

NEWS from the PALETTE



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laag-site.org facebook.com/LouisianaArtandArtistsGuild

April 2016

Adrian Deckbar - Interviewed by Trish Poynot

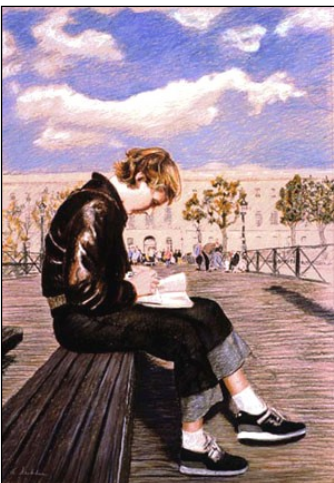
Adrian Deckbar, born and raised in New Orleans, began drawing as a little kid, and can't remember a time in her life when she did not draw. She was greatly influenced by her older sister who at 18 studied art at McCrady's and wanted to become an artist. At about 9 years old, Adrian began studying and copying her sister's lessons. Her sister encouraged her in her art, as did her mom and others, and Adrian was often taken to galleries and museums from about 9 or 10 years of age. Multi-talented as Adrian is, she began studying violin and voice in Lafayette School in New Orleans. At the age of 14, she performed Bach's Concerto for 2 Violins D Minor on violin before an audience one thousand strong. She continued with her music through high school and won a music scholarship to college. But art won out over music! Adrian went on to pursue art in college, first at SLU, Southwestern in Lafayette (now called ULL), and then later at San Francisco State University in California. There, Adrian met her biggest inspiration in Robert Bechtle, considered one of the earliest photorealists. Bechtle overlooked Adrian's work and advised her to begin to create series of works tied together or related via theme, color or subject matter. Until then, Adrian's work was "scattered" – lots of non-related subjects, all different mediums. Nearly all of Adrian's work embodies a certain photoreal quality.



The works of Michelangelo mesmerized Adrian, as did those of Albrecht Durer and Edgar Degas, and she came to appreciate the purity of the simple marks they made in their drawings – never utilizing erasers, which hadn't yet even been invented! Originally, and for thirty-five years, Adrian worked from life, models and photographs, her paintings having evolved since early 2000s from mostly figures in everyday backgrounds and situations, to nature scenes mainly from area bayous, swamps and woods. Suddenly, nature just came alive to her in a new way, and she could no longer paint in her old way – painting the figure indoors from life and photos just no longer peaked her interest the way it once had. Her works created from nature scenes are very vibrant and life-like renderings of the primal places where you can hear the animals and the birds and reach out and touch nature – Adrian loves and appreciates these and wants to replicate and share them with others before they become extinct.

Adrian says her favorite artist changes a lot – she has no current favorite. Rather, she is looking with "fresh eyes" trying to be open to abstract and interpretive, not coming only from realism.

No two-dimensional medium is foreign to Adrian: etching, lithograph, wood cuts, drawing, oils, acrylics, gouache, tempera, watercolor, pastels – you name it! Although she no longer works in oils due to health issues, that remains her favorite medium because of its richer pigments, the control you can maintain due to open working time, and its vibrant colors. She does still draw, mostly preliminary work, and the ebony graphite pencil is her favorite.



Continued on Next Page

How do you make time to create? One thing: you learn how to say “No.” So many demands are made on your time; you can’t do it all and shouldn’t even try! Adrian schedules her work-day from 11 am to 7 pm, dinner at 8 pm, bed around midnight and up around 9 am. Between 9 and 11 am, she does her emails, business, phoning, etc. Then, from 11 – 7 she’s “on-the-job” and doesn’t answer phone or email or any unbidden intrusions, only taking necessary breaks to eat, etc. Oh, and she’s off on weekends – she operates just like a business!

Adrian’s advice to artists just getting started would be: take classes, workshops, get advice, practice lots and be willing to make mistakes. Throw away the bad paintings, or paint over them, and keep the good. And by all means, avoid negative people and jealous people. Realize that we each have our own path, enjoy yours, without comparing yourself to others – it’s not a race, we each get there in our own time.

Five things Adrian hopes to accomplish within five years are (1) get New Orleans studio in shape, “happy, productive and humming along in a good way,” (2) do some new work, non rectangular (e.g., trapezoidal but with rounded corners), (3) work in pastels again in a big way with no allergic reaction, (4) have another one-person show in 2017 and (5) go to Europe again and visit the Old Masters and be part of the legacy of art and of art history.

At our own Studio in the Park on May 3rd, 4th, and 5th, Adrian will instruct a pastels workshop: “Popping Up Your Color in Pastel” – Come join us, and learn tricks and techniques for creating pastel paintings that pop!

Message from the President



Dear Guild Members,

This past October I had the honor of being accepted into the Mississippi Watercolor Society’s Grand National Exhibit in Jackson MS. I enjoyed meeting and sharing information with their committee and hearing of their success in funding for the event. I had every intention of participating in the event in the coming years. I am saddened to receive notice that MSWS will be dissolving and an exhibit that has endured for 30 years will be discontinued. While they have funding secured into the next 2 ½ years, they do not have the volunteers necessary to fill their key management positions or maintain operational functions.

While it is evident that funding is important to any organization, this event brings home a simple basic fact; volunteer involvement is crucial in order for any organization to function effectively. It is difficult to meet the needs of membership when current volunteers are assuming more responsibilities than was originally intended and we depend on the same handful of volunteers on an ongoing basis.

We have been in need for many positions including membership processing, accounting, exhibits committee, and openings on the RRS and workshop committee. Also, as we approach year end we will be looking to fill the Board positions of President and Secretary. I am calling upon our members to come forward and give some much needed assistance in these areas. We have been working hard to streamline and make these responsibilities as minimally time-consuming as possible. Many of these positions are very flexible! I encourage you to call or email me to see if we can find a good “fit” for whatever amount of time or expertise you can donate to your organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our current volunteers who generously give their time, energy and creative talents in providing the many benefits that our members enjoy!

Please visit our Facebook Pages; [Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild](#) or [River Road Show](#). Don’t forget to Share!
Happy Painting!

Claudia LeJeune, claudiale@aol.com, 225-292-2004

Did you Know?

Exxon has an Individual Volunteer Involvement Program. If you are an Exxon retiree, you can volunteer as little as 20 hours within a one year period to participate in this program. This is an excellent way for LAAG to benefit in two ways; your time is valuable to us in many areas with flexible hours, and Exxon recognizes your effort by donating corporate funds to LAAG. Set up is easy and we can assist in the process.

Call Claudia LeJeune at 225-292-2004 or email claudiale@aol.com.



Guild Members in the LWS Member Show

New Orleans native, artist and instructor Diane St. Germain was the judge for the Louisiana Watercolor Society (LWS) for the Member Judged Show, held at the Louisiana State Archives Gallery which is currently on exhibit until April 5. Several local area artists are members in both the LWS and Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild. We extend hearty congratulations to the following Guild members for their accomplishment in the LWS exhibit:

Kathy Miller Stone – 1st Place for *Palmetto*

Patricia Ryan – Honorable Mention for *Young Brave*



Guild Members in the Brush with Burden Show

The Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild was well represented in the 2016 Brush with Burden Art Show sponsored by the Burden Horticulture Society and judged by local artist/instructor Judi Betts. Twenty-three of the sixty-four exhibiting artists, in the painting category, were Guild members.

Congratulations to the following Guild members who were award winners in the Brush with Burden Show:

Patricia Ryan – 1st Place for *Hydrangea*

Claudia LeJeune – Merit Award for *Just Ducky*

Ralph Marino – Merit Award for *Summer*

SuEllen Lithgoe – Merit Award for *Pears*

In addition to the above award winners, we recognize the following Guild members who were also juried into the show: Connie Abboud, Ginnie Bolin, Marge Campana, Nanci Charpentier, Karen Coffman, Denice Cyrex Ducote, Debbie Denstorff, Larry Downs, Emily Efferson, Sarah Fergus, Jane Flowers, Leslie Gladney, Louise Hansen, Joyce Hensley, Jo McWilliams, Dana Mosby, Kathy Miller Stone, and Pat Wattam.

Congrats also to SuEllen Lithgoe, Louise Hansen, Ginnie Bolin and Nanci Charpentier, whose paintings sold during the show!



Members Meeting on March 13

The recent Louisiana Art and Artist Guild Members Meeting held on March 13 was very well attended. A time of visiting and snacking preceded a brief overview by Roberta Loflin, a member and art instructor, regarding the essential supplies and how easy it can be to prepare for a "plein air" painting venture. Roberta invites everyone to join in on upcoming Saturday "Plein Air in Watermedia" sessions April 2 – 23.



Then, in anticipation of Adrian Deckbar's, "Popping Up Your Color in Pastel" upcoming workshop May 3 – 5, Guild member Trish Poynot spoke about New Orleans artist and instructor, Adrian Deckbar, and described the Art Spectrum Colourfix Paper which participants will be using during the workshop. Members were invited to try out various pastels on the samples which Trish provided. Those interested in this workshop should register early so that your Colourfix Paper can be bulk ordered.

President, Claudia LeJeune, distributed short questionnaires to attending members asking for ideas and suggestions to address the Board's concern about declining participation in LAAG sponsored exhibits –

both members only exhibits and the three judged shows. A terrific lively discussion ensued, with a variety of options and ideas from multiple attendees. Claudia was very excited about the enthusiasm of the participating members and presented those ideas and suggestions to the Board on March 17. From a Board perspective it was very refreshing and energizing to receive such input from the members. The Board is looking forward to working toward putting some of YOUR ideas to work. THANK YOU MEMBERS!

Members News

Mary Heckman has continued to have solo exhibits at the Serops' Express locations at Jefferson Highway and Highland Road. The Serops' Express on Jefferson has been demolished and is being rebuilt with a projected date of May 2016 to reopen. In the meantime Mary has 6 new colorful paintings on exhibit at the Highland Road location. The exhibit is a series of mostly children or people doing playful, fun things.

Guild members, **Laure Williamson**, **SuEllen Lithgoe** and friend, Carol LaFargue, installed an exhibit of oil paintings, pastel paintings and ceramics at Beauregard Gallery and Bistro, located at 715 Europe Street in Baton Rouge. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular business hours: 11 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Beauregard Gallery and Bistro is a great little gallery/cafe sitting in the middle of one of Baton Rouge's oldest neighborhoods. It has a wonderful rotating art exhibit that varies in mediums and styles ... and the food is delicious, too! The exhibiting artists invite everyone to stop by to enjoy the art and the cuisine.

Wow! **Vera Judycki**'s been busy! She recently participated in LAAG's Judi Betts workshop; she showed 34 pieces in the first-ever Artist of the Month event held at Everette St. Gallery in Morgan City, LA and sold 4 paintings! Vera is showing her art at Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette LA, Elizabethan Gallery in Baton Rouge, and Shades of Blue in New Orleans. She also entered a member show at Terrebonne Fine Art Gallery.

And this from new Guild member, **Amber R. Bayham**, from Grosse Tete LA: "In October of last year I was shocked to receive the most gratifying news that I was invited to be an honored artist at a most 'prestige' art gallery in Manhattan, New York ... The Agora Gallery which begins April 1st. I will be flying to meet my artwork in New York on April 6th for an opening reception on April 7th. This is truly an absolute honor and words cannot express my most humbled shocking feeling of excitement! ... My self esteem is so whaling that I just want to share this with the world. A little ole gal from the bayou state heads to New York. Divine Intervention is all I can figure."

We can certainly tell you're excited, Amber – we're excited for you, too! Keep it up!

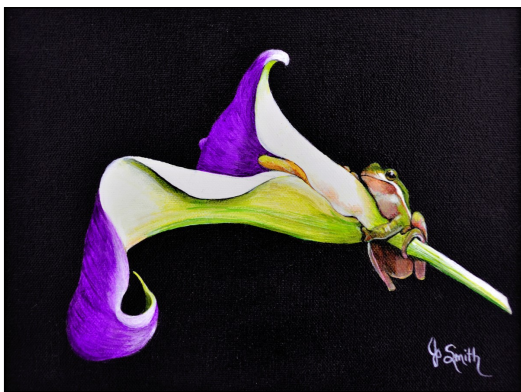
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Roberta Loflin currently has a solo show on exhibit at Jones Creek Library. The show consists of 15 watercolors. If you are in the area, stop by and check out the art.

Karen Coffman was accepted into the downtown Baton Rouge Arts Market to show and sell her work.

Mary Heckman won "Best Theme" for her fiber art hanging titled *Collection* in the Fiber Art Show at the Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center.

Judi Betts' watercolor painting *Playmates* won the Frank V Dumond Memorial Award for Light and Atmospheric at the Hudson Valley Art Association's 83rd Annual National Juried Exhibition exhibited at the Salmagundi Club in New York City March 20 - April 1.



Hanging On, Jo Smith

Jo Smith sold her acrylic painting *Hanging On* as a result of the LAAG Spring Member Show at Independence Park Theatre. Jo also has a solo exhibit currently hanging in LaDivina Italian Cafe, 3535 Perkins Road.

Two Guild members sold paintings as a result of the Guild exhibit at the Theatre Baton Rouge earlier this year:

Leah Schwartzman sold her watercolor *Louisiana Sweetness* and **Calvin Balencie** sold his watercolor *The Old Blacksmith Shop*.

Gail Knecht's 3'x 4' acrylic on canvas painting of three pink flamingos titled *Cinderella and the Two Ugly Stepsisters* sold as a result of being in the Guild exhibit at the Mayors Office.



Pat Wattam

Pat Wattam sold her painting of a beautiful marsh scene earlier in March, and had three other paintings juried into the Brush with Burden exhibit.

To Our Members: We try each newsletter to recognize our members for the hard work and effort they put forth participating in LAAG sponsored exhibits and/or exhibits of other organizations, searching out and locating their own personal venues to share their artwork with the community through sales and exhibits. However, it is difficult for us to stay "on top" of all the activities of our membership and we sometimes miss someone, who surely deserves the recognition. The

Guild is interested in you, the members. We want to share your good news but we depend on YOU to help keep us informed. When you receive the email asking for input ... tell us about your art accomplishments. Who knows? YOU just might inspire someone else!



Roberta Loflin



Playmates, Judi Betts



Louisiana Sweetness,
Leah Schwartzman

Recent Workshop

Cheri Fry – Within the Shadows - Watercolor

Once again within the walls of the Studio in the Park, Cheri Fry demonstrated her watercolor painting techniques and shared her artistic knowledge with a group of artists in a workshop titled "Within the Shadows". Cheri urged and encouraged participants to paint with quick, confident strokes by challenging them with 3 painting projects in 3 days. So much to do, so much to learn, so many fears to overcome! It proved to be a fun and very rewarding workshop. Here are some thoughts from several participants:



"Cheri is an outstanding teacher and artist. The workshop was exciting and informative. I would recommend this workshop to experienced painters as well as beginners." ... *Chubby Autin*

"Cheri is a fun, vibrant and exemplary master teacher! Definitely gives adequate attention to individuals in overcoming problems and perfecting techniques. Hope Cheri teaches another workshop again!" ... *Anonymous*

"Cheri is a fantastic artist and I admire the way she uses color in her paintings. It was a treat to spend 3 days working with her and learning new techniques. I can't wait for her next workshop!" ... *Barbara Moore*

Upcoming Workshops

Steve Shamburger

Registration Fee: \$120 for each series of classes

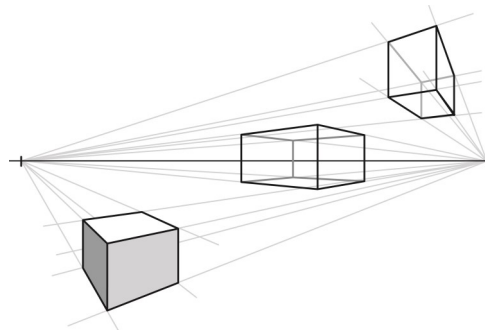
To register, contact Steve Shamburger at steve@steveshamburger.com or 225-226-8990

Drawing Perspective

April 4 - 25, Mondays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

[Class Info on the LAAG website](#)

Does drawing in perspective leave you scratching your head? We all know about it, but, do we really understand how to use it ... when to use it? Steve will answer these questions and more. He will share tips and knowledge to help participants understand how to make sense of perspective drawing.



Drawing the Head

May 2 – June 6, Mondays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

[Class Info on the LAAG website](#)

Watching Steve drawing figure sketches/portraits will certainly inspire anyone! Participants who take this course will learn the basics of facial structure, proportion and placement of the eyes, nose, ears and mouth, and the all-important skill of observation. If you have been trying to draw the head but it always seems to look "flat," this class will provide you with the tools to get a more three dimensional look ... to get that volume that gives "life" to your figures/portraits.



Upcoming Workshops

Roberta Loflin

Registration Fee: \$80 LAAG members / \$100 nonmembers

To register, contact Roberta Loflin at rlofin@gmail.com or 225-803-6785

Classes are open to participants age 14 and up.

Plein Air in Watermedia

Saturdays, April 2 – 23 from 9:30 am to noon

Join Roberta for an outdoor adventure and fun painting some Louisiana landscapes “en plein air”. She will have plenty of tips and techniques for painting in the great outdoors. The first class will be held at the Botanic Gardens on Independence Blvd. Locations for the remaining three classes will be decided during the first class. The focus will be to target locations that will also have protected areas available in the event of inclement weather.

Interested participants can take advantage of a one day “try-it-out” class for \$30.

Composition in Still Life in Watermedia

Saturdays, May 21– June 11 from 9:30 am – noon

In this class we will focus on composition, placing of the focal point, and we will work on themes and color choices. Working from a still life is a good way for students to see the composition emerge from a jumble of objects focusing on what is important, what should be less dominant and what should be left out. Class is open to beginning and intermediate students.



Adrian Deckbar - Popping Up Your Color in Pastel

May 3-5, Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

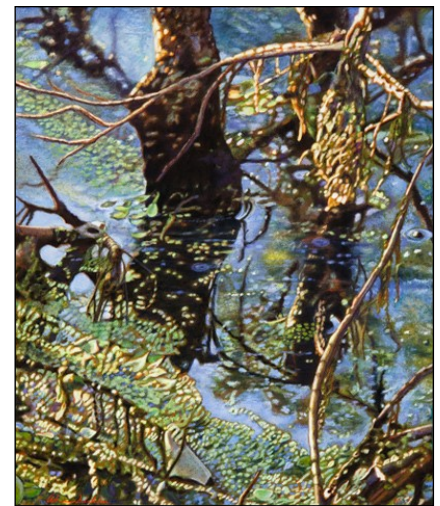
Early Bird Registration Fee (until April 5): \$225 LAAG members / \$275 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$275 LAAG members / \$325 nonmembers

To register, contact Trish Poynot at grannytrishp@yahoo.com or 985-237-5977

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Adrian Deckbar will teach exciting new techniques, for beginners to advanced, to achieve a sense of dimension and depth, creating a 3D effect and get your work to “pop” and vibrate. We will work on Colourfix pastel paper using analogous and complimentary colors, learning to work with soft and hard edges to control the viewer’s eye. You’ll learn to create/organize your palette, which is key to a successful painting. Bring your own references, photos, sketches, or unfinished or problem pastel paintings. Adrian will help with composition choices, cropping, etc., getting the best image to work from, whether from abstract or a realistic reference. With Adrian’s expertise, she will give options for resolving problems, and will encourage and give lots of individual help. Come join us for great fun and learning!



TAKE NOTE: It is important that you register early, so that Trish can place a bulk-order for the Art Spectrum Colourfix pastel paper for all workshop participants.

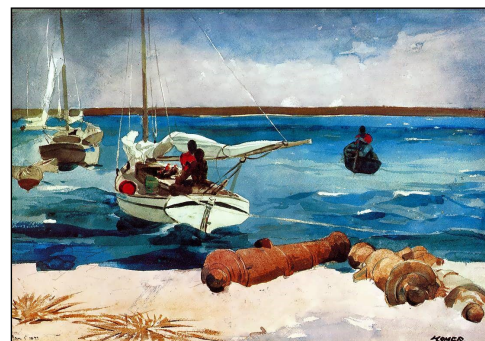
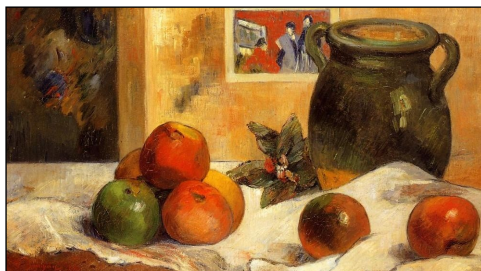
Spring Judged Show



The Louisiana Art and Artist Guild's Spring Judged Show, which will be judged by well known local artist/instructor, Billy Bourgeois, is currently on exhibit until May 12 at the Independence Park Theatre. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the Theatre's regular hours – Tuesday thru Friday from 10 am – 5 pm. Awards totaling \$500 will be presented at an Awards Reception this Sunday, April 3, at the Theatre Gallery from 2 – 4 pm. Invite your friends and family to meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments while you view some beautiful artwork.

CALL for ENTRIES: "INTERPRET THE MASTERS" ... Members Only Exhibit

Since June 2015, we have published three "interpret this challenges" featuring well known paintings from some of the "old masters". Members were invited to paint any or all of the three challenges with the intent of having an "Interpret the Old Masters" exhibit in 2016. Well the time is nigh ... get those "masterpieces" ready. The paintings below were featured in the June, October or February newsletter. Images can be downloaded from the LAAG website at laag-site.org/interpret-this-photo. IT IS NOT TOO LATE! So, *get painting* "your interpretation of these masterpieces" and bring them to the Independence Park Theatre on May 12 between 10 am – 2 pm. The paintings will be on exhibit until July 14, and a reception will be held on June 5 from 2 – 4 pm.



Mayor's Office

Paintings were installed in the Mayor's office conference room on February 12. There were a total of 10 pieces of art (3 watercolors, 3 acrylics, 3 oils and 1 mixed media). Artists participating in this show are Mary Heckman, Gail Knecht, Suzanne Lamotte, Claudia LeJeune, Beth McLain, Joel McLain, Brenda Parisi and Sue Wang. The current exhibit will be on display until May.

Volunteers who installed the exhibit were Barbara Andrepont, Jim Packard and Beth McLain. LAAG extends their appreciation to Andre and Anita in the Mayor's offices for their assistance in coordinating and hanging the art work in the Mayor's office conference room.

Fairwood Library

Four Guild members participated in an exhibit at the Fairwood Library throughout the month of March. Hats off to: Cheryl Hoyt, Mary Heckman, Claudia LeJeune and Jim Packard!





Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild
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This newsletter is produced by a committee consisting of Lane Downs, Trish Poynot and Leah Schwartzman. If you would like to help with any aspect of producing the newsletter please contact Lane Downs at newsletter@laag-site.org.

Please send member information for the newsletter to Trish Poynot at newsletter@laag-site.org by the 10th of every other month.



Do You use FACEBOOK? Friends? Family?

Calling ALL MEMBERS who use FACEBOOK ... Be sure to visit Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild Facebook page and "Like" us. "Share" LAAG 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".