



News from the Palette

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JUNE 2020

AGL—The Early Years ... by Leah Schwartzman

Often when talking to various members I began to realize that the history and founding of AGL is not widely known. So, during these “history making” times, I want to share with you a brief history of the Art Guild of Louisiana, as we know it. The story is based on notes pieced together by member, Jeanette Eckert, who spent untold hours gleaning snippets of information from files found in the studio and anecdotal information through interviews with some of our most senior members.

From an article in the January 18, 1960 issue of “The Register” magazine:

“On October 27, 1953 Mrs. T.O. Woods (Marguerite) asked several of her fellow [art] students to meet at her home to discuss the idea of an art club. Present were Mrs. Eugene Beaucoudray (Barbara), Mrs. M. R. Hammond (Dale), Mrs. Russell Willie (Kathleen), and Mrs. Curtis Barton. In the middle of the meeting, with words and ideas tumbling over each other, they all dashed down to the Old State Capitol to talk with Mr. Jay Broussard, the then head of the Louisiana Art Commission (the only state Art Commission in the United States). Moved by their enthusiasm, Mr. Broussard helped them put together a charter which was presented to a dozen or so members at their first meeting in Old State Capitol. Their mission ‘to study art by actually participating in some form of creative work and to establish a statewide art association to promote art education throughout Louisiana.’”

And so, began the Louisiana Art and Artists’ Guild (LAAG) often referred to as the Guild. It has been said that LAAG was the first art organization in Baton Rouge. With this cornerstone set, Barbara Beaucoudray, became the first LAAG president, followed by Marguerite Woods who organized the first official LAAG exhibit. It was hung on the fence of the Old State Capitol. Mr. Broussard offered them space in the Old State Capitol to begin holding their meetings. Finding a “permanent” home and exhibition space (a gallery) proved to be an ongoing venture. Over the years meetings were held in a number of places in addition to the Old State Capitol, including member’s homes, and various businesses around Baton Rouge until Sunday January 5, 1969 when the Guild held the formal opening of the first Guild Gallery in the Doherty Building on Florida Boulevard with 75 paintings from 60 artists. That became the first of many “permanent” homes of the LAAG/The Guild Gallery. Until 1980 The Guild Gallery was partially funded by charging member artists a commission on sales. Dues at that time were set at \$2.

That same year the Guild joined the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Louisiana in sponsoring/representing Louisiana in the Great River Road Art Contest which consisted of art contests in each of 10 other states along the Mississippi River and two Canadian Provinces. The first River Road exhibit was also hung on the fence of the Old State Capitol. Each subsequent year it was held in the Guild Gallery, until 1994 when the exhibit was held in the Louisiana State Archives Building where it continues today. With few changes the Art Guild of Louisiana continues to keep the spirit of that event alive as the annual national River Road Show. We believe that it is the oldest continuously running art exhibition in the Louisiana.

Between 1969 and 1993 the Guild changed locations approximately ten times. In 1993 the Board unanimously voted to become a part of BREC and by 2003 that arrangement was modified to become a public/private partnership at which time BREC offered use of the building at Cedarcrest Park that now serves as our office and a place to hold public workshops and meetings.

In 1973, the Board voted to cease collecting commissions on sales in order to meet non-profit requirements, which proved to be an arduous task. After several denials, much work and legal intervention, we finally gained non-profit status in December 1978 and LAAG first became incorporated in 1994. The founders and early members worked tirelessly to make the Guild a positive force in the Baton Rouge community. We sponsored a scholarship program for high school art students headed for a college art curriculum and two television art programs on LPB. In addition, the Guild held ongoing festivals, exhibits, art classes and charitable activities which were far too numerous to share. A few of their distinguishing accomplishments include: painting cartoon characters on the walls of the children's ward at Earl K. Long Hospital, having Governor Edwin Edwards proclaim May 13-10, 1979 as Annual River Road Show Week, and being selected by the Christmas Pageant for Peace Committee in Washington D.C. to produce 50 ornaments for the Louisiana State tree at the Christmas at the White House celebration in 1993 and again in 1994 and more.

In 2017 the Guild updated our look with a new website, logo and name, Art Guild of Louisiana (AGL) still often referred to as the Guild. This change modernized our brand with the hope of attracting new members and inspiring enthusiasm so that we might continue to honor the work of our founders for years to come. The AGL is truly an integral thread in the history of the Baton Rouge art community. I am so proud to be a part of this organization and I hope that learning about the "early years" helps to instill that pride in YOU too!

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

During these difficult times of the COVID19 Pandemic, I would like to take this time to let you know that my thoughts and prayers are with all of our members and their families and friends. I hope that each of you are healthy and safe. Many of our members are considered "most vulnerable," meaning that we must protect our own health. Sheltering in place may sometimes be disorienting and lonely. I urge you to reach out to family and friends should you need help and know that it is important that you maintain regular contact with them.

For the first time in 51 years, we find ourselves having to make the unwelcome decision to cancel the 2020 national River Road Show. However, we have rescheduled Soon Warren to be the judge for the delayed 51st River Road Show in 2021. Another first for us is having our programs disrupted, our studio is inaccessible and exhibits and workshops canceled. I know this has been a major disappointment to many of you. I hope that we will soon be able to get together safely and experience the synergy and camaraderie that comes with artists being among other artists. We will continue to keep you informed of the status of the Studio in the Park and other Guild events via member emails and regular updating of the AGL website.

I hope that you enjoy the history of the AGL that is in the newsletter. As you read it, please do so with pride. We have some very talented and wonderful people among us, and we, YOU, should feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in all that the AGL has done over the years.

So, let us keep the faith, stay safe and healthy, and I look forward to a time when we will again be able to come together as friends and fellow artists



"Painting is the act of discovery and you are constantly enlarging your horizon EVERY time you paint"!!! Romare Bearden

ART OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT TOWN

Baton Rouge Urbansketchers (UskBR) plein air group facilitated by AGL member Bill Buck. UskBR invites all artists of all skill level to join their month art excursions. Be sure to check the newsletter on their Facebook page, Usk Baton Rouge, for the latest in scheduling updates. For more information or to get on the email list contact Bill Buck at (225) 916 8406 or wdbuck@me.com.

June 20th. - BREC Skate Park and Rock Wall, Meet near Rock Wall, 9am

July 18th - Mall of Louisiana, Meet near Food Court, 11 am

August 15th - Red Stick Social, 1 pm

September 19th - Downtown BR Farmers Market, 9am

October 17th - North Blvd, Town Square area 9am

November 21st - 2021 Planning - Chimes by Campus 1 pm

December 12th - Christmas Social - 6 - 8 pm

The **Baton Rouge Plein Air**, a local group, 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. For questions or further details contact David Gary at (225)252-8384.

June 4: LSU Campus Parade Grounds

June 11: Downtown - 3rd Street

June 18: Bass Pro Shops, Denham Springs

June 25: Pennington Trail (between Kenilworth and Quail Rd.)

July 2: Zippy's/Magpie/Frankie's Dawg House

July 9: Burden Rural Life (Hopefully Sunflowers)

**Follow facebook.com/batonrougepleinair for changes and additions.

MEMBER NEWS

Claudia LeJeune's watercolor painting "One for the Guys" was accepted into the Arts Council's Annual event, Art Flow 2020. The exhibit is spread amongst various buildings downtown. Claudia's painting can be seen at the Manship Theatre Gallery, and the entire exhibit can be seen online at <https://www.ebbandflowbr.org/art-flow-4>



Several of our members enjoy dual membership in both AGL and Louisiana Watercolor society (LWS). Recently some those members were honored with awards.

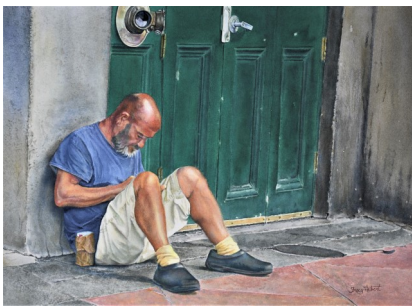
At the LWS member exhibit at Louisiana State Archives, **Louise Hansen** was honored with a Merit Award for her painting "Sea Oats."





Calvin Balencie's painting "Beached" was awarded an Honorable Mention in the recent LWS member exhibit at the Louisiana State Archives

Kathy Stone joins the award winners of the LWS member exhibit at the Archives Building with an Honorable Mention Award for "Forsyth Park Fountain."



Tracy Hebert's painting, "The Least of These," was awarded First Place in the Louisiana Watercolor Society's recent member exhibit at the Louisiana State Archives.

Another of **Tracy's** watercolor paintings, "Girl Trip" was accepted into the LWS 50th International Show normally on exhibit at Place St. Charles in New Orleans.



Cheri Fry's painting titled "White Flowers" was also accepted into the LWS 50th International Show,

Another dual AGL and LWS member, **Judi Betts**, was presented a Merit Award, by the LWS International Show for her winning entry "Sunnyside Up."



NOTE: You can enjoy the entire LWS 50th International show virtually on the LWS website along with all of the award winners: <https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.109/kiz.4db.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2020-Exhibition-50th-awards-plus.pdf>

The National Watercolor Society's Centennial celebration marks "100 years strong," 1920-2020 with the "NWS 50 Stars Exhibition" in honor of their members nationwide. Each state watercolor society will be allowed to exhibit two paintings, one each from



two artists who are current NWS Signature or NWS Associate members. The Louisiana Watercolor Society bestowed the honor of representing Louisiana in this prestigious event upon **Judi Betts** for her painting of a beautiful southern Victorian "Diva's Delight" and **Kathy Stone** for "City Lights, a New Orleans plaza as the lights come on at dusk."



" The exhibit will be available online, from July 9, 2020 to September 6, 2020 on the NWS website, <https://nationalwatercolorsociety.org/event-3763674>.

EXHIBITS

Spring Judged Show

Unfortunately the Covid19 mitigation guidelines were implemented just days after the Spring Judged Show was opened to the public and the Independence Park Theatre Gallery venue was closed to the public and still is at this time. Although the judge has not had access to the exhibit to select the award winners, we are still hopeful that we will be able to do that by the end of June.

NOTE: In the meantime, please view the entire Spring Judged Show on the AGL Facebook page. Be sure to share a comment and give us "like".

Members Only Call for Entry -- AGL Spring Member Show

The Art Guild of Louisiana is calling for art for the Spring Member Show to be held at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery from July 9, 2020 to September 10, 2020. This exhibit is open to AGL members only. Now is the time to show up and take an active part in the Guild's mission of sharing art with the public.

This is a non-juried show. Artists who want to participate must bring artwork that meets the AGL exhibit requirements to the Independence Park Theatre Gallery on July 9, 2020 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Detailed exhibit requirements can be found at www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits.

The entry fee is \$5.00 per art piece. All art must remain up until the end of the exhibit. An artists' reception will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2020, to award the People's Choice ribbon. Exhibiting members are encouraged to attend the reception and to bring a finger food to contribute to the refreshment table.

CALL FOR ENTRY - SUMMER JUDGED SHOW—CHANGE OF VENUE!

The Art Guild of Louisiana is calling for art for their **Summer Judged Show**. The exhibit will show at the Louisiana State Archives building on Essen Lane from August 10, 2020 to September 25, 2020.

The exhibit is open to all 2 dimensional artists, age 18 and up. Photography, giclees, computer enhanced images/prints and other non-original media will not be accepted.

The entry fee is \$15.00 per painting. This is a non-juried exhibit. Art work that meets the AGL exhibit requirements must be brought the Louisiana State Archives building on Monday, August 10, 2020, between 11:00am and 1:00pm. The exhibit will be free of admission and open to the public during regular business hours Monday-Friday.

The top 3 winners receive a cash award plus a ribbon: 1st Place - \$175, 2nd Place - \$150, 3rd Place \$75; also, 2 honorable mention ribbons will be awarded.

The awards reception will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm and is open to the public. Please invite your family and friends to join you for an evening of art appreciation and visiting with the artists. We encourage exhibiting artists to attend the reception and to bring a finger food to contribute to the table.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Larry Downs - You Can Learn to Draw - Drawing

July 9, 16, 23 and 30 - Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Early Bird through June 23, 2020 - \$60 AGL members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins June 24, 2020 - \$75 AGL members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont 225.773.8020 or bandre-pont@bellsouth.net

Many instructors believe that a good drawing is essential to a good painting; a good drawing is a map, a plan, the corner stone of putting together a strong composition. If you want to hone your drawing skills regardless of your current skill level this workshop is for you. Larry is a local artist/instructor who has also conducted workshops at LSU in the Lagniappe program. He will cover the hows and whys of drawing first through demonstrations, followed by hands on exercises and personal guidance. You will work from still life set ups arranged by Larry using direct lighting.



Roberta Loflin – Painting Your Everyday! - Watermedia

Mondays, August 31, September 14, 21, and 28, 2020 from 9:30 am to Noon (Skipping Labor Day – Sept 7).

Early Bird through August 24, 2020 - \$60 AGL members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee August 25, 2020 - \$75 AGL members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: 225.775.8020, or bandrepond@bellsouth.net

Instead of creating the grand, monumental painting, we will focus on the objects of our everyday life to create more intimate compositions in watermedia. We will have daily demonstrations and personal critiques as you work on your individual paintings.



Sandra Zaid – Secrets of Composition for Painters

Mondays, October 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 9:00 am to Noon

Early Bird through September 20, 2020 - \$70 AGL members/\$85 non-members

Regular fee beginning September 21, 2020 - \$85 AGL members/\$100 nonmembers



Designed for all painters who work on any medium and wish to further the essentials of the principles of two-dimensional design that are critical to the creation of effective compositions. Participants will create numerous projects using charcoal, India ink, pencil, paper & scissors, chipboard, and acrylic paints. Projects will explore principles of design and the elements of art, including balance, unity, line, texture, value and scale. Each class will begin with theory via handouts and an exhibition of examples and will wrap with critiques. Each student will leave with a catalogue of monochromatic finished projects.



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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.

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



Do You use FACEBOOK? Friends? Family?

Calling ALL MEMBERS who use FACEBOOK ... Be sure to visit the Art Guild of Louisiana's Facebook page and "Like" us. "Share" AGL with your friends and family and ask them to do the same. Let's get the word out about YOUR organization ... we want Louisiana and surrounding artists to know what great opportunities we have to offer and we want friends and family who are not artists to know what we are doing ... to visit our exhibits and support our artists. We want to "connect art and people".