



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana agl@artguildlouisiana.org 225-930-7542
artguildlouisiana.org facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana

OCTOBER 2020

MEET DAVID GARY ...

David is a member of the AGL workshop committee. He is a husband and a father with a very busy life and still manages to find time to hone his skills as an oil painter and facilitator of a group of plein air painters. He says oil paint "has an elegance that speaks to him, you can move it around and it will forgive you." We recently sent David a set of questions and asked him to select some things that he would like to share with us about his journey as an artist. And here is what he said ...

When, how often, and how long do you paint? I prefer early mornings and evenings when longer shadows make planes more interesting. Outdoors, I'm lucky to get in 3 hours before the light has modified my original intentions. In a good week, I'll paint two or three paintings and never less than one keeper.



How do you make time to create? My mother (Rhea Gary) always told me that until I treat art like a full time-job and block out my calendar to "work," I would not see any great gains. As usual, Mama was right! My wife and I do a good job of juggling our kids' schedules and she's super supportive of my pursuing art. I work less in my web design business lately and some days I get to escape and other days I just can't. If I can't create, I'm always thinking about painting and learning "to see." My favorite time of the week is my Thursday morning plein air group; that time for me is non-negotiable.

When and how did you discover you were an artist? I was blessed to grow up in a house where both parents appreciated fine art and intentional beauty surrounded me. My Mom (a working artist) encouraged creativity and included me in talking about her paintings in progress. In high school, I was lucky to have Keith Morris as an art and drafting teacher. Keith opened my eyes to beauty in architecture and was really the first male influence who made me think I could do something creative with my life. I've owned a web design firm for the last 20+ years so I've been able to be "creative," but in my mid-40s, the artist within began to let me know he wanted out.



Do you get "painter's block?" If so, what do you do about it? For me, closely following my favorite painters online lights a fire. I begin to feel how finite time is and feel the urgency to improve to get to where they are. Most of them started earlier than me, and I know there are no shortcuts. When I see artists, whom I respect, cranking out a new piece every day, it motivates me. Their work ethic makes me compete against my tendency to procrastinate. If I don't "feel creative," I listen to my heart and take a break. There's no shame in stepping away for a bit and recharging.

Are you self-taught/workshops or did you study at an institution? I've been to as many workshops as my family life allows and attend an annual intensive learning event each year in Florida (Plein Air South). This October will be my fourth year there; I can't say enough good things about that event. When I decided I wanted to pursue art in 2017, I took a class with Libby Johnson and quickly realized I needed fundamental academic instruction. I immediately enrolled at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts and worked my way through the classical drawing classes, color theory, beginning painting and studied with Phil Sandusky, Billy Solitario, and ultimately the founder, Auseklis Ozols. Again, it was my mother who told me to do everything I could to learn from Auseklis while he was still teaching. He is a living master, and I feel very fortunate to have studied with him for three semesters before he retired from teaching earlier this year.

What advice would you give to beginning artists? Find the best painters you can and suck the marrow out of their teaching. Also, paint with others and seek and receive constructive criticism. Lastly, draw something every day, even simple things; the best artists I've seen are excellent draftsmen (and women!) regardless of their chosen style. I'm preaching to myself big time there.

Tell us a little about why you like plein air, how you discovered it and how/why you started the current Baton Rouge Plein Air group. You mean this crazy, challenging, constant problem-solving, time constrained, weather defying, fleeting light chasing, bug-laden, out-of-door bliss? Phil Sandusky (nationally renowned New Orleans impressionist landscape/cityscape painter) encouraged me to go with him to Plein Air South for a week in Apalachicola Florida and I was hooked. While there, I heard the head of Alabama Plein Air Artists group speak about starting and maintaining a group. I came straight home, started a local Facebook page and the first week 12 "strangers" showed up to paint with me! We, the Baton Rouge Plein Air Group, paint at a different location every Thursday morning and this month (October) we celebrate 3 years and over 150 paint-outs.



Learn more about the Baton Rouge Plein Air Group and their location schedule by visiting their Facebook page. It is an "open" group; - if you would like to join them on a Thursday morning painting adventure, all you have to do is show up. No registration—no fees.

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the AGL slowly begins the business of reinstituting our programs in a safe and comfortable manner we will share all updates with you – our members – via member emails, the AGL website and the newsletter. Despite the uncertainty of our current environment, uncertainty is not new to us. As humans, we have always lived our lives on the brink of uncertainty, never knowing what the next 5 minutes in our life would bring. Today I want to share with you a bit of inspiration I happened upon...take heart in what is good in life, it is there.



I was thumbing through some old (2015ish) magazines the other day with the very intentional goal of handing them off to a friend to be reborn as collages and removing them from my collection of "newer" old magazines (2017-2019). I don't know about you, but that is a slow process for me because, I invariably stop to skim through them again ... lest I missed a particularly interesting tidbit or to rediscover something I had forgotten. Lo and behold, I discovered an article about a contemplative photographer/

poet from Lafayette. The featured piece of her poetry really resonated with me. I do not know when she wrote the piece, but I believe the message it carries is a message of hope and inspiration and is certainly relevant in our world today. I hope you enjoy it also.

*The season of my, long cold winter is past.
Once empty and barren, my dry, aching spirit
Surrendered to the nurturing breath of God.
Beneath the icy surface, a new self struggled to be born.
Tender shoots of green broke through a rotting trunk, searching for light.
Because as the singer writes, "it is from the ashes that new dreams start."
Now, warmth and color, carried by LOVE,
I am a garden of golden flowers dancing in the glorious morning breeze.
Welcome, my Spring!*Dr. Ann Laurent

AGL Studio in the Park News

In September AGL began the process of slowly and safely resuming our programs. We have had a few workshops by local artist Larry Downs. Participation was limited to 10 artists. Although the AGL website is the "go to" place to learn about scheduled workshops we anticipate the quality list of workshops we maintained before the pandemic will take a while to rebuild.

We have also resumed some open studio sessions. Currently open studio hours are on Tuesdays for water media only and Wednesdays for all media including oils; hours on both days are 11:00am to 4:00pm. Sunday open studio has not resumed at this time. Access to the Studio in the Park is limited to AGL members and paid workshop participants.



As we slowly resume programs at the Studio we strive to make it a safe place to create art. There is typically less than 10 artists in the open studio sessions. Participation in workshops will also be limited. With 10 eight foot work tables in the studio, there is ample room to practice social distancing and masks are currently required. Anyone who comes to the studio to work on art must bring their own plastic table covering to work on and take it home with them when they leave. Also, the studio is cleaned once a week using CDC recommended disinfecting cleaning supplies by a professional cleaning service.

ART OPPORTUNITIES ABOUT TOWN

Urban Sketchers Baton Rouge will be meeting on Oct 24th, Nov 21st and December 12th with locations to be determined. Please contact wdbuck@me.com or call Bill Buck at (225)916-8406 for details. Events will be posted to their Facebook group, USk Baton Rouge as well as Instagram @UskBTR .

Call for Entry—Arts in Medicine

Baton Rouge General announces its 8th Arts in Medicine exhibit. They are looking for art that demonstrates "A Whole New World," (i.e. art created during this unusual time – 2020, culture, music, food, sports, landscape etc.). Here are the important dates and basic requirements.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| September 14 – October 26 | Entries accepted |
| October 27-30 | Jury selections |
| November 2 | Notifications to accepted artists |
| November 5 | Current artists pick up/drop off (10am – 3pm) |
| November 6 | New Artists drop off/ complete paperwork (10am – 3pm) |
| November 9-10 | Hang exhibit. |

All two-dimensional art accepted, original or giclee'; ranging from 5"x5" minimum to 48"x 60" maximum. Must have simple wooden frame not to exceed 1 ½" in thickness, or be gallery wrapped canvas if unframed. Plexiglass must be used instead of glass on any work exceeding 25 inches that requires a protective layer.

The length of the exhibit could be from 6-8 months. If an exhibited painting is sold during that time the artist will be asked to replace it with another painting. BRG Arts in Medicine will retain a 30% commission on sales with all proceeds going directly back into the program.

Email 300dpi jpg photo of entry to artsinmedicine@brgeneral.org along with your name, address, phone number, title of artwork, medium, size of artwork (framed and unframed).

MEMBER NEWS

In the midst of all the pandemic and hurricane hub-bub, **Jo McWilliams** sold her acrylic painting "Cat 2 Storm." The painting was on exhibit in the Arts in Medicine show at the Baton Rouge General Hospital. The stars in this painting are Jo's two cats "Orange" and "Flan" who provide her with endless entertainment. Congrats, Jo!



Like most of us at the onset of COVID19, member **Betty Gravois** thought "this too shall pass" and that life would continue as was.

Shortly thereafter as it began to look like the pandemic might be around for a little bit, she decided she would busy herself with small daily sketches of things around the house and yard like morning coffee cups, or a plant in the garden. Then she began adding watercolor to the sketches. Finally, when it was apparent, we were going to be in this mode for the long haul, with continuing quarantine and businesses being shut down, she decided it was time for a more serious challenge. So, out came the collections of years of vacation photos and every day since Betty has been revisiting vacation memories by painting a mini (5x7) watercolor daily. As of the writing of this article, she will have completed 175 mini watercolors and 16 full size studio pieces in both watercolor and/or oil and while also taking Zoom art classes. Here are a few of her minis. What fun! Nice going Betty!



Above: New Jersey #117;



Near Dulac, LA # 125

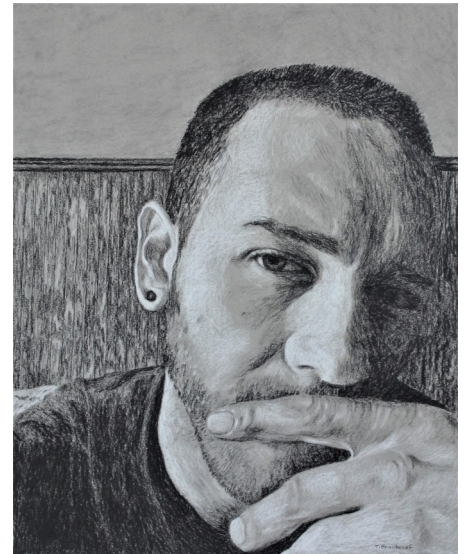
Rialto Bridge, Venice #171



EXHIBITS

Summer Judged Show

The Summer Judged Show held at the Louisiana State Archives Gallery was a huge success, especially during these trying pandemic times. Twenty-nine artists came together to present an exhibit of 61 artworks in an array of mediums. AGL was honored to have local artist and instructor Elayne Keuhler as judge for the exhibit. Elayne presented awards to the winning artists and shared her comments and thoughts regarding each art piece with the artist and audience.



1st Place - Cheryl Caro - *Night Light* - Colored pencil
 2nd Place - Drue Hardegree - *Family* - Acrylic
 3rd Place - Theresa Beaubouef - *Hmmm* - Charcoal

Honorable Mentions:

Arnell McMillian - *Visitors* - Oil

Dee Dee Wilbert - *Going Deeper* - Pastels



CALL FOR ENTRY ... Winter Judged Show

Art Guild of Louisiana is calling for art for their **Winter Judged Show**. The exhibit will show at the Louisiana State Archives building on Essen Lane from December 1, 2020 to December 30, 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. All art must meet the AGL Exhibit Requirements at www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits. Art work must be delivered to the Louisiana State Archives building on Tuesday, December 1, 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, December 17, 2020 from. Additional details regarding the awards presentation/reception will be forthcoming.

Questions should be emailed to the Guild at agl@artguildlouisiana.org

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

For questions about any given workshop contact the person listed as “Workshop Coordinator” for that workshop. For the latest updates on details, workshop supply list, or schedule changes visit the website: www.artguildlouisiana.org/workshops/. Due to timeframes for instructor travel arrangements, AGL may cancel a workshop if the participation minimum is not met by the end of the early bird registration period.

EARLY BIRD FEE EXTENDED —REGISTER NOW !

Alan Flattmann - Painting Impressionistic Landscapes - Pastel or Oil

October 9 –October 11 - Friday - Sunday from 9:00am to 3:30 pm

Early Bird through October 2, 2020 - \$325 AGL members / \$375 non-members

Regular Fee begins October 3 - \$375 AGL member / \$425 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Dee Dee Wilbert: contact at 225.954.3754 or deedeewilbert@gmail.com

NOTE: A maximum of 16 students will be accepted in this workshop

Join artist Alan Flattmann for an informative landscape and cityscape workshop that will concentrate on painting in an impressionistic manner using broken color and loose brush strokes. Students may choose to work in pastel or oil. Alan stresses the basic principles of composition, drawing, color and technique that apply to any style of representational painting. Through frequent demonstrations he will show how to paint creatively from photos and directly from nature.



Alan Flattmann is a Pastel Society of America Hall of Fame Honoree and a recipient of the American Artist Art Masters Award for Pastel Teacher. His work is the subject of four books. He has taught art workshops since 1968 and has led many painting tours to Europe and other foreign destinations. You can learn more about Alan and check out his art work at alanflattmann.com

Larry Downs – Perspective in Brief (Drawing)

Thursdays, November 5 and 12, 2020 from 4pm to 7pm

Earlybird Fee through October 21, 2020 - \$30 AGL members/ \$40 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins October 22, 2020 - \$40 AGL members/\$45 nonmembers

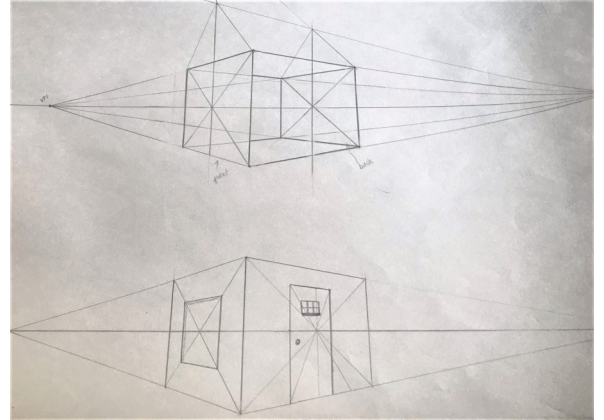
Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: 225.773.8020 or

bandrepont@bellsouth.net

Atmospheric perspective, linear perspective, 1point, 2point, 3point perspective; learn the terms and basics of this very important drawing tool.

Adding perspective to the beginning stages of your learning process will help develop a deep understanding of form and its relationship to space. Drawing with perspective helps you to see the big picture of your art piece. Along with composition, perspective adds life and dimension to your painting.

(Image is actual student drawing from his previous Perspective class).



NOTE: SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE PRACTICED DURING ALL WORKSHOPS; MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE STUDIO, ALONG WITH ANY OTHER PANDEMIC SAFETY PROTOCOLS SET FORTH BY OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALL NEWLY IMPLEMENTED SAFETY PROCEDURES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED.



Art Guild of Louisiana
PO Box 41115
Baton Rouge, LA 70835



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana agl@artguildlouisiana.org 225-930-7542
artguildlouisiana.org facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana

October 2020

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".