

# NEWS from the PALETTE



**Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild** laagbr@laag-site.org 225-930-7542

[www.laag-site.org](http://www.laag-site.org)

[www.facebook.com/LouisianaArtandArtistsGuild](https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaArtandArtistsGuild)

**February 2015**

## River Road Show WINNERS

The 45th Annual River Road Show exhibited at the Louisiana State Archives from December 3, 2014 through December 29, 2014. The show was juried and judged by nationally recognized master artist Morten Solberg. It was a very successful event! The final accepted paintings included 67 works of art in a variety of mediums, representing 22 states. The awards reception was attended by over 200 guests/art enthusiasts. The Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild extends their thanks to State Archivist, Dr. Florent Hardy, for his continued participation and support of the River Road Show. The winning paintings may be viewed on the LAAG website at [laag-site.org/Gallery/LAAG\\_Galleries/River\\_Road\\_Shows/River-Road-Show-2014/Winners](http://laag-site.org/Gallery/LAAG_Galleries/River_Road_Shows/River-Road-Show-2014/Winners).

The Guild congratulates the following winners of the more than \$4,000 in cash and prizes awarded:



**First Place:** Suzanne Stewart,  
*Mother's Day Party*, oil



**Second Place:** Robert Willis,  
*The Poacher*, watercolor



**Third Place:** Anne Faust,  
*A Gathering of Owls*, serigraph

### Merit Awards

Gloria Neff, *A Covey of Cardinals*

Pat Wattam, *Peace*

Doris Truman, *Pond Tour*

Ernie Fournet, *Mardi Gras Mischief*

Douglas Stafford, *Prince of Phrontistery*

Kathy Miller Stone, *Pull-Do Paradise*

### Honorable Mentions

Janice Cipriani-Willis, *In the Pocket*

Maureen Killaby, *Look at the Tailfeathers on That One*

Cheri Fry, *Blue Shemm*

Arena Shawn, *Simple Grace*

Elizabeth Whitley, *Still*



## Message from the President

The New Year is off and Running!

I am excited to begin the New Year as President of Louisiana Arts & Artists' Guild and am looking forward to working with the LAAG Board and Committees. Having been a very active member of the Guild for a number of years and serving as Treasurer for 2 years, I believe that I have a good working knowledge and understanding of the operations and mission of the LAAG organization. In 2013 and 2014 I served as the Chairman for our annual national River Road Show held at the State Archives Building.

My first order of business as President was to Chair the annual LAAG Board "retreat" which is a day-long brainstorming session discussing the past year—what worked, what didn't—and then taking a look forward to what changes, new ideas and activities will better serve our members and support the Guild mission. I am pleased to be working with a Board that is committed to serving its members; I am encouraged by the teamwork and cooperation of the Board Members and Committee Chairs. And we managed to have fun in the process!

In the area of exhibits, Jim Packard has volunteered to take on the responsibility of coordinating the Independence Park exhibits. Jim joined LAAG last year and we welcome his enthusiasm and "can-do" attitude. Additional discussions included:

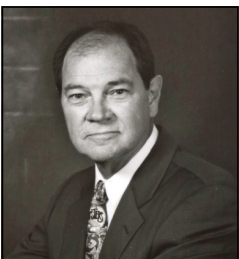
how to encourage more volunteer participation, which includes increased attendance at member meetings & member exhibits ; open studio participation; increased interaction with "sister" LAAG organizations like the Iberville group and increased interaction among member artists.

I want to thank Barbara Andrepont for her service as President for the past 2 years. She will be busy in the development of a Member Services Task Force in order to address the challenges of communication to and from members, particularly those members who do not communicate electronically; ways to help new members feel welcome; to inform them of the benefits and opportunities of being a member, and increasing LAAG's visibility in the community.

We welcome your suggestions! Let us know how we can meet your artistic needs. I invite you to join in the many activities we have planned for 2015.

Take time to paint, sketch and above all, have some fun!

Claudia LeJeune, [claudiale@aol.com](mailto:claudiale@aol.com), 225-292-2004



### Gary Drinkwater

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild extends their sincere condolences to the family of LAAG member Gary Drinkwater who passed on December 12, 2014. Gary was an active member of the Guild and was a regular helping hand at the LAAG annual River Road Show. Some of his artwork, which he enjoyed sharing with his friends, can be seen in the Artists Galleries on the LAAG website or on Gary's website at [www.dwaterart.com](http://www.dwaterart.com).



### Michael "Mike" MacDonald

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild also extends condolences to the family of Michael "Mike" MacDonald, also a LAAG member, who passed on December 9, 2014. Mike was always generous with his technology information and friendly to all. He enjoyed talking about his digital art process and was quick to share his learning experiences in the process. His artwork is also accessible via the Artists Galleries on the LAAG website or on Mike's website at [digital-art-by-mike-macdonald.com](http://digital-art-by-mike-macdonald.com).

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

### Serops Express and Salon Fashion

Effective December 31, 2014, Louisiana Art & Artist Guild is no longer exhibiting art as an organization at the following venues: The Salon Fashion, Serop's Express on Highland Road or Serop's Express on Jefferson Highway. The owner's at each of these locations expressed how much they have enjoyed having LAAG display art in their places of business. And both locations have agreed to exhibit art from any members of LAAG, who are interested in exhibiting their art work on an individual basis. Anyone interested in scheduling an exhibit at either location should contact Serop Kaltakdjian, at (225)248-9500 for the Jefferson Highway location and Taline or Avo Marzouwanian, at (225)751-1256, for the Highland Road location.

### Open Studio

Effective February 1, 2015 the Tuesday open studio hours will change from 11:00 - 2:00 to be the same hours as the Wednesday open studio.

New Hours:

TUESDAY (water media only) ... 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except during workshops)\*

WEDNESDAY (all media) ... 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except when during workshops)\*

SUNDAY (all media) ... 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except on Sundays when there is a LAAG exhibit reception at Independence Park Theatre)\*

Zentangle will continue as usual on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and Mosaics will continue on the 2nd Thursday of each month (unless otherwise posted).

**\*These hours are subject to change if there are scheduling conflicts. Members should consult the Calendar on the LAAG website - [laag-site.org/calendar](http://laag-site.org/calendar) for possible changes to any of these studio hours.**

## Exhibits

### 2015 Winter Members Show

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild's Winter Members Show was hung at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery on January 8 and will be on display for public viewing, 10:00am-5:00pm, Tues - Friday, until March 12. Twelve artists submitted 22 paintings of various mediums including watercolor, acrylic, graphite and mixed media. An artists' reception will be held at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery on February 8, 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.



### CALL FOR ENTRIES: LAAG SPRING JUDGED SHOW

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild will hold its first judged show of 2015 beginning March 12 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. The Spring Judged Show is open to LAAG members and nonmembers. The hanging fee is \$8 per painting for members and \$10 per painting for nonmembers.

Artists must bring their entries to the Independence Park Theatre on March 12, between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm. Please review the hanging requirements available on the LAAG website at [laag-site.org/exhibits](http://laag-site.org/exhibits) to ensure that your painting will be accepted at the take-in.



Be sure to join us at the Reception and Awards Presentation at Independence Park Theatre on April 12 from 2:00-4:00 pm when LAAG will present a total of \$500 in cash and awards to the winners. There will be snacks and refreshments. So, save the date and invite your family and friends!



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

On December 6-8, 2014, LAAG's Studio in the Park was buzzing with excitement as a "full house" of artists gathered for three days of painting and learning with acclaimed water media artist Morten Solberg. The day began with Mort sharing the three most critical elements he looks for when judging, and which he encompasses in his work: design, shape and value. He began with only three colors of paint: Payne's grey (specifically Winsor & Newton for its blueish color) burnt sienna and white gouache. Then, without a preconceived subject matter, without a sketch and without even a reference photo or value sketch, he splashed the clean, white, blank sheet of watercolor paper with a burst of burnt sienna and Payne's grey which had been loosely mixed on his palette. As he continued talking about shape and design, he introduced the white gouache to temper the boldness of the burnt sienna and Payne's grey. He also shared his thought path and his experienced "vision" as he continued to develop the shapes and design until gradually those shapes emerged into a rocky hillside path leading from a forest with figures in the foreground. And so began the challenge to the workshop participants, to try a new method of "feeling" one's way through the painting process, with only three colors, and with vision and imagination. This was a very new approach to all of the participants in the workshop. And each participant had multiple opportunities to receive individual assistance from Mort as they experienced this new way to approach painting. Here is what some participants had to say:



"Excellent workshop - different but positive experience - much to 'take away' to consider to 'recover' lost paintings." ... *Sandra Booker*

"I truly enjoyed learning, not just about new techniques, but about his thought process of approaching a painting...very informative." ... *Anonymous*

"Great instruction from an artist that willingly shares and gives suggestions - not lectures. I really enjoyed the three days and I'm walking away with a wealth of information and new ideas." ... *Louise Hansen*

"Great workshop if you really want to loosen up your painting. Very creative, imaginative method." ... *Claudia LeJeune*

"Mort can see so many possibilities in a painting that your average artist doesn't see." ... *Suzanne Lamotte*

"Fantastic workshop! Think out of the box. Teaches you to lay down loose abstract and spontaneous backgrounds then develop your center of interest that fits in the background." ... *Suzanne Antoon*

"Thoroughly enjoyed M. Solberg's workshop. Gave us a lot of information and explained so much in detail. Enjoyed the company of the other artists in the workshop. Everyone was so giving. Betty, you did a great job and made me feel welcome. Hope to do this again." ... *Claire N. Pescay*

## **Keith Andry - Strong Design and Bold Strokes in Watercolor**

The wonderful, clear, colorful watercolors of Keith Andry, drew 20 artists from Baton Rouge, Beaumont, TX and Norco, LA to the Studio in the Park for a two-day workshop on January 15 and 16, 2015. Keith shared his personal artist story as he discussed the importance of value studies, mixing your colors - no straight tube colors.; and the practice of comparing your reference photo and your painting upside down. When judging, he likes to look at paintings upside down; says it brings out the design/shapes within the painting.

Participants began by painting a value study using only four values .white, light, medium and dark. He then uses that value "roadmap" as a reference for the painting. Each participant worked from their own favorite photo and created their value study and painting with individual guidance from Keith. He also challenged participants to use only three colors in their painting; creating a variety of other hues by mixing various combinations of those three colors.

Here is what some of the participants had to say about their experience in the workshop:

"I so enjoyed his delightful demeanor - easy approachability; his expertise was so impressive, not to mention his personal artistic history! He know his stuff and conveyed to me the information I most needed in a way I understood! So worthwhile. He entertained us as well with slide shows at lunch—a 2 for 1! I will attend as many of his as I can." ... *Elizabeth Phelan*

"Keith is a wonderful instructor. He was knowledgeable and willing to help each student. A wonderful way to spend two days, doing what you love." ... *Artie Autin*

"Keith is an excellent teacher and artist. He is friendly and approachable. He made time to help all students even though we were a large group. You should have him back for a 3-4 day workshop." ... *Anonymous*



## **Upcoming Workshops**

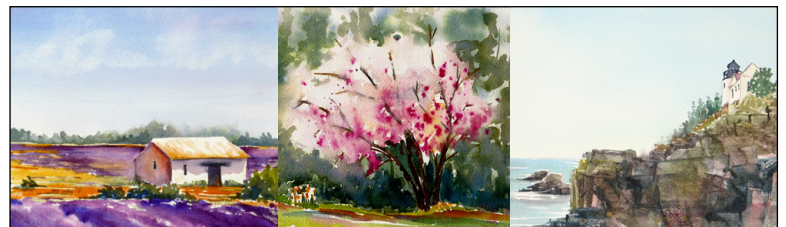
### **Robert Loflin - Watercolor Landscapes**

Saturdays, February 28 - March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to Noon

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

To register, contact Roberta Loflin at [rloflin@gmail.com](mailto:rloflin@gmail.com) or 225-803-6785

In this workshop, Roberta will assist participants in composing a painting from a photograph of their choice. She will cover painting each individual element of a landscape: sky, water, trees, etc. Participants will also work on how to select and combine various elements from multiple photographs to develop a pleasing composition for a single painting.





## **Elayne Kuehler - Portraits of Trees in Oils**

February 20-22, Friday - Sunday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Fee: \$200 LAAG members / \$250 nonmembers

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

Participants will consider the tree in several different weather scenarios and also learn the many different side views of a tree and how to depict them. Elayne will demo and lecture in the mornings and participants will paint in the afternoons, working from photos they bring. Participants should go out and search for and photograph individual trees in different settings before the workshop begins. Participants may choose whether the last day of the workshop will include a demonstration or be an all-day paint day.



Acrylic painters are welcome in this oil painting workshop. However, participants using acrylics must have an established foundation in acrylic painting and an understanding of how to translate the oil painting demonstrations/instructions into acrylic techniques.

## **MONTHLY DRAWING CLASS**

### **Steve Shamburger - Drawing the Head**

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, & 30 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fee: \$150 members and nonmembers alike

To register, contact Steve Shamburger at [steve@steveshamburger.com](mailto:steve@steveshamburger.com) or 225-226-8990



## **LAST CHANCE for EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

### **William (Bill) Crowell - Painting with Acrylics: Exploring the Advantages**

March 13-15, Friday - Sunday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Early Bird (until February 12): \$200 LAAG members

\$250 nonmembers

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

To register contact Trish Poynot at [grannytrishp@yahoo.com](mailto:grannytrishp@yahoo.com) or 225-756-6635

More info on the LAAG website at [laag-site.org/workshops/Crowell](http://laag-site.org/workshops/Crowell)

Acrylic artist, William Crowell (Bill), is passionate about the spirit, culture and uniqueness of life in Louisiana. As an artist who specializes in Louisiana subjects, Bill expresses this love and it is reflected in his art work. He is a member of the Society for Arts in Health Care and the Arts Council of New Orleans. He has won numerous awards in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Illinois. His artwork is in several public and private collections, including a series of paintings for Chevron Northpark depicting the Louisiana offshore oil industry. Bill's painting, *Vision after the Sermon*, 2007, has recently been added to the collection of the New Orleans Museum of Art, and last month, his painting, *Ellis* (of Ellis Marsalis, Jr.), was one of the paintings selected for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Center Art Collection!



In this workshop, Bill will demonstrate fundamental painting techniques that will take advantage of the unique properties of acrylic paint, and will also discuss good design principles. After Bill's demonstrations, participants will then apply these ideas and methods in their own work, with individual guidance and assistance from him. Participants of this workshop should have some prior knowledge and experience in the basics of acrylic painting techniques and color mixing.

## Member News

Calvin Balencie shared the following:

"Last week I got a call about one of my paintings that this couple saw on the LAAG website, liked it ... and I sold it! They were from Philadelphia. So, you see someone is always looking at our site. Easy sale. Other than that, have a good weekend!"

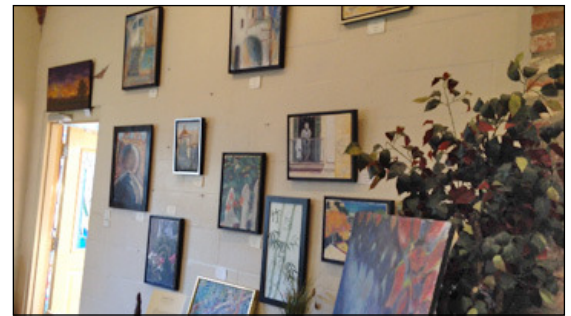
Caroline Derbes stated that in late December, The Advocate had an article about her son, Clark Derbes, and his wife, Wylie Sofia Garcia, as two of the five new artists juried into Baton Rouge Gallery.

Roberta Loflin held a one woman show, displaying several class demonstration pieces she did for students in 2014, at the Jones Creek Library in December, 2014. The paintings focused mostly on landscapes and trees.

There was an exhibit at the Archives, through January 30, featuring the following LAAG artists: Debbie Denstorff, Betty Efferson, Cheri Fry, Louise Hansen, Elayne Kuehler, Joette LeBlanc and Kathy Miller Stone. Way to go ladies, Congratulations!

Joyce Hensley says, "I have two watercolors and five prints on view this month at the Greenwell Springs Library, along with some beautiful quilts from the group I work with at the BREC senior center at the Webb Golf Course. We meet on Mondays and Thursdays, some of us sew, some paint, etc."

LAAG members Alex Favre-Smith, Sue Wang and Jim Packard have joined forces and garnered a group art exhibit at the Beauregard Bistro and Gallery. The Journeys in Art show included a number of works from each artist and in various media such as oils, pen & ink and acrylic. The art show is on exhibit from January 17 through the end of February. The Beauregard Bistro and Gallery is located at 715 Europe Street (two blocks behind the McDonald's on Government Street, near downtown). It is a great place to stop in for lunch and take in some wonderful art. Open for lunch from 11:00 - 2:00 Monday thru Friday.



## Artful Thinking

"The art of painting will survive and thrive because it is easy to do and difficult to do well. In my opinion, reports on the death of painting have been greatly exaggerated." ... *Robert Genn*, 2012



Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild  
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**February 2015**

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.