

NEWS from the PALETTE



Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild laagbr@laag-site.org 225-930-7542
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June 2015

Emily Efferson - Interviewed by Leah Schwartzman

In true Louisiana style – over a glass of wine and a wonderful meal – I got a peek into the life of Baton Rouge native and local artist, Emily Callender-Efferson.

Emily has had an interest in art since early childhood and when she talked about watching John Gnagy on TV (one of my early memories) and dreaming of getting into a “famous” art school by winning one of those drawing contests...I immediately felt a personal connection. It is clear that art has always provided lasting and fond memories in Emily's life as she recalled – “I had a 6th grade teacher who made a lasting impression on me. He encouraged his students to create artwork for many of the subjects they studied.” In the 70's, Emily continued taking what workshops she could, but working full time left little time for painting. In the 80's, she lost almost all of her painting supplies in a storm; over the next couple years, she slowly worked toward replenishing her supplies. Then it happened...life and work pressed Emily for time and she found herself painting less and less over the next 15-20 years. Emily's sister, Dino, was her biggest supporter. “You have a God-given talent and you're wasting it away,” Dino would say to Emily whenever Emily did not paint enough to suit her. Sadly, in 1995 Emily lost Dino, unexpectedly, after a surgery. However, inspired by her sister's words, Emily got back to painting in 1997 and has never stopped since – she is sure that her sister is smiling about that!



Although, she works full time, Emily has learned that “you have to make time for the things you enjoy...you're a lot happier when you make time for yourself...painting is my sanity.” Emily belongs to the Decorative Painters Society as well as Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild and enjoys getting together with fellow artists 2-3 times a week to spend a few hours painting. She also enjoys taking a variety of workshops. She prefers painting with groups because it is so much fun to talk to the different artists, hear the different critiques and learn about the different techniques of other artists. Emily started out as an oil painter, then she tried acrylics, and 7 years ago she fell in love with her favorite medium – watercolor. These days she is also experimenting with colored pencils and some soft pastels. She often sits in front of the TV using colored pencils, honing her artistic abilities. She says, “I never want to stop learning.”

For beginning artists, Emily says “Don't rush, and don't give up. You WILL get better with practice. The desire to learn is what you need more than anything else...you never stop learning.” She says painting is like cooking: “You don't start off preparing a gourmet meal...but if you keep practicing, someone will eventually say how great it tastes.”

We rarely see artists' first paintings, but Emily graciously decided to share her very first watercolor painting (lily photo). Emily has had paintings juried into the National River Road Show in 2013 and 2014, Brush with Burden in 2013 and 2014, and in 2015 she had two paintings in the show (crawfish and alligator photos). She has been invited to show in the Baton Rouge Art League show 2012 thru 2015.



Emily is always ready to share a smile and an interesting story, or some artistic tip, so if you see her at a workshop or exhibit, be sure to say hello...I know she will have a story for you too!



Message from the President



Dear LAAG Members,

Very often I hear fellow artists discussing the problem of finding time to paint. It has been a problem for me also. I try to complete my housework tasks so that I don't feel guilty about working in my studio when there is a full hamper of laundry to be done. There is an excellent article in the June/July issue of Professional Artist Magazine titled "Work/Life Balance for Artists".

The article states; "Doing everything yourself because you can and it costs less is a false economy." It goes on to say, "For everything that you don't do well or dislike doing, there is someone out there who is good at it and loves doing it [or perhaps makes a living doing it]. Define what you WANT to do yourself and identify where you are better off

to get help." What a concept! Why did I need permission to enlist some help? I decided to review the tasks that are "time-eaters" or that I find stressful to deal with and determine if I am comfortable letting someone else handle them. There were several other suggestions that I think may be helpful in this battle of "work/life balance," but, they are too lengthy to go into detail here. However, if some of you find yourself in the same dilemma . . . I hope this might be an informative read for you too.

Suzanne Lamotte has answered our call to process LAAG deposits. I am enjoying working with her, and she is going to give some much needed relief in our Finance Department. Thank You Suzanne!

I hope to see many of you at the reception for our Workshop show on June 7th!

Happy Painting!

Claudia LeJeune, claudiale@aol.com, 225-292-2004

Can you Read, Write ... and Type ?

The LAAG membership committee is looking for volunteers with the following skills/abilities:

- Attention to detail
- Solve problems when needed
- Ability to follow detailed procedures - training provided
- Enter data accurately using Office products (ACCESS, EXCEL, WORD) and online software programs

Team members will do most of their work in January-March when membership applications arrive.

INTERESTED? Contact Amy Dellinger at abdellinger@cox.net or 225-772-6951

Baton Rouge Art League Exhibition

The following LAAG members displayed artwork at the Baton Rouge Art League's Invitational 65th Annual Art Exhibition in April at the LSU Rural Life Museum.

Janet Anderson, Elaine Atkinson, Kay Bailey, Judi Betts, Ginnie Bolin, Marge Campana, Nanci Charpentier, Carol Creel, Betty Efferson, Emily Efferson, Marilyn Ehr, Sarah Fergus, Jane Flowers, Cheri Fry, Leslie Gladney, Gary Green, Louise Hansen, Ken Heard, Jan Hebert, Mary Heckman, Beverly Heil, Joyce Hensley, Cheryl Hoyt, Chris Bajon Jones, Greg Kiger, Charleen Kling, Sue Knight, Elayne Kuehler, Suzanne Lamotte, Carolyn Lantz, Joette LeBlanc, Brenda Legendre, Claudia LeJeune, SuEllen Lithgoe, Roberta Loflin, Theresa Marchiafava, Katie McGarry, Jo McWilliams, Gail Mears, Dana Mosby, Patricia Neufeld, Brenda Parisi, Lisa Pope, Jackie Pourciau, Sandra Roccaforte, Patricia Ryan, Leah Schwartzman, Tom Skillern, Kathy Miller Stone, Kathy Tedaldi, Sue Wang and Vincent Wilson.

That's over 50 artists, what a great turn out by our membership! Congratulations to all!

Recent Workshop

Alison Adams - Recreating Masterpieces: Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*

On May 16 and 17, a room full of artists joined Alison Adams at the Studio in the Park for two half-days of fun and painting recreating the famous masterpiece, *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh.

Here is what some of the participants had to say:

"Yay! Loved spending time with Alison AND Vincent! This was a great motivation to bring me into using acrylics. Thank you." ... *Barbara Andrepont*

"This was my first workshop and as a self taught trial and error artist seeing the techniques and different styles of the others [participants] opens a new window for variety" ... *Charity Lambert*

"Instructor was pleasant and had a lot of information to impart. It was a real pleasure to be in this workshop." ... *Beverly Heil*

"The workshop was very informative and gave participants knowledge into Van Gogh's method of applying paint to canvas.." ... *Wilma Roy*



Upcoming Workshops

LAST CHANCE to REGISTER

Larry Downs - Drawing With Color

June 15-17, Monday - Wednesday, from 9 am - 12:00 pm

Fee: \$120 LAAG members / \$130 nonmembers

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Larry will give you a great start in this workshop on colored pencils - everything you need to know - including basics on drawing surfaces, tools and accessories. He'll get you started with basic strokes and various techniques. And, he'll help with insights on color sketches to finished paintings.



Steve Shamburger - Basic Drawing Skills

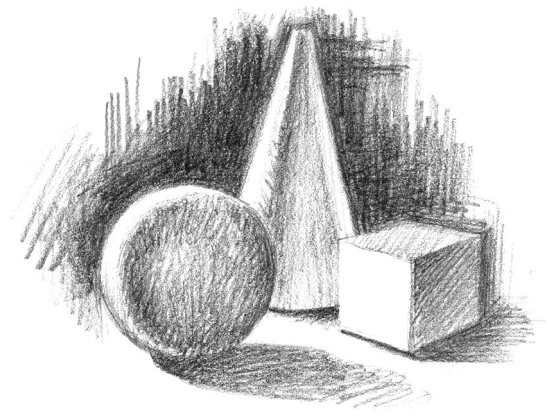
July 6-27, Mondays, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Steve will cover basic drawing techniques, how to interpret subjects with tips on observation, defining basic shapes, proportions, lights and shadows. Each class will include demonstrations by Steve and exercises for participants to guide them to a foundation for developing their drawing skills.



Alison Adams – Introduction to Linoleum Block Printmaking

July 11, Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

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

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

You will learn the basics of creating a linoleum block print in this workshop. You will learn to use the various tools and the steps in the process of printmaking. Once the print block is complete, you can keep the block for years to come back to and make more and more creative style prints.

LAST CHANCE for EARLY BIRD

Laura Mitchell, LWS, NWS - Discover the World of Color - Watercolor

July 17-18, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Early Bird Fee: Until June 14, \$125 LAAG members / \$150 nonmembers

Regular Fee: \$150 LAAG members / \$175 nonmembers

To register contact Barbara Laudun at bdlaudun@gmail.com or 225-923-0777

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Register now to take advantage of the early bird rate for this wonderful workshop! Come experience the radiant artwork of acclaimed watercolor artist Laura Mitchell. Representing the National Watercolor Society in the 2014 Eau en Couleurs Biennial in Belgium, her painting *Miss American Pie* received the Watercolor Artists Magazine award and was included in their 2014 Traveling Exhibit throughout the United States. Laura strives for her “interpretations of the world around her ... to beckon the viewer from across the room to come closer.” This workshop will help you to discover color preferences and develop your color knowledge, guiding you to devise your own solutions to color problems with confidence. Why settle for ordinary color? Join Laura for this two-day workshop and begin your journey to creating fantastic, brilliant color in your paintings.



Kathy Redmond – Zentangle

July 23-24, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Fee: \$105 LAAG members / \$125 nonmembers

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

If you have not tried your hand at this line drawing phenomenon now is the time to take the plunge ... doodling at its best! Not only is it fun, but it is also being touted to have multiple medical benefits from stress relief, help with depression, to improve eye/hand coordination and the list goes on. Kathy will take you through the simple, building block steps so you too can create the beautiful flowing lines, the very intricate and complex designs of Zentangle that you can see on Kathy's website at www.tangledtranquility.com.



Alison Adams - Basic Photography

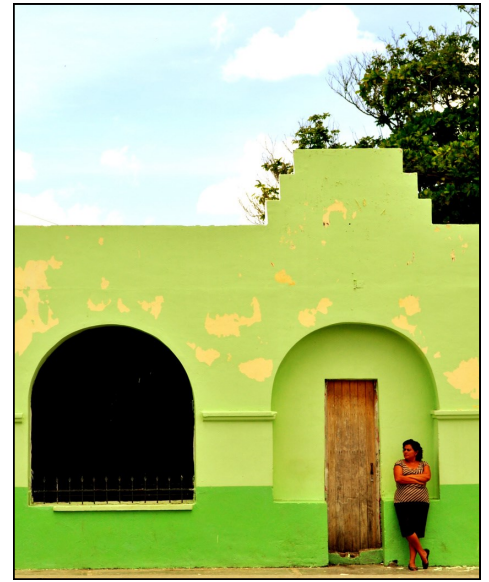
August 1, Saturday from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Fee: \$90 LAAG members / \$100 nonmembers

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

If you have been inspired to do photography but don't quite know where to begin -- this class is for you! Alison will cover the basic use of your camera. She will also share her knowledge about composition, lighting and other basic photography techniques that will provide participants with a foundation for taking beautiful, engaging photographs. Participants will have the opportunity to practice and put that information to use as you shoot photos both indoors and outdoors.



Steve Shamburger – Drawing the Head

August 3-31, Mondays, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Fee: \$150 LAAG members / \$150 nonmembers

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Watching Steve drawing figure sketches/portraits will certainly inspire anyone! Participants who take this course will learn the basics of facial structure, proportion and placement of the eyes, nose, ears and mouth, and the all-important skill of observation. If you have been trying to draw the head but it always seems to look “flat,” this class will provide you with the tools to get a more three dimensional look ... to get that volume that gives “life” to your figures/portraits.



Sheryl Southwick – Gone to Pieces – Mosaics

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

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

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

Back by popular demand! Sheryl Southwick's fun and creative mosaics two years ago had everyone asking for more. Now is your opportunity. Sheryl will guide the participants through all the steps to creating fun and artful mosaics projects.

Interpret this Masterpiece

It's Baack! ... with a Twist!

Interpret this Photo has returned, but this time, instead of interpreting photographs we will be providing paintings created by Master artists. The Interpret this Masterpiece feature will appear in every other newsletter. After three features there will be an exhibit in May 2016 at the Independence park Theatre to showcase your interpretations. The goal behind Interpret this Masterpiece is to discover how each individual artist interprets a single painting, and to compare the differences. All Guild members are invited to create your own interpretation of the painting below. You can use any format, size, media and any style you wish. You can recreate the painting in a different medium, leave parts out, or use only a small portion of it. This is a starting point to jumpstart your creativity. Have fun!

Remember, you will have a chance to interpret three different paintings over the next year before the exhibit.

Winslow Homer - Nassau



A digital image of this painting is available to download from the website at laag-site.org/interpret-this-photo.

LAAG Exhibits

Spring Judged Show

LAAG congratulates the winners of the Spring Judged Show, which was on exhibit at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery from March 12 to May 14. There were 37 paintings submitted by 21 artists. Our thanks go to New Orleans artist, William "Bill" Crowell, for judging the show!

First Place – Cheri Fry, *Mathew*, watercolor

Second Place – Louise Hansen, *Anticipating Dinner*, watercolor

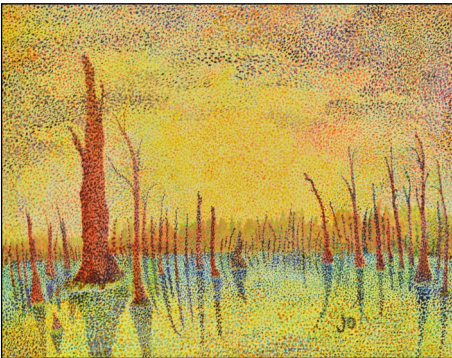
Third Place – Jo McWilliams, *Alligator Bayou*, acrylic

Honorable Mention

Joyce Hensley, *Little Playhouse in the Big Woods*, pen & ink

Betty Gravois, *Self Portrait*, acrylic

Jim Packard, *Piet & Hans Again*, acrylic



Top: *Mathew*, Cheri Fry

Left: *Anticipating Dinner*, Louise Hansen

Far left: *Alligator Bayou*, Jo McWilliams

Workshop Show

The Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild's current exhibit at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery is the Workshop Show. As most artists know, the hard work that they put forth in workshops furthering their skills goes unseen publicly, because juried and/or judged art shows do not allow "workshop" pieces to be entered. Because the goal of LAAG is to bring public awareness to all levels of art work, the Guild sponsors one "workshop" show a year, to give their members the opportunity to bring out those usually unseen, but wonderful pieces of art.

The current Workshop Show is comprised of 39 works of art submitted by 18 LAAG artists. The Workshop Show will be on display from May 14 to July 9 and there will be an artists' reception on Sunday, June 7. Barbara Laudun plans on giving a presentation on icons. Mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow artists and other art enthusiasts for refreshments and conversation from 2:00 pm–4:00 pm at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery.

Summer Judged Show

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild will hold the Summer Judged Show from July 9 until September 3 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. The Summer 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 July 9, between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm. Please review the hanging requirements available on the LAAG website at laag-site.org/exhibits to ensure that your painting will be accepted at the take-in.

Be sure to join us at the Reception and Awards Presentation at Independence Park Theatre on August 2 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!

Mayor's Office

In keeping with the Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild's mission to promote visual art and increase public appreciation and awareness, for several years, we have been exhibiting art in the Mayor's office in downtown Baton Rouge. The exhibit rotates out every three months and is open to all members. There is no fee to participate and it is not juried.

LAAG members Mary Heckman, Louise Hansen, Laure Williamson, Brenda Parisi, Sue Wang, Karen Coffman, Joel McLain, Jim Packard and Calvin Balencie have 11 paintings in various mediums on display in the current exhibit at the Mayor's office.



Submit YOUR painting to be in the next exhibit at the Mayor's office. Bring one or two paintings to the Studio in the Park on any open studio day in July before July 24. Studio hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 am –4:00 pm and Sunday, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm. Paintings for exhibition in the Mayor's office must be a minimum 22"x 28" or larger. The paintings will be hung on July 24 and will be on exhibit until October 16.

Member News

The Louisiana Watercolor Society held its 45th International Art Show and Sale at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts. The judge/juror for the show was Chris Krupinski, who hails from the state of Virginia, and is a nationally and internationally known watercolor artist. Seventy paintings were selected from hundreds submitted from across the United States and as far away as Sweden, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Chris also held a workshop in Madisonville where participants worked on composition and lighting for still life, as well as a new painting technique to produce more texture.

Congratulations! to Kathy Miller Stone who was the first artist to receive the newly created Master Signatue Status of LWS, having been accepted into ten or more LWS International Exhibitions. This was Kathy's 12th acceptance, and she was presented with a certificate and a Fleur de Lis pin. She also received a Merit Award for her watercolor painting, *Poule D'eau Paradise*, which was juried into the recent National River Road Show.



Baton Rouge artists and exhibitors, (from left to right) Claudia LeJeune, Carol Creel, Cheri fry, Kathy Miller Stone and Judi Betts attended the opening reception of Louisiana Watercolor society's 45th Annual International Exhibition.

Louisiana's Environmental Awareness Student Art & Language Arts Contest, with "Biodiversity in Our World" as the theme, winners were posted on May 15 at wlf.la.gov/eec, having been judged by Claudia LeJeune, Jim Packard, Mary Heckman and Calvin Balencie (not pictured). The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries' Environmental Education Commission (LEEC), in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), accepted proposals for the new 2015-2016 Green Ribbon Schools Grants program. The LEEC/LDOE is offering this grant to encourage Green Ribbon Schools initiatives in accredited Louisiana schools. Proposals considered were those that align with pillars found in the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program.



LAAG members Mary Heckman and Tom Skillern joined forces to present a private exhibit at the Beauregard Cafe and Gallery, located at 715 Europe Street in Baton Rouge. The show is on exhibit from May 11 until the end of June. Mary coordinated two lunch groups during the month for viewing the exhibit. Both Mary and Tom have sold paintings from the exhibit. Way to go Mary and Tom ... a very nice show!



On April 18, Claudia LeJeune joined Kathy Stone and Joette LeBlanc for an open house exhibit in their studio space at N the Art Space, located in The Settlement at 7809 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge.



In the April newsletter we gave “kudos” to Denice Cyrex Ducote when her painting *Connected* was juried into the 2015 Missouri Watercolor Society International Show. We now take the honor of congratulating her for winning the Dick Blick Award!



LAAG member, Kathy Miller Stone, in conjunction with the Magnolia Chapter of the Society of Decorative Painters, presented 2 one-day workshops on Saturday and Sunday, May 3 & 4. Kathy's challenge to the participants was to complete a quarter sheet painting in one day. The workshop included several LAAG members. On Monday, May 11, Kathy taught a creative solutions and corrections workshop at her home.

Congratulations! to LAAG member Sally Web for being one of the 129 artists nationwide to make it into *Splash 17*, a watercolor competition that is sponsored annually by North Light Books. We look forward to seeing Sally's watercolor painting *Lucky Butterflies* when the book, *Splash 17: Inspiring Subjects!* is published next Winter.

Also, Sally's *Butterfly Reflections*, the second in her crystal butterfly series, has been juried into the National Watercolor Society's Member Exhibition in San Pedro, CA.





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June 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.

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