credit card, a PayPal account, or a Venmo account.

Or you may download and print the membership form and mail the completed form with a check to the address on the bottom of the membership form. Please do not send cash in the mail.

You may also renew in person at the Studio in the Park during open studio hours, i.e. Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. You will be asked to complete a membership form and may pay with a check or cash. Credit cards or Venmo are not accepted at the Studio.

[Renew Now](#)

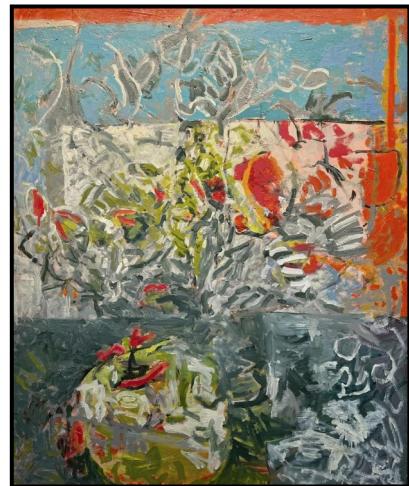
### **Good news!! Judged Exhibit Prize Money!**

We are happy to announce, at the recent Board meeting, January 26, 2026 the Board unanimously voted to raise the dollar amount of cash prizes for Judged shows. Effective immediately cash awards for judged exhibits will be: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$175, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$125 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$100

### **A Critique with Billie Bourgeois – Unmask the Masterpiece**

Originating from New Orleans, popular local artist and instructor Billie Bourgeois generously shares her years of experience and artistic insight as she inspires and guides you to "see" your work through a different lens. Billie's work is known throughout several states and collections. AGL welcomes and appreciates being able to bring this opportunity to our members.

Bring up to five paintings you may be struggling to finish. Or, maybe it's done, but for some reason it just doesn't seem right. Come participate in a lively and informative discussion with Billie about what's missing; what is not missing; what's wrong with a specific color; why another color might be better. Engage in thought-provoking conversations as Billie addresses possible answers to these questions. She generously shares her extensive knowledge about design, color, value and composition and more as they apply to multiple mediums and painting styles. Billie's enthusiasm is contagious, her thoughts and ideas enlightening. Leave with renewed confidence to move forward!!



## AGL Takes a Seat at the Table with Baton Rouge Garden Club

Twenty-six AGL members submitted 26 paintings to the Baton Rouge Garden Club to exhibit in their annual fundraising event "Tablescapes." Garden club members will select a painting to work with and will design a floral arrangement and "tablescape" (i.e. table setting) that reflects aspects of the painting. This is a very unique and interesting artistic event.

There will be a \$5 admission fee for entry into the show on each day. Money from the event goes towards funding a cash scholarship presented each year alternately between an LSU or Southern student majoring in the horticulture curriculum.

The popular "Tablescapes" event is open to the public at the Botanical Garden Building at Independence Park on Saturday and Sunday, **February 21 and 22** from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. with a public reception and awards presentation on Sunday, February 22. Awards will be presented in each of three categories—flower arrangement, tablescape and painting based on popular vote from event attendees.

## Sympathy

AGL sends heartfelt condolences to long-time Guild member Mary Heckman and her family. Mary's husband, Dave Heckman passed away peacefully on January 10, 2026.

Mary has been a very active member and avid exhibitor in Guild exhibitions. And for many years, Mary was a regular attendee at open studio painting sessions. If she wasn't there painting, she often stopped by to say hello. Frequently Dave was by her side at exhibits and open studio visits, so many Guild members got to know him also. Mary, we send you blessings and strength during this very difficult time.

## MEMBER NEWS

In December, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library added four of **Nanci Charpentier's** original oil paintings to their permanent collection "The Baton Rouge Room Special Collections," featuring original artwork by Baton Rouge artists.

Nanci ended her 2025 painting year participating in both "Paint the Town Mississippi," hosted by the Mississippi Plein Air Painters, in October 2025 and Plein Air Fairhope 2025 in Alabama. Recent awards include "Best Nocturne" award at "Paint the Town Mississippi." Three paintings created during the Mississippi event sold to local collectors, including *Little Chickens Everywhere* and *Zinnia Fest*.

Nanci's painting, *Zinnia Fest* was also juried into the American Impressionist Society's "6th Annual All Member Online Exhibition 2025" this past November, one of 280 selected from 2,200 submissions.

Moving forward in 2026, so far Nanci has been juried in as one of 35 participating artists in "Paint the Town Plein Air Art Festival" in Marble Falls, Texas in April and she has also been juried as one of 60 accepted artists participating in the "Blowing Rock Plein Air Festival" (North Carolina) in September.



**Patricia Ryan** now has artwork on display in "The Loft" located 7126 Antioch Road. The "Artists Loft Market" features a variety of local artisan-created work from textiles, to original art, photography, jewelry, and much more. It also houses a coffee, shop, a place to get a hot lunch, and a few public tables to sit and visit. Stop by and check it out! Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday noon – 5:00 p.m.



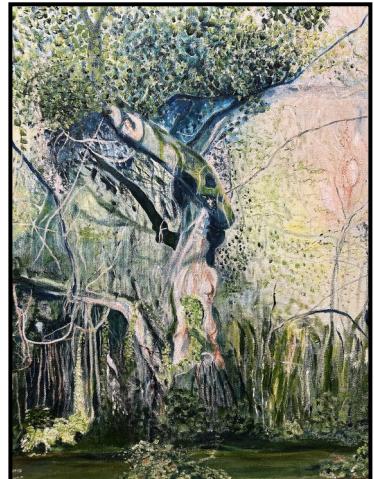
**Claudine Diamond** says, "I am happy to announce that my art will be displayed in a full 16-foot shop window space at Perkins Rowe from the second week of February to the last week of April 2026. Anyone who takes a picture in front of my display and posts it on my Blue Lotus Visions Facebook or Blue-Lotus\_Visions Instagram page will be entered into a drawing for a painting.

Look for this fabulously fun 4' x 5' painting at 10156 Perkins Rowe. It's in the display cases on the corner of Perkins and Grand Ave (facing Free People)

**Olivia Pass'** *Spirit Tree* painting was selected by the International Delta Kappa Gamma organization to display on their website: [dkg.org](http://dkg.org). It is in the "Paintings and Pastels" section.

Olivia accepted a commission from a gentleman in Colorado who had seen her work in through a relative. A beautiful 1' x 4' nocturnal desert landscape in oil, *Monument*. Olivia said she had lots of fun doing the research about night skies and exploring the use of black gesso.

Previously Olivia shared, her painting *Black Lives Truly Matter* was featured in *Hurricanes Katrina and Rita at 20*, an anthology of poetry and art, edited by former Louisiana Poet Laureates Mona Lisa Saloy and John Warner Smith, and published by Black Bayou Press. Recently she went to Lafayette to participate in a panel discussion related the book and her painting *Black Lives Truly Matter*; in conjunction with Acadiana-based "Festival of Words" at the "Art House" in the Acadiana Center. Saloy and Smith also participated, presenting readings from the book.



### Recent Exhibit Winners – Goodwood Library: December 4 – 29, 2025

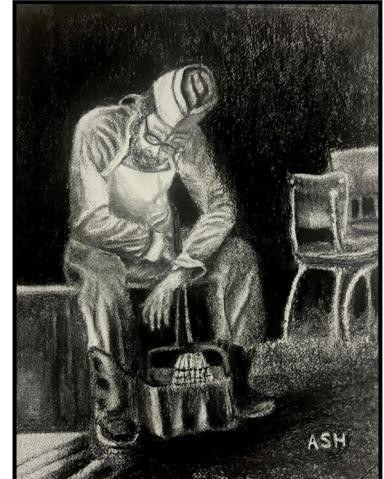
Congratulations, **Paris Williams** and **Cheri Blanchard**! Each artist won a "People's Choice" ribbon and a \$50 cash award at the annual AGL exhibit at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library on Goodwood Boulevard. Paris' winning piece on the first floor was a pastel, *Goddess in Green*. Cheri Blanchard took the award on the second floor for her mixed media piece *The Camp*.



### Independence Park Theater: A Holiday Retrospective

**November 13, 2025 – January 8, 2026**

This fun "Retrospective" exhibit presented members with an opportunity to submit their favorite works, that were completed outside the usual three-year requirement. **Anna Hingle's** thoughtful charcoal, *Day is Done* was awarded the "People's Choice" ribbon.



### Awards Reception— Winter Member Show— February 8, 2026

The Winter Member Show, currently on exhibit at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery features 27 works of art representing 13 local talented artists working in a variety of mediums. The exhibit is open to the public through March 11, 2026.

An awards reception will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. This will be a very exciting reception with a special program planned for your entertainment. Not only will AGL be awarding the "People's Choice" ribbon to the winner of the current exhibit and a \$25 cash prize in the random drawing for the exhibiting artists. In addition, we will also be presenting the "People's Choice" ribbons and \$50 cash prizes to the two winners of the annual December exhibit at the EBR Parish Main Library on Goodwood.

We will also have a special demonstration presented by popular local artist Claudine Diamond. Claudine's enthusiasm for all things "art" is infectious and inspiring. In this demonstration, you will be introduced to gel plate printing and collage as an intuitive, playful process that emphasizes experimentation over perfection. Claudine will show you the basic tools and techniques, so you can see how simple marks and textures come together to create dynamic collage papers. The demonstration is a prelude to Claudine's upcoming workshop on February 22, **Intro to Gel Plate and Collage**. This is a demonstration you won't want to miss!



The reception is open to the public so please invite family and friends to join you for a afternoon of art. Exhibiting members are encouraged to bring a finger food dish for the refreshment table.

### **Call for Entry: Spring Member Show – Vincent Van Geaux**

Members are invited to submit original works of art inspired by the style, technique, and visual language of the Dutch master, Vincent Van Gogh.

This exhibition celebrates influence, encouraging artists to translate the spirit of the master into contemporary personal expression. The intent is not to copy or recreate one of Van Gogh's famous works, but to utilize the most prominent characteristics of his paintings in a composition of your own. Think expressive emotional brushstrokes, lots of movement, and vibrant colors. **Non-Van Geaux** style entries are also acceptable in the exhibit. But we encourage you to stretch your style and creativity and join in the fun of channeling an old master.

The entry fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry, with a maximum of five entries. The exhibit goes up on March 12, 2026 until May 7, 2026 and will be open to the public Tuesday–Friday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This is a non-juried exhibit. All original, two- dimensional art is eligible except photography, computer enhanced artwork, or workshop art. All art work must meet AGL "Installation Requirements" found at [www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits). Interested artists must bring their art to Independence Park Theatre Gallery, 7950 Independence Boulevard, on **March 12, 2026** between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Artwork must have been completed in the past three years and must not have been shown previously in more than one AGL exhibit. All artwork must remain in the show until the end of the exhibit. BREC takes a 20% commission on all sales.

A "People's Choice" ribbon will be presented at an awards reception on **April 12, 2026**. Exhibiting artists will be eligible to win a \$25 cash prize in a random drawing conducted during the reception. Exhibiting artists earn one "chance" in the drawing for each painting entered in the exhibit.

## WORKSHOPS

### 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](mailto: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 interesting 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.



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

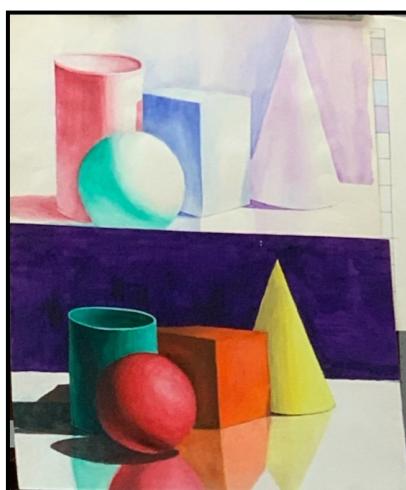
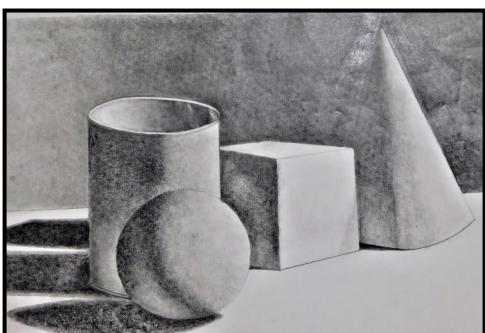
March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 (Thursdays), 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Early Bird fee thru February 18: \$125 members / \$150 nonmembers

Regular fee begins February 19: \$150 members / \$175 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Sheila Riso, [sheilariso206@gmail.com](mailto:sheilariso206@gmail.com) or 228-216-0826

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.



## Vicki Norman: Capturing Light and Color en Plein Air

March 10-12 (Tuesday-Thursday), 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Early Bird fee thru February 15: \$440 members / \$475 nonmembers

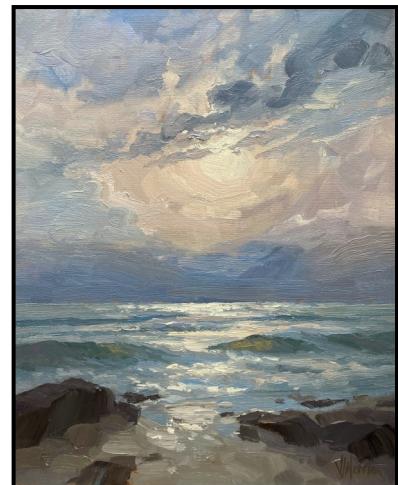
Regular Fee begins February 16: \$465 members / \$500 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: David Gary, [dgary@redstick.com](mailto:dgary@redstick.com) or 225-252-8384

Skill Level: Painters in all media and with all levels of experience are welcome. Only 12 seats available.

By an absolute stroke of luck we are honored to have the opportunity to offer this workshop by the outstanding artist Vicki Norman from Newlyn, Cornwall, England. This workshop will fill up fast!

Accurate and sensitive color perception is the key to capturing a sense of light in a painting. Developing your ability to recognize subtle qualities in the temperature of the light and its effect on the local colors of stone, water and foliage in the landscape are the keys to successfully conveying a sense of place and atmosphere in your paintings. You will learn to accurately observe and reliably match the colors you perceive in a scene so you can get the big color relationships correct. We will begin with some color theory and fundamental principles. Building from these we will learn a reliable three step process for identifying and matching colors accurately. We will employ our new skills in a series of exercises and color studies painted from direct observation with the goal of capturing the unique sense of light and color in each subject. Exact painting location to be determined: (likely LSU's Burden Museum and Gardens.



Vicki Norman is a full-time fine artist and highly regarded instructor, represented by leading galleries across the UK. She earned her BA in Fine Art in 2000 and has been teaching since 2005. She went on to obtain a postgraduate certificate in post-16 education and teaching remains a central part of her creative practice.

Vicki's paintings have received awards in Europe and the United States, including recognition from the **Royal Institute of Oil Painters** in London and the **Oil Painters of America**. She is also a **Brand Ambassador for Michael Harding Handmade Artists' Oil Colors** and is widely admired for her mastery of color, clear instruction, and infectious enthusiasm.

## Charlie Hunter: Losing My Edge

March 15 (Sunday), 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Burden Rural Life Museum, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Rain Location: Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Ave, Baton Rouge, 70816

Fee: \$150 members / \$165 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: David Gary, [dgary@redstick.com](mailto:dgary@redstick.com) or 225-252-8384

**This workshop is SOLD OUT.**

To add your name to a waiting list contact the Coordinator.



## **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](mailto: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](http://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 AndrePont: [barbara.andrepont@gmail.com](mailto: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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— ask them to do the same —

Get the word out about YOUR organization

**“connect art and people”**

