

Don Rast - Interviewed by Trish Poynot

My visit with Don Rast at his home was possibly the most interesting hour-plus that I've ever spent! Don is "versatile," "rather eccentric" and "hyper" to the max, by his own admission, always planning future projects, and probably never having less than a dozen irons-in-the-fire at one time. To Don, life is simply not a spectatorsport, and he jumps right in and does whatever he feels led to do. This has resulted in several varied careers, some of which are: art, writing, 18-wheeler truck driving, roofing, and a six-year military career, where he always sketched, painted and wrote prolifically. During his time in the military, Don painted military posters, wrote regulations for the Army, as well as many other duties, and began entering art contests



and doing exhibits. He still has a sketchbook of his drawings and watercolors from 1969-70 in Vietnam. In 1972, Don won an art contest and was chosen to exhibit at the National Gallery, and then in the Pentagon in Washington DC.

Don doesn't remember a time when he wasn't creating art. He is basically self-taught, although through his V.A. Benefits, his tuition was paid to study under Larry Casso at Baton Rouge Academy of Fine Art in recent years. Whatever else Don



does, he paints and writes *every day* for at least a couple hours, either under his carport or in his study/studio. He *never* gets writer's block, having "shopping lists" of projects and topics lined up to do, and always working on several paintings at any one time. He paints because he *loves* it, *not* to make money; he advises aspiring artists not to paint to get rich, but rather, because they're doing what they love to do! Don must have sold or given away upwards from 2-3,000 paintings, and has an estimated 1,000-plus presently in his home, which has the feel of an art gallery/warehouse. He is presently getting ready for more than one art show, and currently has work hanging at several venues: The Baton Rouge Gallery, the Mayor's Office, Old Hammond Library-to name a few.

Besides his passion for art, Don is the author of three books (<u>Don's Nam</u>, <u>Ghosts in the Wire</u> and <u>Bayou Samurai</u>) currently available for viewing on Amazon.com and other major book sites. His fourth book is in the works. He is also an extremely productive gardener, having tilled and planted a large portion of his back yard, and also having a multitude of vegetables growing in large containers; also a pear tree, a lemon tree, and a luscious Concord grape vine. It seems Don's thumbs are very "green," and that's not just from green paint!

Don also shared that he has an abiding interest in Asian cultures from his military and Bureau of Customs years. He has a house and land in the Philippines where he has a goat farm, the goats producing milk that is then sold to the locals. His time in the Orient has influenced much of his painting. The styles of Pablo Picasso, Paul Gauguin and Vincent van Gogh have also been very influential in Don's painting style, which he terms as "abstract expressionism." His initial style back in the sixties was realism.



When I asked Don what was his worst painting nightmare, he answered that his worst nightmare is PTSD acquired during his military service. It requires him to get a once-a-month "happy shot," which helps to keep him on track and on an even keel. He says that he is most proud of the fact that he is 70 years old and still has his passion to paint and write and just be creative. He is also proud and happy to have witnessed children actually *dancing* in front of his artwork! Perhaps this is what Don hopes others "get" from his art: *that it makes them happy enough to dance!*





Message from the President

I loved those few cool days sprinkled into May. I'm getting ready for the sizzling summer, and I love walking barefoot in summer dew.

We've had a fun time hanging exhibits all over the place. Our recent exhibits went up at Fairwood Library, the Mayor's Office, Theatre Baton Rouge, the Member's Workshop Show at Independence Park Theatre, Ochsner Hospital, and Salon Fashion. So much fun seeing you all and your paintings! We really acknowledge the recent volunteers.

Anne Marie Davis' recent mosaics workshop succeeded in completing several beautiful projects. Alan Flattmann's pastel workshop was quite inspiring. And, Carrie Waller's workshop just finished. Participants in our recent workshops included a member from Beaumont, and 3 new student members and their instructor from Montgomery, Alabama. Michele Deshotels noted that your Art Guild is a regional organization with national participation. We're seeing that again and again.

Roberta Loflin's pleine aire workshop has been a great motivation to be out and about, painting around the city. At the LSU Lakes, we had to make choices about whether ducks, geese, or a paddleboarder might appear in a landscape! And, the little park and fountain at Perkins Rowe was so lovely on Friday morning!

I've not been painting every day recently, but I've added some NEW places. Time to recommit! Work as a TEAM, and care! Sincerely, **Barbara Andrepont** bandrepont@bellsouth.net cell: 225-773-8020

Barbara Wooley



The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild sends sympathies to the family of Barabara Wooley who died in February. Barabara was known as "Bhi" Wooley in the art community. Her works are displayed at the Lafayette Art Association, Crowley Art Association, Rayne Museum, and Zigler Museum in Jennings. Bhi Wooley was a Louisiana Arts & Artists' Guild member for several years, and a former president of the Lafayette Art Association (1986). She had retired from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in 2010, with 30 years of service as a comptroller.

Animals in Art

At the conclusion of the LSU Veterinary School's 27th Annual International Exhibition, Ralph Marino was given a ribbon for People's Choice Award for one of his fish from his entries of 6 different fish. The fish which are about 14" long and sit about 10" high on their stands, are carved from old fence boards. We're pulling for you to sell some fish, Ralph! At this same exhibition, Claudia LeJeune received a Judges' Award for her painting *Anatole Anole*, which was



sold. Judi Betts received an Honorable Mention for her painting *Day Care*. We're proud of the showing that our Guild members made at this exhibition! View the exhibit online at svmartshow.weebly.com/ gallery.html.





Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild

NEWS from the PALETTE

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Baton Rouge Art League Exhibition at LSU Rural Life Center

The Baton Rouge Art League's 59th Annual Exhibition was held on April 12 and produced 14 sales. Over a third of the 157 artists invited to participate are LAAG members. The following lists Guild members who had entries at the LSU Rural Life Center: Janet Anderson, Elaine Atkinson, Kay Bailey, Judi Betts AWS, Ginnie Bolin, Jo Busse, Emily Callender-Efferson, Dorothy Campbell, Nanci Charpentier, Jo Ellen Crankshaw, Debbie Denstorff, Larry Downs, Denice Cyrex Ducote, Frances Durham, Betty Efferson, Donna Efferson, Marilyn Ehr, Sarah Fergus, Jane Flowers, Cheri Fry, Louise Hansen, Jan Hebert, Mary Heckman, Beverly Heil, Joyce Hensley, Greg Kiger, Betty Klenke, Charleen Kling, Sue Knight, Elayne Kuehler, Joe Lackie, Suzanne Lamotte, Carolyn Lantz, Montez LeGrande, Claudia LeJeune, Sue Ellen Lithgoe, Roberta Loflin, Katie McGarry, Jo McWilliams, Dana Mosby, Phyllis Nola, Zora Olsson, Brenda Parisi, Jacqueline Pourciau, Sandra Roccaforte, Patricia Ryan, Leah Schwartzman, Nancy Smitherman, Kathy Miller Stone NWS, Susan Thibodeaux, Sue Wang and Pat Wattam. What an impressive list-Congrats to ALL!!

Members Meeting - Members Making A Difference

Come and join some Summer Fun and mingling at our Members Meeting on Sunday, June 22 from 2 until 4pm. We will be celebrating Members Making a Difference! This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other artists, share ideas and Make a Difference at LAAG! We invite you to come share your thoughts and hear what's going on at the Guild from our delightful President, Barbara Andrepont! **Kathy Stone** will be doing a watercolor **demonstration** and there will be discussion about what the Guild is doing great now and what can we do better? So bring your great ideas and share with your friends and fellow artists! Of course there will be abundant refreshments and some really neat door prizes too!

Open Studio

All members of LAAG are invited to take advantage of the free Open Studio painting times at the Studio in the Park during the following times:

Tuesdays	11:00 am - 3:00 pm for watermedia or other non-oil medium
Wednesdays	10:00 am - 4:00 pm all mediums
Sundays	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm all mediums

Note: When the Studio in the Park is not available for Open Studio due to workshop schedules it will be posted on the LAAG website (laag-site.org) and emails will be sent to the membership.

FYI: Guild member, Caroline Derbes took advantage of LAAG's Open Studio availability. She and her two granddaughters, Charlotte and Kristen, recently came in for several hours of painting fun.

44th Annual National RIVER ROAD SHOW

Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is proud to sponsor our annual River Road Show. This national juried exhibition draws entries from all over the United States. Last year, the exhibit received entries from 131 artists, 31 of whom were from outside the state of LA. We are delighted to have award-winning artist and instructor Morten Solberg as the River Road Show judge/juror. Mort is a master artist, versatile in many mediums. The Guild is fortunate to have the LA State Archives as the host for the River Road Show once again. The Show, which is free and open to the public, will be on display at the Archives from December 3, 2014-December 29, 2014. Reception with Awards Presentation will be at the Archives on December 12, 2014. Go to www.laagsite.org/River-Road-Show-prospectus for complete information regarding dates, fees, awards and submissions for this year's show. LAAG members will be receiving a prospectus in the mail soon. The deadline for entry is September 1, 2014. As an added perk-current Guild members may submit a fourth work for the usual price of three!

Independence Park Theatre

Spring Judged Show

Kathy Miller Stone, NWS judged this exhibit at the Independence Park Theatre from March 6 - May 8. Kathy's selections were presented at the Reception and Awards Presentation on April 6. Congratulations to the winners of the Spring Judged Show!

First Place: Larry Downs, *State of Mind* Second Place: Gail Knecht, *Contemplation* Third Place: Betty Efferson, *Enfrente Arte Spain* Honorable Mention Patricia Ryan, *Pretty in Pink* Claudia LeJeune, *Venice Sunrise* Cheri Fry, *Legs*







Workshop Show

This members exhibit was hung at the Theatre on May 8 and will be on display for public viewing until July 10. Please be sure to stop by during normal business hours to view the 34 wonderful works of art by 18 talented artists. An artist's reception for this exhibit will be held on June 8 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Independence Park Theatre. We invite you to join us for snacks and refreshments, to view some wonderful art exhibited by your fellow members and to vote for the best painting for the People's Choice Award.



All members who have artwork in this exhibit must pick up their paintings on July 10, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm.

Summer Judged Show

Artists who want to enter artwork in the **Summer Judged Show** should bring their paintings to the Independence Park Theatre on Thursday, July 10 between the 10:30 am and 2:00 pm. Please review the hanging requirements; available on the LAAG website at laag-site.org/exhibits. 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. The exhibit will be on display until Thursday, September 4, when artists must come to pick up their paintings between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm.

Exhibits



Mayor's Office

The current exhibit is hanging from April 25 to July 25. Eleven paintings are on display by the following artists: Kay Bailey, Denice Ducote, Mary Heckman, Beth McLain, Arnell McMillin, Marilyn Price, Don Rast and Laure Williamson. Take-in for the next exhibit is in July. Paintings must be a minimum of 22" x 28". The next exhibit will hang until October 24.

loads of visitors. The artists provided a short personal statement about each painting that is exhibited. The exhibit will be on display from June 1 until June 30. Be sure to stop by the Library to see the Make a Statement



Fairwood Library

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild hosted an exhibit at the Fairwood Library located at 12910 Old Hammond Hwy, Baton Rouge, throughout the month of May. Participating artists including Calvin Balencie, Mary Heckman, Roberta Loflin, Don Rast and Wilma Roy exhibited seven paintings.

Theatre Baton Rouge

(previously Baton Rouge Little Theatre)

Theatre Baton Rouge invited Guild members to have an art show during the presentation of "You Can't Take It With You". There were 25 works of art of various mediums on display by 13 members of the Guild from April 30 through May 21.

Salon Fashion

The current exhibit hangs until July 16. Take-in for the next exhibit is July 1 - 15. The next exhibit will hang until September 17.

Serop's Restaurants

Highland Road location - Pat Elam

Jefferson Hwy location - Zentangle group exhibit

You must stop by Serop's Express on Jefferson Hwy during the months of June and July to see what your fellow artists have been up to. It's a Zentangle exhibit to show Zentangle related art. These Zentangle artists have been relaxing yet increasing their focus and expanding their creativity. Come see the beautiful images created by drawing structured patterns.

Both exhibits are available for viewing until the end of July.

Members interested in exhibiting their artwork at one of the Serops locations should contact Roberta Loflin at 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 The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is sponsoring the

Recent Workshops <u>Anne Marie Davis - Breaking into Mosaics</u>



Anne Marie Davis' workshop, "Breaking into Mosaics" held in March and April was very successful, and the participants were quite prolific, almost everyone produced 5-6 mosaic pieces. Those who took this workshop evaluated Anne Marie with very high marks, and accolades included: "perfect for us beginners...,"calling Anne Marie "a wonderful instructor, very knowledgeable, prepared and patient...," and "...looking forward to showing off my projects and continuing to do mosaics on my own or in future workshop/open studio sessions.... This class was a <u>hit</u>! Thanks LAAG and thanks Anne Marie...," and "I don't think Anne Marie charged enough for all we got...." (and the suggestion:) "maybe Advanced Mosaics – e.g. curved surface project." Anne Marie is quite competent to teach advanced mosaics projects and looks forward to teaching more workshops here at the Studio in the Park for the Guild.

<u> Alan Flattmann - Landscapes, Cityscapes and Portraits in Pastels</u>



At the end of April/beginning of May, Alan Flattmann taught the workshop "Landscapes, Cityscapes and Portraits in Pastels." Thirteen participants, some from as far away as Monroe LA and Beaumont TX, thoroughly enjoyed and were challenged by Alan as they created their own pastel paintings from photographs they had chosen and from a live model. Alan is an

excellent pastel painter and instructor; he demonstrated various techniques and explained the steps taken in the process of creating pastel paintings. He

is a veritable wealth of knowledge and very effective in sharing it. Alan gave individual critiques, great instruction and encouragement to each participant. And there was a real camaraderie established among participants which only added to the value of the workshop.

Roberta Loflin - Paint the Town Red

After a long cold winter, Spring has decided to put on quite a show, and so far Nature's display has been spectacular! And the weather has been perfect for Roberta Loflin's "Paint the Town Red" "en plein air" painting (painting outside) classes. For the past four Fridays from 9:00-noon, a group of artists have gathered at various locations around Baton Rouge for a morning of "en plain air" painting-taking what they see around them and turning it into a watercolor composition. They use view finders to help settle on what to paint and what to ignore. The first painting location was in Cedarcrest Park on Silverest, followed by Wampold Park on Stanford, the Grand Park at Perkins Rowe and finally at the BREC Park on Highland Road.



Carrie Waller - The Art of Painting Glass in Watercolor

This workshop proved to be a fun and challenging three days. The workshop actually began weeks before Carrie arrived, because, all the participants received photos of the paintings they would be working on and the participants had to complete the two drawings before the workshop so that all of the class time could be dedicated to the "art of painting". Attendees included artists from Baton Rouge and the surrounding area and from as far as Picayune, MS and Montgomery, AL.





It was delightful to have three college students and one of their instructors from Huntington College in Montgomery AL join us for this very intense but fun workshop. The fact that we continue to draw participants from surrounding states speaks to the high quality of workshops/instructors that the Guild has been able to bring to our members and to Baton Rouge.

Here is what several of the participants in the recent Carrie Waller watercolor workshop had to say:

I like having the drawings completed prior to the class starting. Brenda Legendre did an exceptional job of coordinating, following

up on details and managing a smooth operation. ... Sandra Booker, Picayune, MS

Carrie is a wonderful teacher, patient and willing to share her insights for painting and composition. She is delightful and easy to talk with about the projects she has presented. ... *Cheri Fry, Denham Springs*

"This was a great group of people and Carrie was so patient and good natured and encouraging of everyone. She is so good at understanding each individuals "place" in their art career and respond well to different approaches to art making. Her personal touch and technical expertise are a great combination. I brought 3 college student with em and learned so much about art making and what it takes to have a professional attitude in art learning and making. This was a great blend of casual and serious. ... *Tara Sartorius, Montgomery, AL*

Upcoming Workshops

Roberta Loflin Classes

Local artist/instructor and LAAG member, Roberta Loflin, offers a variety of fun and informative classes at the Studio in the Park on a regular basis. They cover a wide array of subject matter, techniques and water media, including acrylics. In Roberta's classes you will find artists of all levels from beginner to intermediate and advanced; some classes are even offered to young artists age 14 and up. To register for any of Roberta's classes you should contact her directly at rloflin@gmail.com or 225-803-6785. Also visit her website www.robertaloflin.com to checkout her artwork and find a variety of interesting art information.

Watercolor Landscapes - Focus on Trees Saturdays, June 7 - July 19, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon (no class on July 5th) Registration Fee: \$100 members / \$125 nonmembers This class is open to ages 14 and up

Watercolor 911 June 9, Monday, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, and again on August 21, Thursday, 6:30 pm - 9:00pm Fee: \$50 members / \$60 nonmembers Limited to 5 participants

Roberta will present two classes which will provide you with an opportunity to tap into her 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.

Finding Gems in the Ruins - Note cards

July 29, Tuesday, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm Registration Fee: \$35 members / \$40 nonmembers Take your less than loveable artworks and transform them into wonderful custom note cards that will be cherished by your friends and family.

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.

Betty Gravois - Bubble Wrap and Watercolors

June 25-26, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon Registration Fee: \$50 members / \$60 nonmembers To register, contact Betty Gravois at elizabethgravois@gmail.com or 225-257-4958.

Kathy Redmond - Zing to Your Zen - Tangle

July 10, Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Registration Fee: \$105 members / \$125 nonmembers To register contact Betty Klenke at bjklenke@gmail.com or 225-371-3405.

Back by popular demand ... this is a one day workshop ... zentangle, zentangle, zentangle, oh what fun and who knew?? The practice of Zentangle has been touted to be beneficial for everything from relaxation, insomnia, self-esteem, eye-hand coordination, anger management, fine motor skill development/rehabilitation, and stretching/warm-up for artists, just to name a few. What is Zentangle? In the very basic sense, it is a structured, deliberate and focused form of "doodling" to create beautiful patterns. Although it is an art form in its own right, it is also used as an inspiration for traditional art. Kathy Redmond is a Certified Zentangle Instructor. Come join Kathy for a day of fun, relaxation and creation of art. The best part is ... anyone can do it ... even people who thought they were not artistic at all are enjoying the practice of Zentangle!!!

Frank Francese - Legendary Landscapes - Watercolor

September 23-25, Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Early Bird (until August 11): \$250 members / \$300 nonmembers Regular: \$300 members / \$350 nonmembers To register, contact Betty Klenke at bjklenke@gmail.com or 225-755-2449.

Arizona born, Frank Francese, has resided in Colorado for most of his life. He has been a professional artist since 1976. Watercolors came to the forefront of Francese's artistic work in 1983. Frank enjoys working on a very wet surface, letting the pure color mix itself on the paper; resulting in his distinctive "liquid style." His large, loose shapes and abrupt color changes, often disregarding fine detail, bring his paintings of Mother Nature to glowing life. Frank's "joie de vivre" is evident in his paintings of his beloved Colorado, as well as his colorful and lively city scenes inspired by his travels around the world. Be sure to visit Frank's website for a peek into his fascinating career and paintings. Frank has been presenting national and international workshops since 1988.

NOTE: Don't forget to take advantage of the Early Bird rates. Your early registration ensures that the Guild can lock-in these workshops and helps us to bring the very best of art instruction to YOU...our members. Workshop info, links to instructor web sites and supply lists are available on the LAAG website at www.laag-site.org in the workshop section.

Member News



Elayne Kuehler is having a one-person show at ARTS in Fayetteville, TX (ARTS stands for Arts for Rural Texas) which is located at 114 N Live Oak, Fayetteville, TX 78940, half way between Houston and Austin. The exhibition hung from April 26 through May 31. The theme for the show was "For the Love of Texas." Elayne's grandparent and father were both Texas natives/residents; her husband is also a Texas native with family in Austin. Visit Elayne's website at www.ElayneKuehler.com.

Claudia LeJeune and Calvin Balencie have a two-man show at the Ochsner Medical Center at O'Neal and I-12. The exhibit runs for two months. Stop by the hospital cafeteria for a visit and view their art work!







Denice Ducote's watercolor painting *Connected* was accepted into the 29th Texas and Neighbors Regional Exhibition in Irving, Texas and was awarded Third place in Watermedia. Her painting, *It's About Time*, is currently on display at the Louisiana Watercolor Society's juried 44th Annual International Exhibition in New Orle-

ans at the Garden District Gallery. Three of her paintings, *Outside the Gate, Santa Fe Evening* and *Ole' Blue Eyes*, were accepted into the Society of Decorative Painting's 2014 Juried Exhibition in San Diego. *Outside the Gate,* was juried into Brush with Burden and

was sold. The Baton Rouge Art League displayed *Santa Fe Evening* this year and two of Denice's pet portraits will be on display at the Treasures of Pointe Coupee. Busy year! Keep up the great work, Denice!





Jo Busse was honored by being selected to paint one of the art auction pieces for Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital Foundation Fiesta fund raiser on May 8. This year the pieces were birch tables. Congratulations, Jo-your table is beautiful!



Claudia LeJeune won the First Place award in the Louisiana Watercolor Society Spring Member Show at the Archives, for her painting *Just Ducky*. Good job, Claudia! Cheri Fry won Second Place for *Captain Steampunk* at the same show. Good goin' guys!!





Each year Northlight Books conducts a national art competition and the winning artworks become a fabulous collection of art published in a series of hardcover books titled Splash. LAAG extends a special CONGRATULATIONS!! to two Guild members, Patricia Ryan and Judi Betts, who were both among the 121 winning artists selected from the 1,700 gorgeous artwork sub-

missions in the 2013 Splash Competition. Patricia's watercolor painting, *Vegan Fare*, and Judi Betts' painting titled *Rendezvous*, also a watercolor, will be published in <u>Splash 16 – Exploring Texture</u>.



Mary Heckman will be having a One Woman Show at the Fairwood Library, Aug 1-30. She started with paintings of "little white churches," but now has incorporated more color into this exhibit. It is still mostly churches or those items seen around church activities. Stop by and view Mary's work!





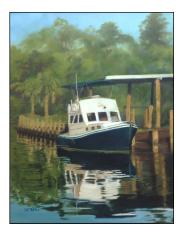


Claudia LeJeune has a painting, *Super Chiller*, currently on display at the Louisiana Watercolor Society's juried 44th Annual International Exhibition in New Orleans at the Garden District Gallery.

Leah Schwartzman sold her painting, *Louisiana Spring* at the annual Baton Rouge Art League Art Exhibition which was held at the LSU Rural Life Center on April 12. Very exciting news, Leah!!

Tom Skillern also sold his painting, *He Wants It So Bad* following the Baton Rouge Art League Art Exhibition held at the LSU Rural Life Center in April. You're "on the ball," Tom-way to go!

Margaret Shipley won two First Place Ribbons: Not Under Glass - *Burden Cabin*, and Miniatures - *Painting Anyone?* in the current Denham Springs Fine Arts Association's Spring Judged Show at the Denham Springs/Walker Library in May. Way to go, Margaret!



Pat Wattam had her painting, *Reflections*, juried into the National Acrylic and Oil Painters Society (NAOPS) Online Spring Show. *Reflections* also won a Merit Award at the Brush with Burden show. Pat also sold another painting, *Summer*, from her web site. Our congratulations to Pat!





Feliciana Chapter of LAAG (FLAAG)





FLAAG members Alice Kent, Donna Kilbourne and Meredith Smith are exhibiting at the West Baton Rouge Museum's 2014 Spring Exhibit entitled "A Louisianan's Grand Tour in the Bell Epoque." The exhibit opened on May 10 and will continue until July 20.

Alice Kent and Meredith Smith traveled together with Gloria Perkins Satterfield to Giverny, France, to paint in Monet's Gardens. The eight day trip, organized by Gloria was spent painting in the Gardens surrounding the home of Impressionist Master Claude Monet. Donna Kilbourne also traveled to France on a separate trip and will be in the upcoming exhibit. Their work is being included to show how the environment and culture of a place can inspire artwork!





The exhibit is centered around a young woman named Aurelie Levert from a plantation family in West Baton Rouge, who traveled to Europe in the summer of 1900 with her siblings on a Grand Tour. Aurelie kept a journal of their experiences for their three month journey and these stories will be the focus of the exhibit. The exhibit will also include information about Aurelie's background, the Parish World's Fair, and an explanation of the time period in which she traveled, which is called the Bel lEpoque in Europe. This was a period that is conventionally dated as starting in 1871 and ending when WWI began in 1914. It was a time characterized by optimism, peace in Europe, new technology and scientific discoveries. The peace and prosperity in Paris, in particular, allowed the arts to flourish and many masterpieces of literature, music, theater, and visual art were accomplished during this time.

Charter Street Studio

Charter Street Studio in Jackson, Louisiana, opened its doors March 28-30 to host FLAAG's Art Show & Sale in conjunction with and during the 49th Jackson Assembly Annual Antique Show. The show included fine art, jewelry, pottery and woven baskets from 21 local and regional participants including Keith Morris, Stan Routh, Stephen Kimball, Della Storms, Allen Crochet, Catherine Rouchon, Craig Roth and Sandra Maltese.

Charter Street Studio is a working studio in the historic Pipes Store building owned by the Jackson Assembly. The Assembly graciously offered FLAAG members the use of the building several years ago. Currently Charter Street Studio has 13 members, most of whom are also members of FLAAG.

The Art Show & Sale was a great success this year and has grown every year. Attendance was extremely good, even with the threat of severe weather!

FLAAG members who participated in the show were Roger Person, Donna Kilbourne, Alice Kent, Carolyn Thornton, Frances Durham, Linda Broderick, John Labbe, Dahn Savell and Linda White.





NEWS from the PALETTE





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