

NEWS from the PALETTE



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

August 2016

Bill Farnsworth - Interviewed by Leah Schwartzman

Bill Farnsworth, the 2016 National River Road Art Show judge/juror for 2016, is a signature member of the Oil Painters of American (OPA), American Society of Marine Artist's and the American Society of Impressionists. He is a nationally recognized award winning oil painter having garnered awards of excellence from OPA National and Regional shows. Fine Art Views says, "Sensitive and full of human emotion, the heartfelt work of Farnsworth takes us to inner depths."



We asked Bill when and how he discovered his inner artist. His response was, "I guess when I started drawing on my bedroom walls at 3 years old. My Grandpa was a Lace Designer and gave me a roll of design paper ... a graph on one side and pure white on the other ... and I began drawing on paper instead of on walls." He said at 14 he learned that artists could make a living as an illustrator; artists such as, Walt Disney, Norman Rockwell, N.C. Wyeth and Bernie Fuchs influenced and inspired his passion for drawing.

When Bill Farnsworth first became a professional artist, he was working full time as a Land Surveyor for his dad's business and spent nights and weekends on illustration assignments. It was a struggle to go full time (as a professional artist) but eventually became a reality. He graduated from the Ringling School of Art and Design in 1980. Although his parents were supportive of his artistic endeavors, he says, there is no substitute for hard work ... it's 90% of the equation. He said school was a good starting point but the real lessons came when he was a professional illustrator and his livelihood depended on meeting deadlines.

Bill continues to work hard, juggling his art-making with other parts of his business and home life; he has two daughters who are both very talented and have always been creative with making gifts for friends and family. He normally tries to get time at his easel, either outdoors or in the studio, 5-6 times a week ... even if only for 2 hours for a quick study, or up to 10 hours depending on the size and nature of the work to be done.

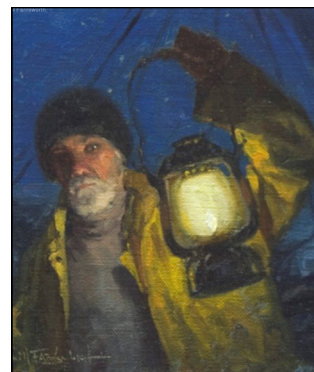
An illustrator for 34 years, Bill moved seamlessly into the fine art field; he primarily paints landscapes, occasionally placing a figure in the scene. Drawn to his subjects by "the light" – he says any subject matter, even garbage, can be a beautiful, interesting painting in the right light. He authored and illustrated a manuscript about the Florida Cowmen in hopes of getting it published, and illustrated more than 60 other children's books. He says oils have always been the most versatile medium for him to achieve what he desires in a painting. But he has also experimented with a combination of oil and pastel or using oils over an acrylic underpainting.

Bill shared a few insights other insights from his years of experience: He views "painter's block" periods as a time when things don't go well, your critical eye is saying you need to improve; it is a window for growth not depression.

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If you feel there is just “something wrong” with a painting, it is most likely shapes, values, edges or color temperature. Painting from life/painting outdoors will make you a better painter in the studio because it requires you to edit out all the unnecessary stuff and get right to the essence of the subject. It helps one to understand how light behaves on the subject as it slowly changes. To beginning artists – “Think twice about a private art school, if you have to finance it” ... check out my blog: “Dear Art Student” on my website, billfarnsworth.com.



Don't miss the opportunity to spend three days painting with Bill in his workshop ... “Putting Light into Your Paintings,” while he is here in Baton Rouge to judge the River Road Show! See the workshop section of the newsletter and the LAAG website for details and supply lists.

Message from the President



Dear Guild Members,

My personal congratulations to the artists accepted in the 47th Annual River Road Show! The selections are posted on the LAAG website. A HUGE Thank You to the RRS Committee members, especially RRS Chairperson Michele Deshotels for rolling up her sleeves and being involved in so many of the details, Suzanne Antoon, for processing the bulk of the entries, and Lane Downs for bringing it all together to send to our judge this year, Bill Farnsworth. The RRS committee will be busy preparing for the reception and we look forward to Bill's selection of award winners on September 22, and his workshop on September 14-16.

The River Road Show requires a lot of advance planning. Here is a sneak preview of future judges: 2017 Lian Quan Zhen, 2018 Iain Stewart. The RRS Committee is already working on 2019 which will be the 50th Anniversary of the River Road Show. We anticipate lots of excitement for this celebration!

The LAAG board of directors is also very excited about the progress of our efforts in establishing a new name for our organization. We will retain the Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild name as registered with the office of Secretary of State, but will operate under the trade name of ART GUILD of LOUISIANA. We have spent many hours and creative brainstorming in researching a new logo design. There is much more work to be done as we intend to generate some excitement within the community about our organization. We offer more opportunities to our members for education, exhibits and social interaction. We plan to roll out a completed presentation in January, 2017.



On a sad note: We are sorry to hear about the closing of the Co-op bookstore. They have partnered with us for many years by granting our members a discount and have generously donated merchandise and gift certificate awards for the River Road Show. Thank You, Co-op Bookstore for your involvement with our organization – You will be greatly missed!



I hope to see you all at the Awards Reception on August 7 for our Summer Judged Show!

Share your newsletter with a friend! Happy Painting! Claudia LeJeune, claudiale@aol.com, 225-292-2004

River Road SHOW

THE 47th NATIONAL RIVER ROAD SHOW

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild once again presents to the Baton Rouge community the 47th National River Road Show. The exhibit will be installed at the LA State Archives Gallery at the beginning of September and will open to the public on September 6. The exhibit will be free and open for public viewing during the regular State Archives business hours Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30. Invite your friends, family and coworkers to stop by during the month of September to see some fabulous art from across the nation.

To echo our President, the Board of Directors sends a big CONGRATULATIONS! out to everyone who was accepted into this year's National River Road Show.

The complete list of accepted artists can be found on the LAAG website at laag-site.org/River-Road-Show.

Again, artist participation in the exhibit is a huge success with 142 artists submitting 407 pieces of artwork. And this year the difficult task of whittling that 407 down to only 75 final artworks qualifying for a chance to win cash and prizes totaling over \$4,000 falls to acclaimed illustrator and fine arts painter Bill Farnsworth, OPA. A Reception and Awards Presentation will be held at the State Archives on Thursday, September 22, from 5:30-7:30pm. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



RIVER ROAD SHOW JUDGE TO BE CELEBRATED BY EBR LIBRARIES

In conjunction with the River Road Show, several branches of the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library join the Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild in welcoming illustrator and fine artist, Bill Farnsworth. During the first week of August, displays of children's books illustrated by Bill Farnsworth will go up at the Main Library on Goodwood, as well as the Jones Creek and Bluebonnet Regional Branches.

Pabby Arnold, Children's Services Coordinator for EBR Parish Public Library, has this to say about Bill Farnsworth: "One of the most telling statements I can make about Bill Farnsworth's illustrations is that if he is connected with a book, we should – without question –, purchase it for our collections. It is a fact that Mr. Farnsworth attaches himself to good books. His illustrations help develop the texts with their attention to detail and his play of light, shadow, and colors. Whether the illustrations are from an historical novel such as Irene Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto or a contemporary story like Grandpa's Music: a Story about Alzheimer's – they serve the authors' stories superbly. Mr. Farnsworth's illustrations, while certainly stellar, are not about standing out on their own. They are there to support and illuminate the storyline so that readers become immersed in the books and the illustrations become part of the memories of childhood. This is what great illustrations do, and illustrator Bill Farnsworth always does an outstanding job!"

EBR Parish Library is proud to own and circulate more than forty titles with illustrations by Bill Farnsworth and authored by beloved names such as Avi, David Adler, Steven Kroll, and Deborah Hopkinson.

Be sure to stop by your favorite library to check out the Bill Farnsworth display!

Twilight Classic - Club South Runners

In May of this year Club South Runners invited the Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild to partner with them by having members submit a proposed t-shirt design for their upcoming annual "Twilight Classic" race. Club South coordinators selected a design submitted by Leah Schwartzman; however, they liked the design so much they decided to have posters printed instead of t-shirts. So Leah agreed and developed her design from a line drawing into a full fledged watercolor poster.

LAAG is a supporter of the race, will have a "table presence" at the race, and in turn be positioned to receive support from their organization. Our presence at the race is an opportunity for LAAG to gain exposure in a new venue. We encourage you to participate in the race if you are a runner, if not, come out and support the runners, volunteer an hour of your time at the LAAG table to promote LAAG ... we also need 3-4 people willing to do complimentary face painting (paint provided): contact Kay Bailey at baileykay7850@gmail.com or 225-933-6008.

The race will be held on Saturday, August 20 beginning at 6:30 pm, downtown on the grounds at the USS Kidd. To learn more about the Club South Runners and their events, or to register for the race, visit their website ... www.clubsouthrunners.net

SAVE THE DATE ... JOIN THE FUN ... COME OUT TO SUPPORT THE RACE AND YOUR GUILD



Oil Demonstration by Bill Farnsworth

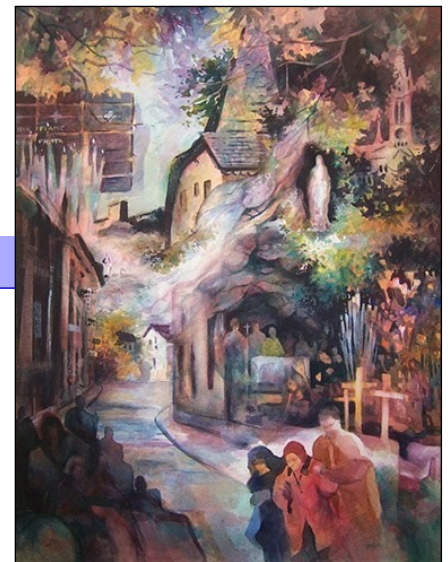
September 13



Bill Farnsworth will present a free oil demonstration at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Ave in Baton Rouge, preceding his oil workshop, "Putting Light into Your Paintings". The demonstration will be held Tuesday, September 13, 6:00-8:00pm and is open to all Guild members and guests. The workshop will also take place at the Studio in the Park, September 14-16. Please share this information with any other artists you know who may be interested. For more information about the workshop, see the "Upcoming Workshop" section of this newsletter and/or visit the LAAG website at laag-site.org/workshops/Farnsworth.

LA Watercolor Society Workshop by Diane St. Germain

The Louisiana Watercolor Society will be holding a workshop at the Studio in the Park and participation is open to all local artists. New Orleans born artist/instructor, Diane St. Germain, will be presenting a watercolor workshop "Five Steps to More Expressive Watercolor Painting" on October 4 & 5, 2016. For details and registration information, visit the Louisiana Watercolor Society website: louisianawatercolorsociety.org/workshops/2016-fall-workshop-2/



Members Meeting

The next Members Meeting will be held on Sunday, **August 28**, at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Ave in Baton Rouge from 2-4pm. The Members Meeting is an open forum for all Guild members to come together to brainstorm and share ideas. Members of the Board of Directors will be there to hear ideas and suggestions from the members as to what activities or events you might like to see the organization sponsor, or some changes you would like the Board consider, as well as compliments on things done well. Bring your ideas to the Members Meeting and help build the Guild that YOU want to belong to! Following this discussion and any announcements, Roberta Loflin will be doing a watercolor demonstration. We will also be presenting the Judge's Award and the People's Choice Award for the Make A Statement Show.

Members News

Pat Wattam was commissioned about a year ago to do a huge painting to go over the bed in the master bedroom, 5' long and 3' wide or so. A year later it's completed and was sent to the new owners in mid-July. Congrats, Pat!



Pat also sold a painting of her plumeria (30"x 30") blossoms to a person in Florida and got another commission from someone else in Florida for another plumeria painting!! Kudos, Pat ... Keep up the great work!



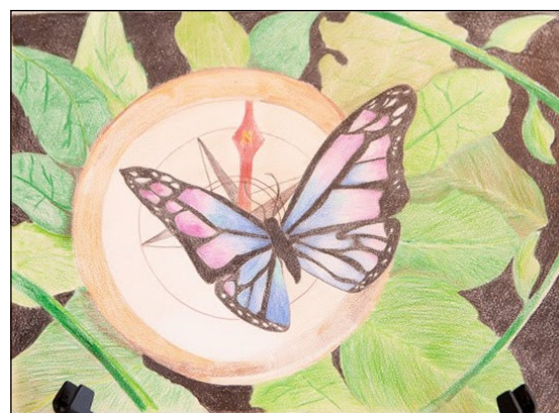
Betty Efferson's pastel painting *Enduring Brilliance* has been accepted in the Pastel Society of America's 44th Annual Juried Exhibit at the National Arts Club in New York City Gramercy Park Sept 6 to Oct 1. 175 entries were selected out of 1,497 submissions.

Kay Bailey and **Leah Schwartzman** were guest judges at the annual Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Environmental Education Commission's "Environmental Awareness Student Art and Language Arts Contest" during the first week in May. Students from 5 to 18 years of age from schools around the state were invited to participate in the contest. Each student submitted one piece of art depicting their idea for the theme "Exploring the Natural World". First, second and third place awards were presented for each of the 4 age categories. "It was a lot of fun to see the creative interpretations and art techniques submitted by these junior high and high school students." Kay and Leah wanted to share the talents of the first place winners for each of the two age groups they judged.



Left: Ashini Modi, Caddo Middle Magnet, Shreveport – Group 3, ages 11-13

Right: Chelsea Hebert, Magnet Academy for Cultural Arts, Opelousas – Group 4, ages 14-18



Suzanne Antoon will be displaying her work at Ochsner/Summa during the month of August. Way to go, Suzanne!

Roberta Loflin has been busy with Opening Doors' art camp in July. The theme this year was "Eat your Fruit and Vegetables!" The children chose pictures of still lifes and painted their own interpretations. When finished, they titled and wrote artist statements about their acrylic on canvas paintings. Good job, Roberta – surely, all the kids are proud of their work!



Chris Bajon Jones, Joette LeBlanc, Margaret Shipley, Kathy Miller Stone and Pat Zeller will be the guest artists for August and September at Beauregard Gallery and Bistro, 715 Europe Street, BR, LA. The exhibit, "Five of a Kind", can be seen during regular business hours, Monday - Friday, 11am - 2pm, and by appointment - contact chrisjonesthouart@gmail.com or 225-383-1932.

Nanci Charpentier's painting, *Lost*, was selected by Juror, Lori Putnam, as a June 2016 Finalist in the online Art Muse Contest, Emerging Artist Category. Here is what Lori Putnam said about *Lost*: "This is just great on so many levels, including design, draftsmanship, and color. The foreshortening of the dog is wonderful, and the way the darks hold together as one piece perfect. I can imagine if that shadow shape was a sticker, I could peel the shadow mass off in one, continuous piece. Having the majority of the color shifts and excitement in the lights and mid-tones while leaving the shadows more simply stated adds to the painting's strength. The values of the dog's black in light and the white fur in shadow are so close, yet separated slightly. The same is true of the reflected light on the extreme backside of the dog when compared to the lighted top plane of the skull." Naturally, Nanci is thrilled to have been selected ... Congratulations, Nanci!



Recent Workshops

Betty Gravois – "Take Your Art Out of the Gutter – Acrylics on Metal"

Betty's workshop of **painting on metal** . . . WHAT A BLAST! During this workshop, the Studio in the Park sounded much like a construction site as class participants filed, sanded and hammered sheets of "gutter material" in preparation to transform them into beautiful works of art for home or garden. To know you can put creative effort into a painting that is lasting [will not fade nor run], is very impressive. Each workshop participant left with four metal 'masterpieces' to be proud of. Let your innovative talents keep flowing!



Kathy Miller Stone "Poured Watercolor - Heron and Water"

Kathy had a full house at her ***pouring*** workshop. The subject matter was a nice composition to work with. The setting of a lone, regal heron standing amongst reeds and cattails is simply mesmerizing. Kathy's attention to all the small details required in pouring, masking and painting left participants pleased with a painting worthy of hanging over any mantle.

Upcoming Workshops

Billie Bourgeois – “Tea and Biscuits with the Muse - All Media”

August 4-6, Thursday through Saturday, 9:00am-4:00pm

\$200 LAAG members / \$250 nonmembers

Intermediate & Advanced painters – not recommended for Beginners

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

[Workshop info on the LAAG website](#)

There are still a few places left in this workshop. Don't miss your chance to learn from this incredible instructor.



Steve Shamburger – “Drawing Portraits from Photos”

August 8 – September 12, Mondays, 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$140 members / \$140 nonmembers

To register, contact Steve Shamburger at steve@steveshamburger.com or

225-226-8990

[Class Info on the LAAG website](#)

After demonstrating the drawing process, Steve will lead you step by step as you render a charcoal or pencil portrait from your favorite photograph. From thumb-nail layouts to final detailed rendering, you will learn proven techniques for creating a memorable portrait sketch.



Roberta Loflin – “Feathers and Fur in Watermedia”

Saturdays, September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 9:30am - noon

Early Bird registration fee until August 26: \$100 LAAG members / \$120 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$120 LAAG members / \$140 nonmembers

Ages 14 and older

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



Bill Farnsworth – “Putting Light Into Your Paintings”

September 14-16, Wednesday through Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

\$400 LAAG members / \$450 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Gravois at elizabethgravois@gmail.com or 732-216-1095.

While nationally recognized award winning oil painter, Bill Farnsworth, is in Baton Rouge to judge the 47th National River Road Show, he will conduct an oil painting workshop at the Studio in the Park, located at 2490 Silverest, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. Bill Farnsworth is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America, American Society of Marine Artists, and the American Society of Impressionists. Bill is a recipient of many national awards, and his work is found in museums and private collections across the United States.

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is proud to offer this opportunity for local oil artists to spend three days painting with this fantastic artist. Working from high quality photos, Bill will paint a demo every morning to show, step-by-step, how he works from known values to achieve a luminous painting full of light. Bill will also share his ideas on how to work best in a studio environment. Don't miss a visit to Bill's website to see his landscapes. Even his portrait paintings are flooded with 'light' that brings his paintings to life!

Suzanna Winton – “Step by Step Watercolor Portraits”

October 18-20, Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00am-4:00pm

Early Bird registration fee until September 1: \$300 LAAG members / \$350 nonmembers

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

To register, contact Betty Klenke at bjklenke@gmail.com or 225-907-4902.



Portraits have the power to capture a likeness that touches the soul. If you love painting in watercolor and want to explore portraiture, this is the class for you. On the first day, class participants will learn how to make glowing skin tones by layering and mixing colors together that create the perfect flesh for any portrait. You will be making a skin tone chart that will be an invaluable tool; over time you will find it very useful. Also, you will paint the main features, focusing on the eyes, nose, and mouth. On the second day, Suzanna will demonstrate how to paint a portrait, as you follow along working on the same subject. On the third day, you may bring a subject of your choice to paint or paint along again with the instructor. Drawings and photos are provided each day to learn how to paint a variety of ages and ethnicities, how to create a realistic portrait that captures emotion, and how to paint hair, place facial features and mix paints. Suzanna says, “You will be surprised at how easy it can be once you learn the basics!” This workshop is for all levels of artists including the very beginner. Checkout Suzanna’s fabulous portrait paintings on her website!

Roberta Loflin – “Unfinished Business – Watermedia”

Saturday, October 8, 9:30am-3:00pm

Early Bird registration fee until September 23: \$50 LAAG members / \$55 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$60 LAAG members / \$75 nonmembers

Ages 14 and older

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

Bring in a few of those paintings that we all have - you know the ones! They are in the middle of completion but you feel stuck and don't know what to do next. Or maybe you think they might be finished but something doesn't seem right. Let's brainstorm together to get these works done. Watercolor and acrylic are welcome.

Roberta Loflin – “Watercolor 911”

Saturday, October 29, 9:30am-3:00pm

Early Bird registration fee until September 23: \$50 LAAG members / \$55 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$60 LAAG members / \$75 nonmembers

Ages 14 and older

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

Betty Efferson – “Get Your Soft Pastels Out of the Closet”

Thursday, October 27, 9:00am-3:00pm

Early Bird registration fee until October 12: \$50 LAAG members / \$60 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$60 LAAG members / \$70 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Efferson at bettyeffersonartist@me.com or 225-266-7064.

Betty Efferson – “Oil Pastels in Mixed Media”

Sunday, October 30, 9:00am-3:00pm

Early Bird registration fee until October 12: \$50 LAAG members / \$60 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$60 LAAG members / \$70 nonmembers

To register, contact Betty Efferson at bettyeffersonartist@me.com or 225-266-7064.

Interpret the Old Masters Members Exhibit Award

Congratulations to LAAG member, Jo McWilliams, who was presented with the People's Choice Award in the "Interpret the Old Masters" art challenge for her beautiful "pointillism" interpretation of Edouard Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*.



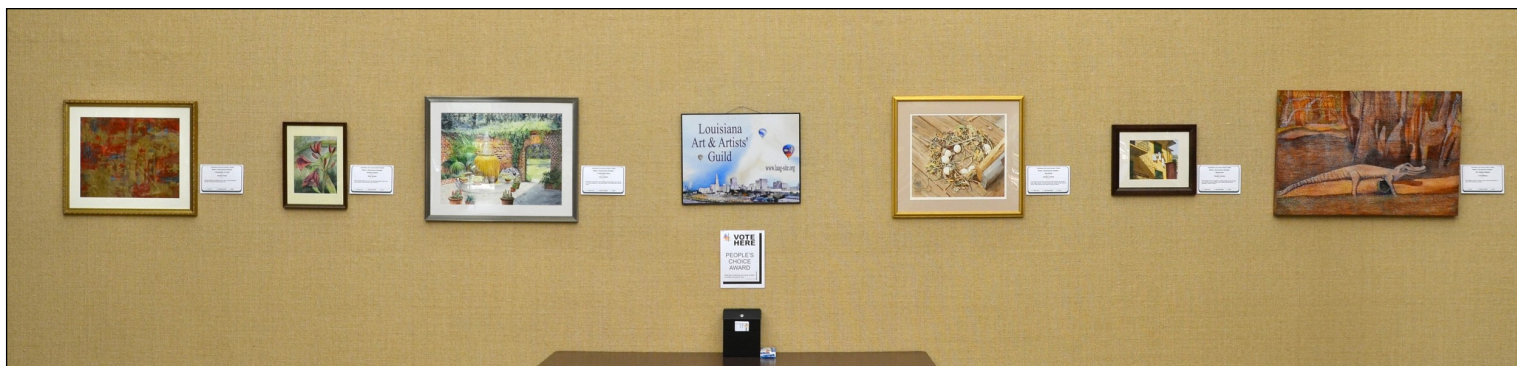
CALL FOR ART to ALL MEMBERS

Don't miss the opportunity to have your artwork on exhibit in the Baton Rouge Mayor's Office downtown. There are 11 available spaces for the exhibit at the Mayor's Office on September 22.

The minimum size of artwork for the Mayor's Office exhibit is 22" x 28". Paintings for the Mayor's Office should be dropped off at the Studio in the Park on Open Studio days before September 22. The Mayor's Office exhibit is a 3-4 month exhibit and works of art may be picked up at the Studio in the Park after the exhibit closes.

Make A Statement Exhibit

The Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild's Make a Statement Show is currently on exhibit at the Greenwell Springs Library, 11300 Greenwell Springs Road, Baton Rouge, until August 31. A cash prize of \$50 will be awarded to the winner of the Judges Award selected by local artist/instructor Cheri Fry. And a People's Choice Award of \$50 will also be awarded ... be sure to stop by the library to enjoy the art and VOTE for your favorite painting.



Summer Judged Show

The Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild's Summer Judged Show was installed at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery on July 14 and will be on display for public viewing until September 15 during regular business hours; 10:00am-5:00pm, Tues – Friday. Eighteen artists submitted 30 paintings of various mediums including water-color, acrylic and graphite.

We will have an ice cream social for the artists' reception at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery on August 7, from 2-4 pm. Please invite your friends and family to join you and your fellow member artists for an afternoon of camaraderie, refreshments and art viewing. We invite you to bring your favorite ice cream topping to share ... chocolate, nuts, cherries, crushed Oreos or whatever!

We are honored to have acclaimed local artist/instructor Larry Casso as the judge for the Summer Judged Show. Larry is the founder/director of the Baton Rouge Fine Arts Academy.

SUPPORT **YOUR** ORGANIZATION...EXHIBIT **YOUR** ART...SHARE THE JOY OF **YOUR** ART