

NEWS from the PALETTE



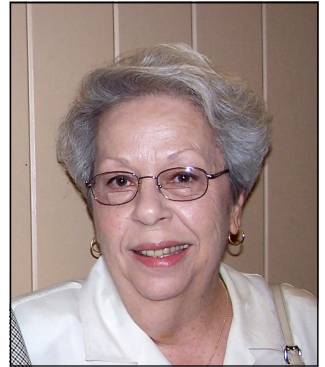
Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild laagbr@laag-site.org 225-930-7542
laag-site.org facebook.com/LouisianaArtandArtistsGuild

August 2015

Claudia LeJeune - Interviewed by Leah Schwartzman

"Who is Claudia LeJeune," you ask? Let me introduce you to YOUR president ...

Claudia LeJeune is a local watercolor artist who resides in Baton Rouge with her husband, Roy, and her cat, Missy, who is absolutely sure that her husband should reside elsewhere. In addition to her role as LAAG President, which has kept her very busy this year, she is a Board member of the Louisiana Watercolor Society.

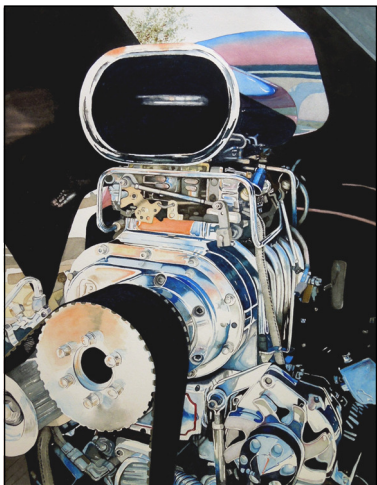


Claudia has had a passion for art/drawing/sketching since grade school, where she was often the target of a good "fussing" from teachers who caught her "doodling" instead of paying attention to what was being taught. In high school Claudia came to the realization that she possessed a certain amount of artistic talent, and thus, attended what is now Mississippi Women's College, as an art major. Although she had a desire for a career in art, interior design/advertising, were the artist jobs "du jour," and producing art as dictated was not her cup of tea. She studied drawing at Dayton Art Institute (Ohio), then married and "fell into" a more practical career field. Although she enjoyed her work in the clerical/bookkeeping field, she always felt that she was not fulfilling her heart's desire - a bit neglectful of a God-given talent.

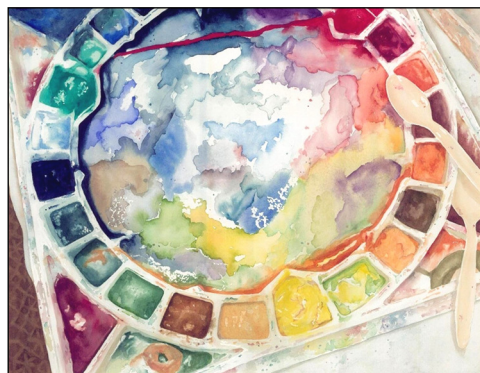
Competitions and art shows are not for everyone, but Claudia enjoys the thrill and energy of the show ... not only to get her work "out there," and hopefully bring joy to others with her paintings, but also to see what others are doing and to discover new techniques, thoughts and ideas. Claudia says she doesn't just sit down to paint unless she has at least an hour of time ... which isn't often lately ... certainly not as much as she would like. But, she keeps a calendar of deadlines for a number of exhibits that she wants to participate in and that provides motivation for her to make time to spend in her studio and avoid the panic/stress of last minute painting.

For subject matter, Claudia says "her subjects choose her" - anything is "fair game" ... whatever catches her eye: color, light/shadow contrast, or something that speaks to her emotionally ... something others may have overlooked. For instance, *Super Chiller* is a hot rod engine that just screamed chrome and "begged to be painted. I couldn't NOT paint it," she said. An accidental photo of Paul Jackson's palette, taken in a workshop, aiming the camera over people's heads became a turning point in Claudia's art journey. That photo resulted in her painting *Umber Happens* which won her a Merit Award at the National River Road Show. Following that honor, her painting *Just Ducky* earned her a Blue Ribbon at the 2014 Louisiana Watercolor Society's Spring Members Show.

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Super Chiller



Umber Happens



Just Ducky

Claudia says she avoids painter's block by "keeping a trove of photos and other clippings to use as inspiration," and she often has two or three paintings in progress at a time. She has experimented with different mediums, but became intrigued with watercolor when she saw Mary Jane Cox on the television program "Delta Hands," and knew that she just had to try it. She fell in love with the transparency of watercolor and learned that it is a lot more forgiving/controllable than most people realize. Claudia isn't concerned about having a particular style - she says she "just paints in a way that the subject dictates ... which may be multiple techniques within one painting."

This is only a small glimpse of your President - she is a casual, friendly person, a wonderful artist and stands "at the ready" to serve Guild members or have a quick chat about art. So if you see Claudia at the studio, out at an exhibit or reception, be sure to say "Hello."

Call for Entries

River Road SHOW

**Deadline
September 14**

My how time flies! The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild's national art exhibition and sale, the 46th Annual River Road Show is fast approaching, so be sure to put the dates on your calendar. The exhibition will be open to the public, with no admission fee, from December 4 through December 29. Once again this great presentation of art work from across the nation will be held at the Louisiana State Archives Building on Essen Lane, in Baton Rouge. An Artists' Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, December 10, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Awards totaling over \$4000 in cash and prizes will be presented. Details can be found in the River Road Show Prospectus, which can be picked up at various public locations around Baton Rouge (Elizabethan Gallery, Ann Connelly Fine Art, Daryl & Sons Custom Framing, Goodwood Library, etc). The prospectus and entry form is also available on the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild website at laag-site.org/River-Road-Show. The deadline for submission of entries is September 14, 2015.



Mother's Day Party, Suzanne Stewart
2014 First Place

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is honored to have Diantha York-Ripley as the judge/juror for this year's exhibition. While working on her B.A. of Fine Arts degree she also worked as a flight attendant with a major airline. She has attended workshops in the United States and Europe which broadened her perspective and perception of the earth we live in, to a global level. Diantha is a member of the Jacksonville Coalition for the Visual Arts, the St. Augustine Art Association, the Jacksonville Museum of Contemporary Art, the Cummer Gallery of Art and Gardens and the Art Institute of Chicago. In regard to judging she says " ... I like it when I am shown a different way of looking at the world - something fresh, new and creative ...".



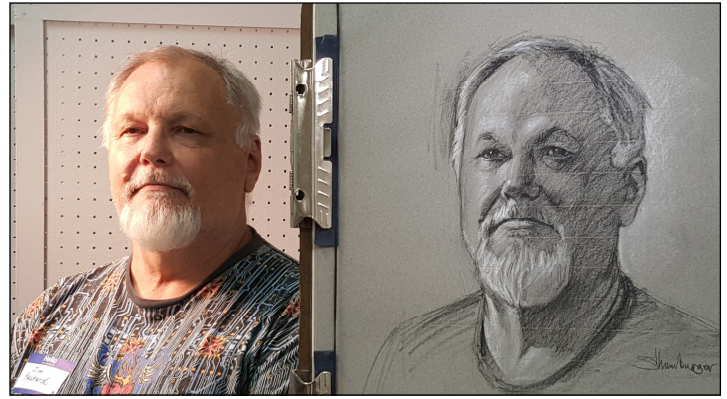
Denise Ducote, in charge of River Road Show internet advertising for 2015, says:

"Please tell everyone to 'Like' the River Road Show Facebook page. www.facebook.com/Riverrdshow - It's a new page. We're also on twitter - [@Riverrdshow](https://twitter.com/Riverrdshow)."

Members Meeting and Demonstration

On Sunday, July 19, Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild held a Members Meeting. We were very happy to see several new members in attendance. There were refreshments and light snacks, with lots of visiting and exchanging of ideas. President Claudia LeJeune presented an overview of the hanging rules for judged shows. She assured everyone that the exhibit volunteers are always disappointed to have to reject a painting because a hanging requirement is not met. However, part of LAAG's role as educators is to provide guidance to artists to ensure their artwork is showcased with professionalism and in the best "light" possible.

Steve Shamburger provided "entertainment" and teaching by demonstrating drawing a portrait using a live model. Guild member Jim Packard graciously agreed to "sit" for Steve to do his portrait.



Recent Workshop

Laura Mitchell - Discover the World of Color - Watercolor

The recent workshop conducted by Covington artist, Laura Mitchell, was a "full house." Seventeen artists from Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas, including New Iberia and Morgan City, came together at the LAAG Studio in the Park for two days of painting and learning. Laura did a hands-on workshop discussing color theory and paint properties, leading participants through a variety of color-mixing exercises. Here is what some of the participants had to say about their workshop experience:

"I enjoyed this workshop thoroughly! Laura is an excellent instructor, with well organized and meaningful information. I appreciated the handouts, as I am not an auditory learner. It will be helpful to go home and read my information again. This new information will be something I will always be able to use." ... *Gladys Chapman, New Iberia*

"Laura was an excellent teacher, explaining and demonstrating the topic discussed. As an instructor myself, and being mostly self-taught, I found this an exceptional learning experience. Thanks!" ... *Darnelle Delcambre, New Iberia*

"This workshop was excellent and so was the information. Who would have thought we could learn so much from reading a paint tube. Great, useful info on color properties. The handout worksheets will serve as a reference for future paintings. Laura was well prepared and conducted a 'first class' workshop." ... *Kay Bailey, Baton Rouge*

"Great presentation ... Lots of new information. Laura's explanations are very clear and the handouts were excellent and plentiful." ... *Beverly Heil, Baton Rouge*



Laura Mitchell

Upcoming Workshops

LAST CHANCE to REGISTER

Roberta Loflin – Compose Yourself – Dynamic Composition from Photos

August 8-29, Saturdays, from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

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

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

If you haven't registered for this workshop yet – do it now – there are only a few more days left to take part in this great workshop by local artist and instructor Roberta Loflin. Roberta will discuss how to edit a photo for a painting ... what to keep and what to ignore, moving shapes in the composition for a more pleasing effect and how to “direct” the viewer's eye by line and color. Participants may use either watercolor or acrylic paints in the workshop.

Sheryl Southwick – Gone to Pieces – Mosaics

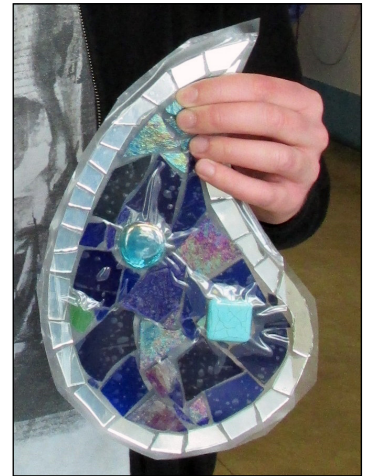
August 14 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, and August 15 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Fee: \$50 LAAG members / \$75 nonmembers

To register, contact Nikki Spencer at nspence@lsu.edu or 225-928-0018.

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Sheryl Southwick, local artist and instructor, will once again be conducting her popular mosaic workshop at the Studio in the park. Sheryl will be teaching a creative new technique for mosaics using contact paper and mosaic tape. She will also discuss collecting several separate mosaic pieces and incorporating them into a larger mosaic piece. Come join the fun and make a great mosaic art piece!



Allison Adams – Recreating Masterpieces: Henri Matisse – The Goldfish

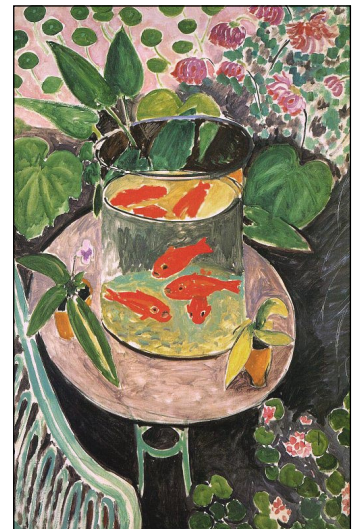
Saturday, September 5 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Fee: \$100 LAAG members / \$110 nonmembers

To register, contact Barbara Andrepont at bandrepont@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020.

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Come have fun in this workshop and paint like the masters. In May of this year, Allison conducted an “old masters” workshop and participants painted Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. Everyone had so much fun and we received requests for another one so ... Now is **your** chance to paint a “masterpiece”. Come spend the day with Allison and leave with your very own rendition of Henri Matisse's *The Goldfish*.



Roberta Loflin – Driven to Abstraction – Painting Abstracts from Nature

September 12 - October 3, Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

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

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

Roberta will teach participants how to look at shapes in nature, how to exaggerate the various elements of design ... to create interesting abstractions, moving away from or towards realism to get the desired effect.

Steve Shamburger – Plein Air Drawing

September 4-28, Mondays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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

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

[Class Info on the LAAG website](#)

All of you “outdoorsy” folks, now is your chance to join local artist, Steve Shamburger, on a plein air drawing adventure. Participants will meet Steve at a designated location in Baton Rouge. The possibility of inclement weather will be a consideration in choosing the location(s). Participants will work on their own drawings as Steve discusses the materials and demonstrates techniques; he will also address specific considerations for a successful plein air adventure. Participants will have ample opportunities to create their own landscape drawings.

Kim Santini – Getting Fresh Color and Brushwork – Acrylics

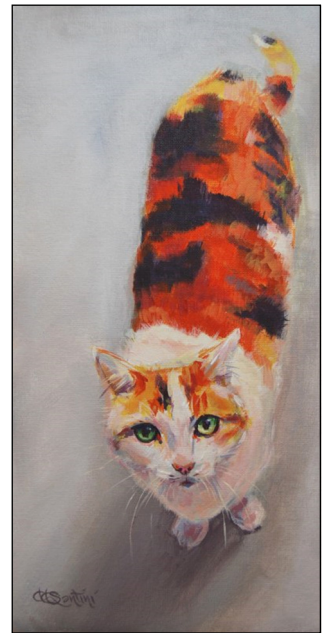
September 20-24, Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Fee: \$250 LAAG members / \$300 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Klenke at bjklenke@gmail.com or 225-755-2449.

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

We welcome Kim back to the Studio in the Park! Everyone had such a great time in Kim's 2013 workshop – and learned so much – we invited her back by popular demand. Kim's dynamic personality fills her workshops with a warm and inviting energy that immediately makes you feel comfortable, and yet, excited and ready to jump right in with the painting exercises. Kim skillfully leads participants through painting exercises in the early stages of the workshop, which you will then apply to a painting of your choice to complete by the end of the workshop.



Steve Shamburger – Caricatures

October 5, 12, & 26, Mondays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Fee: \$90 LAAG members / \$90 nonmembers

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

[Class Info on the LAAG website](#)

Have you always marveled at how quickly the caricature artists at various events could just “whip” out drawings of people in 10 – 15 minutes ... and yet capture the essence and personality of the person they were drawing? Join Steve as he guides you through the basics of which features to focus on, how to see and portion out a face, and how to capture the features that “make” that person a unique individual. Through demonstration and simple exercises, you can build a foundation for doing caricatures of your friends and family. Imagine how much fun it would be to gift them with a caricature of themselves that YOU had drawn!



***** TO ENSURE RECEIPT OF CHECKS FOR WORKSHOPS, THEY SHOULD BE MAILED TO: PO BOX 41115 BATON ROUGE, LA 70835 ... NOT THE STREET ADDRESS! *****

Remember – participants are **not** considered registered, and seats are **not** held, until the registration fee has been paid in full.

Upcoming Workshops

Keith Morris – Collage Workshop

October 9-11, Friday - Sunday from 9 am to 4:00 pm

Early Bird fee until September 7: \$150 LAAG members / \$200 nonmembers

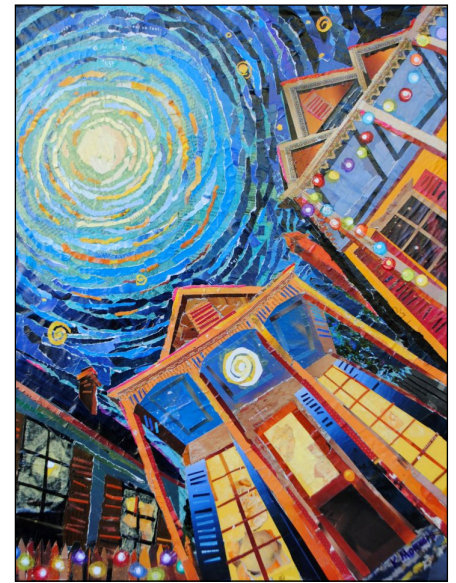
Fee after September 7: \$200 LAAG members / \$250 nonmembers

To register, contact Barbara Laudun at blaudun@gmail.com

or 225-923-0777.

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

This is not "ya mama's" collage! Some of the collage techniques may be the same, but Keith's collage pieces are amazing works of art! If you visit his website, you will see wonderful works of art ... what you may not notice is that many of the pieces shown are actually intriguing "collage paintings." Participants will decide on an image, sketch/color block in the image on a primed/gessoed surface. Participants should also decide on the basic colors/textures/patterns they want to use in the collage and begin collecting magazine pages/papers with those colors/textures prior to the workshop. Keith will have a step by step PowerPoint of his process; he will demo different techniques and will discuss the pros/cons of various glues and substrates. Along with this, he will discuss how to manipulate the paper, and the importance of how paper is torn and laid on the substrate. Do not miss the amazing artwork on Keith's website at keithgmorris.wordpress.com. Keith's beautiful artwork is as varied and colorful as his life journey!



Roberta Loflin – Morning, Noon and Night – Painting the Time of Day

October 17 - November 7, Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

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

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

This workshop will discuss and focus on observing how the light changes at different time of the day and night, and how your paintings can capture those light changes by effective color choices. Roberta will discuss and demonstrate to how achieve these light changes for both watercolor and acrylic painters.

Judi Betts – XTRAORDINARY Shapes and Surprises for Personal Success in Watercolor

October 19-23, Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Early Bird fee until September 18: \$200 LAAG members / \$250 nonmembers

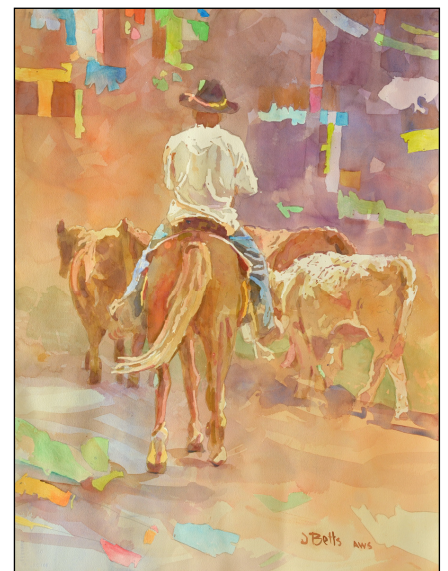
Fee after September 18: \$250 LAAG members / \$300 nonmembers

To register, contact Charleen Kling at brcrawfishtails@gmail.com

or 225-927-0933.

[Workshop Info on LAAG website](#)

Local, national and international artist and LAAG member, Judi Betts, is certainly a favorite instructor, and we continue to have requests for her workshops. In Judi's workshops, anything can happen ... from live animal models to presentations by experts in the business side of art. Judi's classes – although always lively and filled with energy and fun – always impart a massive amount of insight and knowledge regarding color, composition and technique. Judi demonstrates and then individually oversees, critiques and guides participants as they paint their own creations or artistic "challenges" that she presents to them. It is a very busy week ... a very hands-on workshop, with more than ample painting time for participants. The seats in Judi's workshops go quickly, and her workshops are always sold out, so be sure to take advantage of the early bird discounted fee.



Summer Judged Show

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild's Summer Judged Show was hung on July 9 and will be on exhibit until September 3. The exhibit is open to the public with no admission fee at Independence Park Theatre Gallery during regular office hours, Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Twenty-two artists submitted a total of 42 pieces of art, including graphite, oils, watercolors, acrylics and mosaics.

We were honored to have Laura Mitchell as our judge for the show. Laura is a signature member of National Watercolor Society and Louisiana Watercolor Society; a member of Mississippi Watercolor Society and St. Tammany Art Association. She represented the National Watercolor Society as a Master International Water-media Artist at the 2014 Eau en Couleurs Biennial International d'Aquarelle in Estaimbourg, Belgium. At the artists' reception on August 2, local artist/instructor, Sheryl Southwick, presented a mosaic demonstration and awards were presented to the following artists:

First Place – Jo McWilliams, *Mule with Boy*, acrylic

Second Place – Jane Flowers, *Takin' the Shortcut*, oil

Third Place – Nancy Smitherman, *Woman from Gaha*, oil

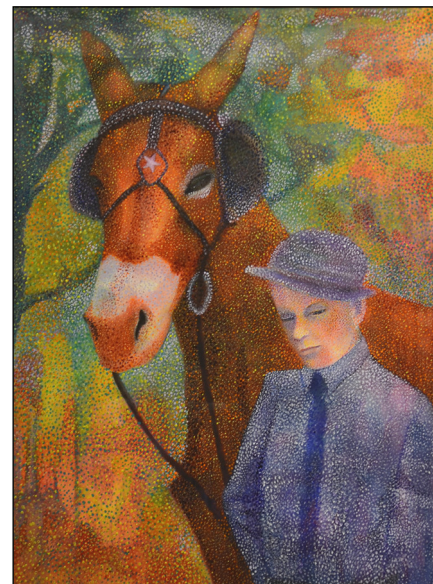
Merit Award – Marge Campana, *Elephant Ears*, graphite

Honorable Mention

Larry Downs, *Golden Begonias*, colored pencil

Betty Efferson, *Donney at Café Dumonde*, pastel

Betty Gravois, *Concentration*, graphite



Top: *Mule with Boy*, Jo McWilliams
Left: *Takin' the Shortcut*, Jane Flowers
Far left: *Woman from Gaha*, Nancy Smitherman

CALL FOR ART

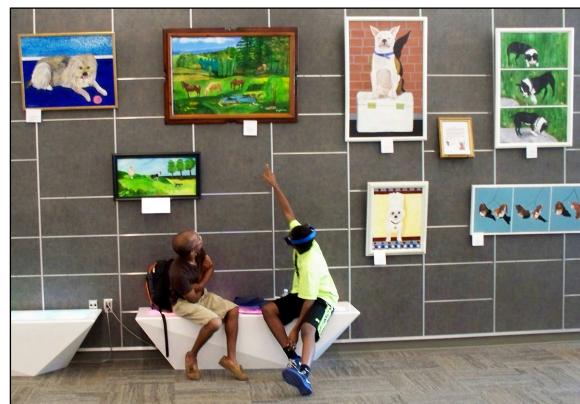
Calling all LAAG members! NOW is the time to "show up." The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild will be sponsoring the FALL MEMBERS ART EXHIBIT, September 3 - November 11.

Artists must bring their entries to the Independence Park Theatre on September 3, between 10:30am and 2:00pm. All Art must be picked up on November 11 between 10:30am and 2:00pm. Maximum size of artwork should be 48" x 48".

A People's Choice Ribbon will be awarded at an artists' reception on October 4 between 2:00pm and 4:00pm. All regular hanging/exhibit requirements apply. Please follow the hanging requirements available on the LAAG website at laag-site.org/exhibits to ensure that your painting will be accepted at the take-in.

Member News

Mary Heckman had an exhibit at the main library on Goodwood Blvd. What she had originally painted was to have been an “all dog show” for the Mayor’s office; when Mary heard that a thousand people a day pass through the library, she decided her “all dog show” paintings would go there – along with her newest painting which has three horses in it. Mary says “One of my more funny friends calls my show a ‘dog and pony show’!” (– Cute, huh?) These paintings were at the entrance across from the check-out desk. Mary had more dog paintings upstairs as well, around the corner from a photography exhibit. The exhibit hung during the month of July. Congratulations, Mary ... way to get your work “out there”!



Elayne Kuehler had her *Calla Lilies*, juried into the 10th International Guild of Realism’s Juried Exhibition to be held at the Principle Gallery in Alexandria, VA. The opening reception will be held on August 28, and the works will hang through September 18. The Guild celebrates with you on making this exhibition, Elayne!

Lorie Dalton went to Providence, RI to earn her CZT (Certified Zentangle Teacher) Certificate at the CZT Seminar #20. Lorie had an experience which was “totally amazing,” and is very thrilled to become part of this particular awesome community of artists! Thirteen different countries were represented at the Seminar! The Baton Rouge area now has two CZTs: Lorie Dalton and Kathy Redmond. Welcome to the “World of Zentangle,” Lorie – we know you’ll enjoy it, that you’ll be a great teacher and that you are in very good company!



SuEllen Lithgoe won an award at Treasures of Pointe Coupee exhibit – and not only an award, but the painting sold! The piece is *Dauphine Street Lineup* ... an oil painting of a row of old metal chairs. She received one of three Sponsor’s Awards. Congratulations on the award and the sale, SuEllen!



Roberta Loflin taught for three weeks at the Opening Doors’ Summer Art Camp during the month of July. The theme was “My Favorite Animal,” and each child created an acrylic painting and wrote an Artist’s Statement about his choice. They went on field trips each week, once to the Baton Rouge Zoo, once to LA Art & Science Museum, and once to an animal preserve. Years ago, LAAG was instrumental in making this a very successful program, providing volunteers and studio space for the children of the Gardere area until a more suitable location was found close to their homes. Thank you Roberta, and the Gardere kids thank you as well!

Roberta was also invited to participate in “An Evening of Inspiration with Local Artists” on July 21 at the Marriot Spring Hill Suites near the Baton Rouge Airport, where several local artists’ work was also displayed. The evening resembled a “festival,” open to the public, with live music, and food and drink! What fun, Roberta – wish we could all have been there!



Claudia LeJeune and **Calvin Balencie** are having a two-person exhibit on the Art Wall at the Ochsner Medical Clinic on Summa. Their paintings will be on display through the month of August. Be sure to stop by and see their artwork!



Judi Betts was the recipient of the NWS Purchase Award at the Northwest Watercolor Society's 75th International Exhibiton. Her watercolor painting *On the Waterfront* will be on display in the permanent collection of NWS at the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA.

Also, Judi just received notice that she has three paintings accepted as finalist in The Artist's Magazine 32nd Annual Art Competition; *Rendezvous* in the Still Life/Interior category, *Left Behind* in the Animal/Wild Life category, *Traffic Jam* in the Landscape category. Congratulations Judi!

Congratulations are in order to **Joyce Hensley** on having been juried into the St. Tammany Art Association's 50th Annual Summer Show in Covington, LA! The works will hang from July 11 through August 8, 2015. Way to go, Joyce!

Donna Kilbourne passes along the following opportunity. An invitation to show and sell your art at: JACKSON BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION sponsored by the Town of Jackson, LA

Saturday, September 26 - 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

This will be an indoor venue - no charge to the artists. The celebration will include antiques, wine tasting, music, with a complimentary trolley operation. Art will be shown within Jackson Cultural District, so no sales tax on original art.



Please respond to Donna Kilbourne if you are interested in participating in the show and sale. Any questions - contact Donna Kilbourne dbkcl@bellsouth.net - 225-683-8673 or Mary Jo Salmon maryjo47@earthlink.net - 225-978-9687.

Artists do not have to be present, but are encouraged to attend.