

# NEWS from the PALETTE



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## Leah Schwartzman - Interviewed by Jeanette Eckert

As LAAG begins the New Year with the promise of a new name and a new logo, we also welcome a new President, Leah Schwartzman. We look forward to her ideas on promoting our group and our efforts to increase art awareness in our community. Through this interview, we will try to get to know her as an artist.

Leah believes she was “born” with an interest in art – painting/drawing/coloring, crafting and being creative in general. In elementary school in Kinder LA, she would spend hours coloring and drawing and never missed the television art shows on weekends. She received her first paint-by-number at age 10 and it hangs in her dining room today. As an adult, she always has been making, painting or drawing something for family and friends.



Leah says she is mostly a self-taught artist. There were no art classes in the schools where she lived. She learned mostly from art books, magazines, television and trial and error. After retiring from state government, she was very excited about the prospect of spending time painting. After joining LAAG she began taking some of their workshops and a few other classes with artists that she met through her association with the organization. Today she feels like she is in her element and living her dream. She has learned so much and plans to continue to learn.

Leah would love to paint daily; however, other priorities always get in the way at home. She manages to set aside every Tuesday to paint at LAAG Open Studio — it takes away those “priorities”/distractions she experiences at home. She plans her schedule around Tuesday’s open studios as much as possible.

Relative to painter’s block, Leah says, “Indeed I do....I have an awful time with painter’s block and try to learn from other artists...how they deal with it and resolve it.” She remembers something she read in an art magazine that has stayed with her: Instead of looking at the blocks as a negative time, look at them and use them as an opportunity to grow ... to experiment ... to try new techniques or materials; that can be quite inspiring!

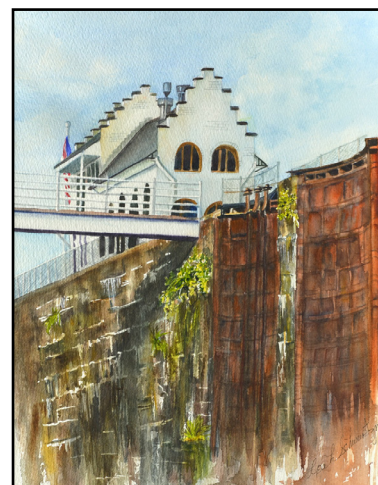
When asked what she hopes others see or “get” in her art, Leah responded, she hopes that when people look at her art, they can smile, have a feeling of warmth, enjoyment and relaxation. She hopes that they see something of beauty that perhaps evokes a fond memory, or inspires them to create something of their own and, for just a little while, that they would forget the anxiety/sadness/anger they might be feeling from the bombardment of negative news and events that we all face in life.

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## Leah Schwartzman Interview Continued

Leah has dabbled in all mediums of art including graphite and pastels, but until about eight years ago she primarily used acrylics. She tried oils and found them to be messy and smelly and didn't have the space to have several paintings sitting around to dry. She always liked the look of watercolor but was petrified because she had always heard/read how difficult the medium was. Then she went to a \$5, three hour introduction to watercolor event and the rest is history. Leah loves the lights in watercolor, the ease of it, and the challenges it presents. She finds that watercolor has a life of its own, but as an artist, she gets to guide it — each painting is like raising a child in that respect. She still uses other mediums on occasion, but watercolor is her love.



The beauty Leah sees everywhere is reflective on the subject matter she chooses to paint. She indicates that all her life, she has looked at the smallest or simplest things and seen them in her mind as a painting. She looks at everyday things and wonders: "...now how would I capture that in a painting"? When a fellow artist and friend once said, "she doesn't choose her subjects – they choose her". Leah said: "That's it! That describes it perfectly...I want to paint everything, every sunset/sunrise, all mother nature's offerings, etc., but only some of those things touch me, speak to me and they say, 'choose me, choose me.'"

If Leah were to advise beginning artists, she'd say take as many workshops as you can from multiple artists who specialize in specific subjects, like glass, shiny things or landscapes...they will each have a different approach. Don't take everything one instructor teaches as "set in concrete"; another artist will have an alternative view—take what works for you and leave the rest. Can't afford workshops? Read art instruction books/magazines and practice, practice, practice what you read."

Leah is most proud of being accepted in her first national art exhibit, the 2015 River Road Show. "To be accepted in a national show is a huge step from where I came from. And now to be trusted as President of this organization is quite an honor and milestone accomplishment for me. I will do my best to fill the shoes of my predecessors and commit to doing the very best I can for the good of the organization."

## Membership Dues Reminder

Membership in the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild runs by calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Dues for one calendar year membership is \$35.00, due at the first of year. So if you have not renewed your membership, or if you know someone who might be interested in joining our organization, please share this with them. NOW is the time to pay your dues to make the most of your member benefits!

There are three convenient ways to join/renew and pay your dues:

- 1) You can go to the website at [laag-site.org](http://laag-site.org), click Join, and then pay online.
- 2) From the website, you can print the form and mail it with a check to PO Box 41115, Baton Rouge, LA 70835.
- 3) You can stop by the Studio in the Park during any Open Studio time : Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10:00 am - 4:00pm and Sunday's from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

**WE'D LOVE FOR YOU STOP BY THE STUDIO, HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE AND VISIT WITH THE ARTISTS!**



## Christmas Party

LAAG members are known for having a good party, and we certainly all had a great time at the annual Christmas Party held back on December 11 at the Studio in the Park! Great camaraderie was shared by members and their guests. Great fun, fellowship, and—and, oh my goodness—the refreshments were exceptionally good! This year, instead of having our White Elephant Gift Exchange, attendees brought art supply gifts to benefit members who suffered flood damage. A new game was introduced that kept both artists and non-artists guessing about the outcome. It was a fun game that involved drawing “outside-the-box” and was a completely different experience from previous years!



## NOTICE: To Victims of August 2016 Flood

LAAG has, at the Studio in the Park, a large variety of art supplies, including various tablets, watercolor paper and supplies, pastels and pastel papers, various mediums, frames and stretcher strips, easels ... and ... much, much more. These items were all donated by those fortunate folks who escaped the flood—just for you! So don't be too proud or too bashful to come and avail yourselves of these gifts!

## Members Meeting

\*\*\*\*\* COME ONE, COME ALL! LAAG MEMBERS MEETING \*\*\*\*\*  
Sunday, March 5, 2017 @ 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Join your fellow members to enjoy the opportunity to socialize and brainstorm, partake of refreshments and get informed about current and future Guild plans. Be surprised by an unexpected fun game and win a prize! We hope to see everyone there!

## Members News

Congratulations to **Pat Wattam** who completed three commissioned paintings in time for Christmas – what a task that was! One went to Florida, one to Alabama, and one here in Baton Rouge. Here are two of the paintings, both 16 x 20.

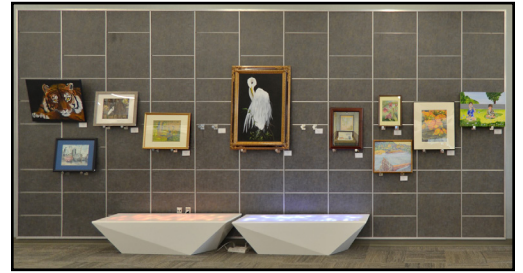
**Vince Wilson** was surprised when he received notification that his acrylic painting *Rocky Mountain Pika* ended up as a Finalist in the 2016 The Artist's Magazine Annual Competition. His painting and information is published in the January 2017 Southwest Art! Congrats Vince!

**Calvin Balancie** and **Claudia LeJeune** have a two person exhibit at the Ochsner Medical Center on O'Neal Lane. If you are in the area stop in and check out the artwork from now until the end of March.



### Goodwood Library Exhibit

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild exhibit team gathered early on December 2 to hang the exhibit at the Main Library on Goodwood Blvd. What a great show! Thirteen artist members, including members from Mississippi, exhibited 48 beautiful works of art on the main wall of the first floor lobby, and two walls on the second floor. A variety of mediums were represented, including oils, watercolor, acrylic and mixed media. The exhibit was open to the public for viewing during regular library hours throughout the month of December. Congratulations to JoAnn Smith who sold a painting during the exhibit!



### Winter Member Show

Currently on display at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery six members of Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild have an exhibit of 14 paintings. The exhibit will be open to the public with free admission until March 2. A Reception was held on January 29. Make time to stop by and view the art!

### Spring Judged Show

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is seeking entries for the Spring Judged Show from March 2 - May 11 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. The LAAG 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. This is a non-juried exhibit.

All entries must be delivered to the Independence Park Theatre Gallery on March 2, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. All artwork must meet the LAAG hanging requirements. All entrants should review the LAAG "installation/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.

The exhibit will end May 11 and all art must be picked up on May 12 between 11:00 and 1:00 pm; a \$25 storage fee will be charged to artists who do not pickup their artwork during the specified time.

Be sure to join us at the artists' Awards Reception at Independence Park Theatre on March 26 from 2:00-4:00 pm when LAAG will present a total of \$500 in cash awards to the winners. There will be snacks and refreshments. So, save the date and invite your family and friends! Support YOUR organization!

### CALL FOR ART: Theatre Baton Rouge

This is a call to all Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild members. Get your paintings ready for an exhibit at the Theatre Baton Rouge, located at 7155 Florida Blvd. The exhibit will hang during the month of March. This will not be a themed exhibit; however, for those of you who are interested, the play which will be showing is "The Drowsey Chaperone" on March 10 – 26. Artists who are interested in exhibiting will bring their paintings to the Theatre Baton Rouge.

INTERESTED ARTISTS SHOULD MONITOR UPCOMING EMAIL BLASTS FOR DETAILS OF TIME/DATE TO DELIVER PAINTINGS.

## Recent Workshop

### Cheri Fry - Watercolor-Backlit Figure, Foliage, and Fur

The Studio in the Park was a full-house comprised of artists from Baton Rouge and the surrounding area, Gonzales, Port Allen, Zachary and even a couple of participants who drove over from Vicksburg, MS for the three day workshop. Cheri Fry conducted an exciting and fast paced workshop, titled "Backlit Figure, Foliage and Fur". Watercolor artists in this workshop painted on 2 pieces of art – a person walking in a wooded area and donkey in a wooded area—both beautifully backlit by the sunlight creating drama and energy. Cheri's workshops are always very interactive with Cheri leading with demonstrations; followed by participants working on their own paintings as Cheri walks about the class providing individual guidance. Cheri's workshops are always fun and filled with inspiration, and learning experiences—as was this one!

A few comments about the workshop from participants follow:

"Excellent learning opportunity! Cheri is a spectacular painter and motivated all participants to try new techniques. I enjoyed the experience and look forward to her next workshop." ... *Barbara, B.R., LA*

"Very dynamic presenter, extremely detailed demos, very helpful to participants. I learned a lot of new tricks for watercolor, which also applies to me, mainly an acrylics (used as watercolor) painter." ... *Elka, Vicksburg, MS*

"Great workshop; learned a plethora of new techniques. The individual attention to the participants was unparalleled!" ... *Milam, B.R., LA*



## Upcoming Workshops

### Roberta Loflin – "Eat Your Vegetables" – watermedia

Saturdays, March 11 - April 1 from 9:30am to 12:00pm

Early Bird registration until February 24 - \$80 LAAG members / \$100 nonmembers

Regular Fee - \$100 LAAG members / \$120 nonmembers

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

This workshop is open to participants age 14 and up. Artists will work from "live" still life models creating interesting combinations of shapes and colors present in the everyday items found in the supermarket produce section.

### Monika Pate – "Exploring Realistic Textures in Watercolors – Still Life with Flowers"

April 26-27, Thursday to Saturday from 9:00am – 4:00pm

Early Bird registration until March 26 - \$325 LAAG members / \$375 nonmembers

Regular Fee - \$375 LAAG members / \$425 nonmembers

To register contact Betty Klenke at [bjklenke@gmail.com](mailto:bjklenke@gmail.com) or 225-907-4902.

Monika Pate was born and raised in Warsaw, Poland and has a Master's Degree from Warsaw University. Monika works with transparent watercolor and is a signature member of the American Watercolor





Society, National Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Watercolor Art Society - Houston (Elite Member), Texas Watercolor Society (Purple Sage Status), Louisiana Watercolor Society, Missouri Watercolor Society and Iowa Watercolor Society. She is also a juried member of the International Guild of Realism. Her artwork is included in private and corporate collections in the US, Poland and Germany.

Don't miss taking a peek at Monika's dramatic use of lights/darks on a variety of subjects from florals to people to rusty door knobs.



### **Kim Santini – “Getting Fresh with Color and Brushwork “ – acrylics**

May 17-20, Wednesday to Saturday from 9:00am - 4:00pm

Early Bird registration until March 17 - \$275 LAAG members / \$325 nonmembers

Regular Fee - \$325 LAAG members / \$375 nonmembers

To register contact Betty Klenke at [bjklenke@gmail.com](mailto:bjklenke@gmail.com) or 225-907-4902.



If you've ever taken one of Kim's workshops you know the value and the fun of this workshop. If you've never taken one of Kim's workshops you've no idea what you have been missing. Kim has done several workshops with Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild; she always packs the house and she is back by popular demand this May 2017. With her bubbly personality, easy and friendly way of imparting the expertise of acrylic painting using color and compositional interest, you can be sure you won't be disappointed in this workshop. Kim has a degree in art and art history and has an extensive professional artist background. In 2015 she was selected as the artist for the official Kentucky Derby poster. But most importantly is the wealth of artistic knowledge which Kim is more than willing to share in a most friendly, and nurturing workshop setting. Come spend a few days painting with Kim and other workshop participants ... and learn how to create "paintings with a soul"!



Supply lists, workshop details and a link to instructors' websites are available in the Workshops section of the LAAG website at [laag-site.org/workshops](http://laag-site.org/workshops). You should also monitor the website for the latest updates in scheduling changes for workshops you are interested in.