

# NEWS from the PALETTE



**Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild** [laagbr@laag-site.org](mailto:laagbr@laag-site.org) 225-930-7542  
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**August 2014**

## Ron Thomson - Interviewed by Joel McLain

Ron Thomson reveals that he still has his first drawing which he drew at less than two years old. His mom had given him one of those pens that you could click the back and get a choice of different colors, and it kept Ron busy for two hours, according to his mother. When Ron was five years old, he was at a day care and drew an underwater scene with different fish, whales, octopus and such, and a caretaker told Ron that he had a "special gift"-Ron says, "I guess we all like to feel that way." Ron read *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* as a child. At that time, he realized that space and depth are created by tricking the brain into seeing different shapes and colors that the brain uses to interpret the scenes around us. In the creative process, "we often lose all sense of time and become lost in the moment-a powerful time/space to be, and a secret to unlocking the unlimited creative potential we as human beings share...not just with visual art...but any of the arts, like cooking, gardening, parenting, or any aspect of 'loving' the world around us and being 'present.' When we do this, amazing things begin to happen!"



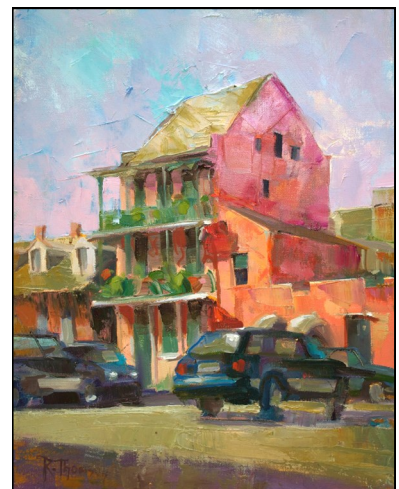
While he was self-taught at first, Ron did attend workshops, studied art and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Florida State University-however, he said that "the act of turning theory into practice is a journey all artists must travel on their own." He mentioned John Singer Sargent, N.C. Wyeth and Kim English as some of the artists he likes. Ron hopes that from his art, people will realize beauty can exist anywhere, anytime, and will pay attention to their lives. Ron advises other artists not to be afraid of mistakes; mistakes are how artists learn. Each "mistake" is an opportunity to improve. He says, "The biggest difference between a novice and an expert is the expert has made countless more mistakes on his journey!"

Three years ago, Ron did a group of paintings in acrylics and gold leaf on tarpaper to try to tap into a folk/craft art tradition. He discovered that working in a different medium changed how he allowed himself to be "creative." Until then, he didn't realize how tightly his point of view had constricted him as an artist; he thinks this limitation comes from trying to find your own artistic style. Then, as artists, we choose to paint in a certain way and, after a while, this becomes a "safety zone," and we forget that every time we stand before our easels, we can choose something different. Trying different mediums is a great way to "smash that wall down."

Ron enjoys painting things that are fun to paint, also selling paintings...the more the better! He likes finding a balance between the two. He considers himself fortunate that he enjoys painting things people like to buy. Last year, Ron won

"Best of Show" at the Jubilee Art Fest in Daphne AL, and won the Alabama Artist Award twice at the Arts and Crafts Festival in Fairhope AL. While he has not entered many shows and contests, he has been featured many times for regional events. He says that shows and contests often seem arbitrary and random and don't pay the bills. Ron says the ultimate compliment one can pay him is to love a painting of his enough to buy it!

Ron Thomson will be teaching an oil and/or acrylic workshop, *Luminous Passages*, at LAAG on October 7-10. For more information contact Joel McLain at [jbmclainla@cox.net](mailto:jbmclainla@cox.net) or 225-766-2353. Don't wait-take advantage of the Early Bird pricing before September 7





## Message from the President

### SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY

The Mayor's Office exhibit is renewed, with special thanks to Beth McLain, Cathy Sarrazin and Jim Packard for their help with the hanging. The landscapes (both those going up and those coming down) really appealed to my eye. Perhaps my enjoyment is sparked by this time of year, when Louisiana scenery is so lush!

And, Kathy Redmond's recent Zentangle workshop was the talk of the Zentangle Tuesday group recently. The participants lauded the loads of new designs, and their "gardens" were lovely. Zentangle provided extra tranquility on a rainy afternoon in New Orleans while grandchildren were doing their things. Kay Bailey shared special new designs that inspired me to commit extra energy.

We depend on your help to identify the leaders for YOUR Guild! The nominating committee is working during August to identify nominees for the 2015-16 President and Secretary roles. Please participate! Share your recommendations for those great candidates or volunteer to become a candidate yourself.

Have a SUPER SUMMER! Appreciate your trees! And, draw something while you enjoy your iced tea and swing in the back yard! Sincerely, **Barbara Andrepont** [bandrepont@bellsouth.net](mailto:bandrepont@bellsouth.net) cell: 225-773-8020

## ATTENTION LAAG Members!! Election!

The Board appointed the Nominating Committee to identify candidates for the jobs of President and Secretary to serve two-year terms, from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016.

The Nominating Committee members are:

Betty Klenke, (225) 755-2449 or (225) 371-3405, [bjklenke@gmail.com](mailto:bjklenke@gmail.com)

Kay Bailey, (225) 343-3265 or (225) 933-6608, [kay.bailey@cox.net](mailto:kay.bailey@cox.net)

Lorie Dalton, (225) 673-2849 or (225) 603-7673, [loriebethea@eatel.net](mailto:loriebethea@eatel.net)

Cathy Sarrazin, (504) 289-1325, [cathy469@gmail.com](mailto:cathy469@gmail.com)

Amy Dellinger, (225) 772-6951 or (225) 753-2432, [abdellinger@cox.net](mailto:abdellinger@cox.net)

Please email or call the Nominating Committee to recommend members for these roles in our organization or to volunteer to serve as an officer of the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild.

The Nominating Committee will contact potential candidates and make certain that the person is willing and ready to serve if nominated. The Committee will select and present a slate of at least one nominee for each position to the Board at the September Board meeting, which is currently scheduled for Thursday September 18.

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National RIVER ROAD SHOW

**Reminder:** The deadline for River Road Show entries is **September 1** ! Only a month away! The show will again be exhibited at the Louisiana State Archives, from December 3 - 29, 2014. Award-winning artist and instructor Morten Solberg will be the judge/juror. If you are at a loss for subject ideas, the Archives will be celebrating the Bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans. The prospectus is on the LAAG website at [www.laag-site.org/River-Road-Show-prospectus](http://www.laag-site.org/River-Road-Show-prospectus), including all of the guidelines for entering. New this year, we are offering a completely online entry method, in addition to email and CD. We look forward to seeing your entries! Good Luck!





### Workshop Show

Congratulations to Leah Schwartzman! Leah's painting, *Fiesta*, was awarded the People's Choice Award at the recent LAAG Workshop Show which ran from May through July, and was held at Independence Park Theatre. The LAAG Workshop Show is a unique opportunity for Guild members to display work they completed in a workshop/class setting; workshop/class pieces are ordinarily not acceptable for public in exhibits/competitions. Leah's winning painting was completed in a class with Carol Creel. Way to go, Leah!



### Summer Judged Show

The annual Summer Judged Show includes 39 pieces and will hang at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery through September 4. Nationally known artist and instructor, Keith Andry, will judge this exhibit. The Reception and Awards Presentation will be held at the Theatre Gallery on Sunday, August 3 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Cash awards totaling \$500 will be presented as prizes for the paintings judged 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Come by to view the artwork and meet the artists.

### Salon Fashion

Paintings at Salon Fashion were changed out on July 16. Eight paintings by six Guild members will be on exhibit until September 16.

### Mayor's Office

The exhibit at the Mayor's Office was just changed on July 25. The eleven new paintings will be on display until October 24.

### Serop's Restaurants

Calvin Balencie's one person exhibit at Serop's Highland will be on exhibit till August 4. Cathy Sarrazin's solo exhibit will go up on August 4 and will be on exhibit through the month of October. The Zentangle art exhibit will hang at the Jefferson Highway location through the month of August.

Members interested in exhibiting their artwork at one of the Serops locations should contact Roberta Loflin at [rloflin@gmail.com](mailto:rloflin@gmail.com). The exhibit space at each location can accommodate approximately 6-8 paintings depending on the size of the paintings--usually from 5x7 to 16x20. These local businesses are great opportunities to show your paintings, and exhibits there have resulted in several sales.



### Make A Statement Show at Greenwell Springs Library

Awards for the Make A Statement Exhibit at the Greenwell Springs Library were presented at the June Member's Meeting held at the Studio in the Park. Two \$50 awards were presented to Guild member, Roberta Loflin, for her painting, *Gazebo at Rosedown*, and to member, Joyce Hensley, for her painting, *Kerlerec Street*. The artists in this show are recognized not only for their painting abilities but also for their creative writing statements displayed along with their paintings.





### **Cheri Fry - The Color of Light: An Oil Painting Experience**

Betty Efferson reports that Cheri Fry's recent workshop, "The Color of Light, An Oil Painting Experience," was a howling success! Nine people participated in the workshop, and each completed a portrait and a landscape, learning how to mix colors for both portraits and landscapes, and how to paint water, such as in a mountain stream. It was unanimous sentiment that Cheri is a wonderful teacher, and that she was very vivacious, positive and approachable. Everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere created during the workshop. Cheri is a wealth of information, having given out several pertinent handouts to participants. Betty says that Cheri will be teaching a watercolor workshop in the not too distant future. Watch for it, and join the fun!

### **Kathy Redmond - Zing to Your Zen-Tangle**

Kathy Redmond, local Zentangle artist and instructor was invited back to Guild's Studio in the Park by popular demand. Her most recent workshop sponsored by LAAG, Zing to your Zen-Tangle, held on July 10 was a "big hit". Here is what some of the participants had to say:

"Really enjoyed this workshop because it was something new for me. Kathy gave us a lot of information - handouts - and had loads of supplies and books ... which helps when you are learning something new. I would try to attend another workshop if she decides to come back."

... Sandra Ducote



"An art form anyone can achieve if you have never done art. Takes you away and into the NOW ... what is in front of you." ... Jo Busse

"Kathy's workshop was both inspiring and informative. I truly enjoyed every aspect of this workshop. Thank you, Kathy Redmond." ... Lori Dalton

"Kathy's workshop gave me so much encouragement to continue with Zentangle. She gave us so much information ... I loved this workshop ... a day well spent." ... Betty Klenke

Surely we will have Kathy back again ... check it out and maybe YOU will be joining this fun workshop next time. Find out about the many medical benefits this art form has to offer and plan to join in on the fun next time!!





## Upcoming Workshops

### **Roberta Loflin Classes**

To register for Roberta's classes you should contact her directly at [rloflin@gmail.com](mailto:rloflin@gmail.com) or 225-803-6785. Also visit her website [www.robetaloflin.com](http://www.robetaloflin.com) to checkout her artwork and find a variety of interesting art info.

#### **Watercolor 911**

August 21, Thursday, 6:30 pm - 9:00pm

Fee: \$50 members / \$60 nonmembers

Limited to 5 participants

This class will provide you with an opportunity to tap into Roberta's knowledge of color, value, composition, texture, etc. To "Watercolor 911," you can bring your challenges, questions and/or your ailing paintings, as this watercolor clinic is designed to help you enhance, resuscitate, and rejuvenate your work. Number of participants is limited to ensure the maximum amount of time to assist each artist with turning their "challenges" into successful paintings.

#### **Introduction to Acrylics**

Saturdays, September 6 - October 11, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Registration Fee: \$100 members / \$125 nonmembers

Ages 14 and up

Participants are introduced to acrylic painting through the basics of supplies, materials, techniques, composition, value study, color mixing, and painting with a triad.

### **Frank Francese - Legendary Landscapes - Watercolor**

September 23-25, Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

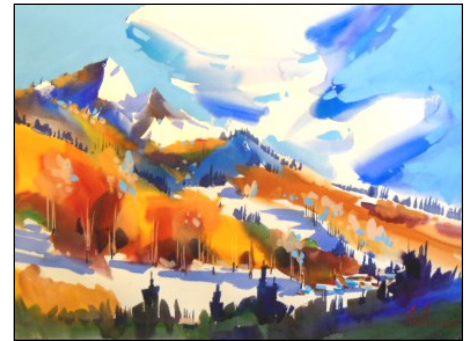
Early Bird (until August 11): \$250 LAAG members / \$300 nonmembers

Regular: \$300 LAAG members / \$350 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Klenke at [bjklenke@gmail.com](mailto:bjklenke@gmail.com) or 225-755-2449.

***Time is running out ... REGISTER NOW !***

***Early bird discount ends August 11!***



Do you love loose, juicy paintings? Or are you a detail oriented painter who longs to develop that loose, free feeling in your paintings? Don't miss this opportunity to spend three days painting and learning with one of the best. Brilliant color and loose brush strokes fill Francese's paintings with light and life. Visit Frank's website at [ffrancese.com](http://ffrancese.com) to see his wonderful work.

### **Ron Thomson - Luminous Passages - Oil & Acrylic**

October 7-10, Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Early Bird (until September 7): \$325 LAAG members / \$375 nonmembers

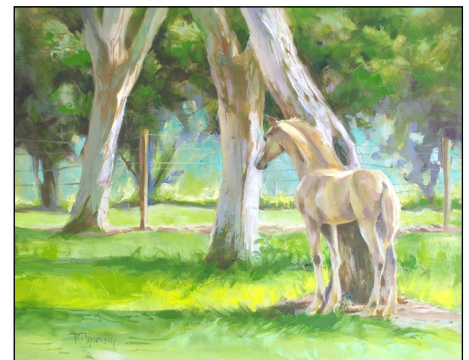
Regular: \$375 LAAG members / \$425 nonmembers

To register, contact Joel McLain at [jbmclainla@cox.net](mailto:jbmclainla@cox.net) or 225-766-2353

Ron Thomson was chosen as the official artist of the 62nd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival that was held in Fairhope AL in March 2014.

"Value does all the work and color gets all the credit." Truer words were never spoken. ~Monet~

Ron teaches a pragmatic approach to accessing new insight into the mysteries of light, color, and how to unify your painting through "passages". This workshop's goal is to demonstrate that whether the subject is still life, landscape or figural; light and his alter-ego, shadow are the stars...." Ron says his "goal is not to create the perfect painting" ... not just to paint a visual representation of a subject ... but to find a way of expressing the feelings/sensations one has in life that inspire him.



## **Morten Solberg - Having Fun with Watercolor, Not Frustration**

December 6-8, Saturday - Monday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Early Bird (until October 20): \$300 LAAG members / \$350 nonmembers

Regular: \$350 LAAG members / \$400 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Klenke at [bjklenke@gmail.com](mailto:bjklenke@gmail.com) or 225-755-2449.

This class will be waterbased media, painting in a more experimental direction.



Betty Klenke says, "I was very nervous when I signed up for this workshop in 2011 because it was one of the first workshops I had ever taken, but Mort Solberg made me very comfortable. We put down splashes of paint, then studied the painting, and decided where to proceed with it. Mort gives individual attention to students and asks if he can demonstrate on your painting, or if you need help. He presents demos and slide shows to illustrate the progression of his work."

Hailing from Spring Hill FL, Morten Solberg, nationally recognized and multi-award winning artist, will be in Baton Rouge to judge LAAG's 45th Annual River Road Show. In conjunction with judging, Solberg will conduct a three day workshop at the Studio in the Park.

Mort is a member of several professional art organizations such as: National Watercolor Society, Society of Animal Artists-Master Artist, Society of Master Impressionists-Lifetime Master member, and a Signature Member of Art for Conservation, and American Society of Marine Artists, to name a few. He is an accomplished artist in oil, as well as all water media and his style varies from abstract to photorealism. So be sure to add this workshop to your calendar of *don't miss workshops* this winter.

## **Member News**



**Claudia LeJeune** had a solo exhibit at LaDivinia Cafe, on the corner of Acadian Thruway and Perkins Road through the month of May.

And, **Calvin Balencie** and **Louise Hansen** have a joint exhibit at Lewy's Physical Therapy at 8448 Seigen Lane through the end of August. Some more busy, busy members...congrats, Claudia, Calvin and Louise!

Congratulations!! to **Betty Efferson** who sold her painting, *Color Among*

*the Birch*, which was juried into the 6458 Art Melt Show and Competition on exhibit at the Louisiana State Museum in downtown Baton Rouge. The Art Melt, which lays claim to being the largest multi-media juried art show in the State, held its 10th annual event on July 19th, 2014. All art work will remain on display to the public in the 2nd floor museum gallery for six weeks following the event.



In April, **Margaret Harmon** was elected President of the Regional Arts Council of Zachary. "Kudos" go to Margaret! She has several goals for the Regional Arts Council of Zachary, and she wants to invite LAAG members to participate in their Fall Art Crawl on Friday, September 26. Interested artists can obtain their applications at: [raczonline.org](http://raczonline.org).





In the Society of Decorative Painters Foundation 2014 Juried Art Exhibition: **Denice Ducote's** painting, *Outside the Gate* won 1st place in the 'Professional-Still Life/Landscape' Category, *Outside the Gate* also won 'Best in Watercolor' at the same exhibition. Her painting *Santa Fe Evening* won 3rd place in the 'Professional-Original Design' Category.

**Denice Ducote's** pet portrait, *Taboo* won Honorable Mention at Treasures of Pointe Coupee which is sponsored by the Arts Council of Pointe Coupee. Her painting, *Connected* was juried into Artist of Northwest Arkansas' 20th Annual Regional Art Exhibition. The exhibit will be August 6 - 29 in Springdale, Arkansas. Great job, Denice! Keep on painting, and keep on entering shows ... you're a shining example to us all!



Roberta Loflin participated in "An Evening of Inspiration With Local Artists" on June 27, at the Marriott Spring Hill Suites near the Baton Rouge Airport. It was a fun evening where Roberta met local artists and sold some of her wonderful handmade note cards. The event was sponsored by the Marriott, and included a wine bar, snack and dessert bar and a hospitality suite for the artists. Several artists displayed artwork in the lobby and conference room just off the lobby. Live music was provided by "The Kitchen Session Band," a local Celtic band. Roberta sold a watercolor painting, *Live Oak with Spanish Moss*, at the Hermann-Grima gallery in New Orleans.



*Elephant Ears*, a drawing by **Marge Campana**, was selected from 459 submissions into Art Melt 2014. The opening reception was at the Capital Park Museum on Saturday, July 19. Also, Marge's drawing *Texas Star* was accepted into the 2014 Botanicals Competition sponsored by Light, Space & Time Online Gallery and won a Special Merit Award. The gallery received 697 entries from 20 countries. Congrats, Marge-way to go!



**Nanci Charpentier** recently participated in an eight-week program called "Artists as Entrepreneurs" at the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge and co-sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater New Orleans. The artists that participated in this class will have their exhibit and sale "ARTrepreneur 2014" in August 2014. The reception will be held Friday, August 8th at 5:30 pm at the Firehouse Gallery at the Arts Council. Nanci's artwork is now also available for purchase at Rue Cou Cou Gallery located on Government Street. In May, Nanci was elected Vice President of Associated Women in the Arts. Nanci shares an upcoming AWA shows: Associated Women in the Arts' Archives Show, a juried exhibit featuring AWA's exhibiting artists, will be held at the Louisiana State Archives Gallery in October of 2014.

Nanci recently sold *KatKat the Bubbles Girl*, 24" x 24", Oil on Cradled Birch Wood Panel. Nice going, Nanci! Keep up the great work!!

Visit Nanci at [www.nancicharpentier.com](http://www.nancicharpentier.com), [nancicharpentierart.blogspot.com](http://nancicharpentierart.blogspot.com), [www.facebook.com/NanciCharpentierArt](http://www.facebook.com/NanciCharpentierArt), [twitter.com/NanciTheArtist](http://twitter.com/NanciTheArtist)





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**August 2014**

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](mailto:newsletter@laag-site.org).

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