

NEWS from the PALETTE



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June 2016

Laura Allums Mitchell - Interviewed by Trish Poynot

Laura Mitchell was born in Ellisville, Mississippi, a small junior college town located between Laurel Hattiesburg MS. If she could live anywhere in the world, it would be on the beach!

Laura was always interested in drawing, coloring and creating, even as a child. Both of her parents were artists, as well as her four sisters. All were encouraged to follow their artistic interests. When Laura was in the 5th grade, she realized she had a special talent for drawing and put together a sketchbook of the fowl and fauna of southern Mississippi as a science project. From then on her parents and teachers encouraged her to pursue this talent. When Laura entered junior high (which was located on the junior college campus), she was allowed to study art with the junior college art teacher. From then on she wanted to paint and knew that she would major in art in college.

Laura graduated from Mississippi Southern College (now the University of Southern Mississippi) with a BA in Fine Art, and realized she was extremely well educated to do nothing! Reality set in when she realized she had better find some means of supporting herself. She moved to New Orleans and worked in fashion and retailing for a while. The Space Program opened at Michoud and I worked for the Boeing Company as a Graphic Artist for several years. When she and her husband moved to St. Tammany Parish, she became an elementary school teacher and continued in education for the remainder of her working career as a teacher, administrator and principal. However, Laura placed a strong emphasis on the arts throughout her educational career. She always knew that she would return to her first love of painting when she retired.

Laura had a brief encounter with watercolor when she was in college, but was more interested in oil. Upon retirement, she began to study watercolor and fell in love with it. She took classes with several local artists, and then attended the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art where she studied with Auseklis Ozols, Darrell Brown, Janet Urrate and Martha Guthrie. It was with Martha that Laura finally found herself and began to paint in earnest.

Laura loves to paint florals and still lifes, the more detailed and intricate the happier she is. She focuses on the reflections in silver, stainless, or any other reflective surface, as well as the distortions and refractions of light through glass. She is intrigued with the abstract patterns created. Her subjects include the mixing of patterned fabrics, crystal or glass, reflective surfaces, fruits or flowers, and any other object that will help her to tell her story. Most of the time, she begins with the title of the painting and then builds the subject from there.

Continued on Next Page



While studying at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art, Laura was asked to teach watercolor. This began a journey that she is still traveling. She found that using all her educational background and training has been a real boon in teaching art. Laura's philosophy is if she can teach little children to read, she can certainly teach adults how to paint! She currently teaches beginning and advanced classes at Christwood Community Center in Covington LA. She focuses on beginning with the basics (how to hold a brush, how to mix the paint, how to apply paint to the paper, how to paint the four washes). Each lesson progresses from there based on the interest and ability levels of the students.

Laura has her studio in her home (a bedroom converted to a studio). She finds it is crucial to have a specified space set aside for the purpose of creating art. This is her haven where she is surrounded by the things that give her pleasure and encourage creativity. She tries to work in her studio every day, and if she is painting, to start early and finish by mid afternoon. It is when life begins to overwhelm her that "painter's block" can sneak in. Then it is time to take care of the "stuff" (shopping, cleaning, bill paying, cooking, etc.) so she can get back to the important thing in life: creating.

Since Laura began this artistic journey, she achieved several accomplishments of which she is extremely proud. She received signature status with the Louisiana Watercolor Society, the Mississippi Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society. Laura also received the Watercolor Artist Magazine Award in the National Watercolor Society 2011 91st International Exhibition. She received Honorable Mention in the Artist Magazine Artists Over 60 Competition in 2014. She was one of 24 artists invited to represent the National Watercolor Society as a Master International water media artist to exhibit in the 2014 Biennale Internationale Exhibition in Estaimburg, Belgium, and was invited as a guest artist in the d'Acquerale in Uckange, France in 2016. Laura served on the Louisiana Watercolor Board for several years and was president in 2012. She has been invited to serve on the National Watercolor Society Board in 2017.

Laura prefers the sunny beach to the mountains; would rather read a book than watch a movie; her favorite author is Jane Austin; prefers romance to comedy, and when asked her favorite ice cream flavor, responded "chocolate."

Message from the President



Dear Guild Members,

We had great participation for our current member show at BREC Independence Park Theatre! Our members are exhibiting some creative ways of expressing their interpretation of the Masters, along with some of their own additions. It's a really different and fun exhibit. I hope you all will go visit and hope to see you at the reception!

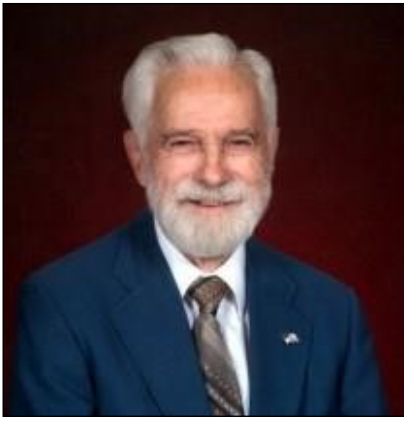
Recently, the workshop committee made a trial run for teaching what I would call a "mini-class"... only 3 hours ... in pastels (we all have them but don't use them). It was a fun short course and prompted me to do a pastel that is included in the current member show. It was a great exercise and allowed me to switch gears from my usual watercolor

medium. Sometimes it is good to try new approaches to get the creative juices flowing. The Workshop Committee is working on fine-tuning this workshop, so dust off those pastels and look for this "mini-class" in the future!

The Workshop Committee, together with the Board members, is also working on two "Learning Sessions" as a result of the member input at the March Members Meeting. One will be Critique sessions that we hope to schedule soon and regularly. The other will be instructional in preparing your artwork for judged shows. I'm excited about these two new opportunities, and appreciate the ideas and suggestions expressed by our members!

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

William Stracener



The Louisiana Art and Artists Guild, offers condolence and sympathy to the family of Mr. William Unger Stracener, known to many members of the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild as "Bill" Stracener, who passed away on Friday May 13, 2016.

Bill will be missed by many in the Baton Rouge community. He was very active in his church, a variety of service and charity organizations, and the Special Olympics, from which he has a collection of medals of which he was very proud, that show his dedication to life. We thank Bill for his service to our country as a U.S. Army soldier during the Korean War.

Bill was a Baton Rouge native, a graduate of LSU and a well known professional artist in Louisiana. He was a long time member of the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild, and served as president from 1982-1983. Bill was honored as a past President at the LAAG 60th Anniversary Celebration. His beautiful paintings can be found in homes and businesses across Louisiana and other states; including Louisiana State Archives' permanent collection of Louisiana artists' paintings acquired through the Baton Rouge Art League.

Library Donation

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild would like to acknowledge the family of Linda Sciple, and express our appreciation for their donation of over thirty art instructional books from Linda's collection. Linda, who passed a few years ago, was a local artist and long time member of the Highland Road Artists' Association. The books are currently being catalogued and will be available shortly in the Guild library.

Call for Entries

River Road SHOW

NEW DATES

Deadline

June 13

The deadline for entering the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild's national art exhibition and sale, the 47th Annual River Road Show is fast approaching. The exhibition will be open to the public, with no admission fee, from September 6 through September 28. Once again this great presentation of art work from across the nation will be held at the Louisiana State Archives Building on Essen Lane, in Baton Rouge. An Artists' Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 22, 5:30pm-7:30pm. Awards totaling over \$4000 in cash and prizes will be presented. The Prospectus and Entry Form are available on the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild website at laag-site.org/River-Road-Show. The deadline for submission of entries is **June 13, 2016**.

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is honored to have Bill Farnsworth, OPA as the judge/juror for this year's exhibition. As a 1980 graduate of The Ringling School of Art and Design, Bill Farnsworth has spent more than 34 years as an Illustrator and Fine Artist. Farnsworth is a Signature member of The Oil Painters of America, American Society of Marine Artists, and The American Society of Impressionists. His paintings have appeared in many national shows, and are in museums and private collections throughout the US. A nationally known illustrator of children's books, Bill has garnered awards of excellence from the Oil Painters of America's National and Regional shows. His work is represented by The Hughes Gallery, Dabbert Gallery, Tree's Place, The Edward Dare Gallery, Sand Piper Gallery, Mountain Mist Gallery and The Anderson Gallery. Bill currently lives in Venice, FL with his wife Debbie.

Members News

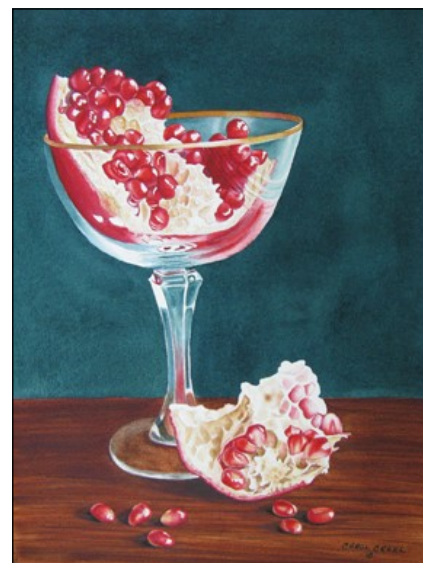
The Poydras Center in New Roads is filled with merriment and art with the 2016 Treasures of Pointe Coupee Art Exhibit, scheduled for June 3-5 and June 10-12. The exhibit features the 2 and 3-dimensional art of local and regional artists. Several Guild members will be participating in this exhibit. A reception and silent auction open to the public will also take place on June 3 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. For further details about scheduling and events: www.artscouncilofpointecoupee.org/Treasures-of-Pointe-Coupee-2015.html

North Valley Art League in Redding, CA is calling for entries to their 32nd Annual National Juried Painting Show. The exhibit is juried by Jeannie Vodden and the deadline to enter is June 30, 2016. Find the prospectus on their website: nval.org/show/32nd-annual-juried-national-painting-show-2016/

You are invited to join **Carol Creel** and friends on August 9th, 10th and 11th for a three fun days of painting. The subject for the workshop is transparency. We will be painting a pomegranate in a stem glass. There are a few vacancies left in this class ... so don't wait! The workshop will be held at the Studio in the Park at 2490 Silverest Ave in Baton Rouge. The price of the workshop is \$250. A fifty dollar deposit will reserve your place. For questions, registration and a supply list contact Carol Creel at 225-291-4974.



In the April newsletter we told you that **Gail Knecht** sold her painting of three pink flamingos as a result of being exhibited at LAAG's ongoing exhibits at the Mayor's Office. But we somehow neglected to include a picture of that wonderful painting so here it is: *Cinderella and the Two Ugly Stepsisters*



Congratulations are due to **Elayne Spinks Kuehler** whose painting, *Texas Wildflowers*, was juried into the American Women Artists 2016 Spring Online Show. The show can be viewed at [ameri-canwomenartists.org/gallery/2016-spring-online-juried-show.html](http://americanwomenartists.org/gallery/2016-spring-online-juried-show.html)

Sue Wang had a solo art exhibit throughout the month of April at Theatre Baton Rouge.



Roberta Loflin sold a painting, *Parker's Park*, at her show at Jones Creek Library in April, and what a beautiful show it was! Way to go, Roberta!

Betty Gravois, a multi-media artist and Guild member, will be exhibiting her paintings at Ochsner-Summa location at 9001 Summa Avenue during the months of June and July. Be sure and stop by and view this exhibit – you have two whole months to get there! Congrats, Betty!

Judi Betts will be one of four artists exhibiting at the Baton Rouge Center for Contemporary Art throughout the month of June. Judi's theme is "Passionate About Palms". Be sure to stop by Baton Rouge Gallery at City Park (1515 Dalrymple Drive) to see 22 of her exciting paintings and a few surprises!

Nanci Charpentier is very busy and has lots of information to share. Keep up the good work, Nanci!

Workshops:

Nanci has taught and will teach the following workshops:

- Color Workshop at Rue Cou Cou Gallery through their Inner Artist Workshop series in May of 2016
- Alla Prima Workshop at The Art Factory in Lake Charles LA, the date in October, 2016 to be decided
- Alla Prima Workshop at Rue Cou Cou Gallery in Baton Rouge LA, the date in November, 2016 to be decided

Exhibits/Shows:

Nanci had work in the following exhibits:

- Works on Paper Exhibit and Pop Up Exhibit at the Shaw Center during Earth Day April 17 and through May. Works included several Weavings on Paper and Oil Paintings on Paper.
- Associated Women in the Arts Exhibiting Member show at the Old State Capital, April 1 - May 31; *Railway Trestle* and *Cinclare Plantation Sugar Mill #1*
- Juried into Brush With Burden, *Cinclare Plantation Sugar Mill #7*
- Juried into LSU Veterinary Animals in Art, *Wasp (Smooshed)*

Upcoming Exhibit:

- Solo Show; September, 2016 at FW Gallery; works will include weavings and paintings.

Sold Paintings:

- *Cinclare Plantation Sugar Mill #1*, Oil on Canvas; *Clouds Up Ahead*, Oil on Paper; and *Grey as Concrete*, Oil on Paper.

Katie McGarry's *Oaks at Avery Island* sold at the Brush With Burden Exhibit. Katie, who loves painting Louisiana scenery, reported that the painting was painted en plein air; that she was intrigued by the two oak trees, the lighting, the colors and the atmosphere there at Avery Island. Very nice work, way to go, Katie!



Patricia Ryan's painting, *Hydrangea*, won First Place at the Brush With Burden Exhibit, and then was on exhibit at the Shaw Center where the painting sold. Patricia originally photographed and then painted *Hydrangea* from the photograph. Patricia's *Rosedown Retreat* was also in the Brush With Burden Exhibit, where it was sold. Congratulations, Patricia, on winning First Place at Burden, and on selling two paintings!





At the end of January of this year, **Denice Cyrex Ducote** was fortunate enough to win First Place in The Martin F. Weber "Just Watercolor" Art Contest for artwork titled *It's About Time*. The same painting, *It's About Time*, was later accepted into the Missouri Watercolor Society International Show earning her Signature Status in that Society. Just recently, Denice's



painting, *Party of Three*, was accepted into the Louisiana Watercolor Society's International Show winning a Merit Award, and also earning her Signature Status in LWS.

Recent Workshops

Pam Ingalls - Oil Painting in the Russian Impressionist Tradition

On March 20, the evening before the Pam Ingalls' workshop began, she presented a very energetic oil painting demonstration from 6:00 to 8:00 pm to 30+ attendees. The Studio in the Park took on a magical atmosphere as she had installed approximately eight beautifully lighted still life arrangements and filled the room with rousing classical music, which played while Pam painted. Participants in the "sold out" workshop spent the following week painting their interpretations of the eight inspirational still life arrangements.



Adrian Deckbar - Popping Up Your Color in Pastel

After helping workshop participants to choose the color paper to use with each of their references, and assisting them in laying out their painting, Adrian gave a brief demo of some basic techniques for using pastels; everyone began working on their individual pastel pieces. Adrian is a gifted teacher, and participants all enjoyed her easy-going, yet very informative teaching style and made much progress in the use of pastels. Several of the comments made by Adrian's students are as follows:

"Adrian was a jewel! She is not only a super teacher, but understands how to encourage and provide an atmosphere of acceptance and approval ... Wish we had more time together!" ... *Judy Young*

"Adrian used the time extremely effectively and really covered material comprehensively. She totally changed my approach to pastels for the better – I will attend any of her workshops available ... critiques were non-judgmental, but full of rich insights!" ... *Elizabeth Phelan*

"I learned so much and really loved the medium. Adrian was a fantastic teacher and a real joy to be around. I look forward to more workshops ... and hopefully with Adrian again someday!" ... *Sylvia Jaynes*

"The truth is teachers make the best instructors – I like teachers who take command and give all the students equal attention." ... *Barbara Laudun*

Upcoming Workshops

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

Tuesdays, June 7-28, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm

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

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

[Workshop info on the LAAG website](#)

Are you ready to stretch your painting skills to a fun new surface?? If so, join Betty Gravois and learn to prepare and paint on metal using “gutter” material. Paints will not fade or run. Betty will provide 3 pieces of “gutter material” for each participant to work with and paint on. A variety of tools to prepare your “gutter” material for painting will also be provided.



Kathy Miller Stone - Poured Watercolor - Heron and Water

June 16-18, Thursday through Saturday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Fee: \$150 LAAG members; \$175 non-members

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

[Workshop Info on the LAAG website](#)

Participants will be instructed in painting a heron among the cattails and reeds with pouring done to emulate reflections in the water. Kathy will provide the drawing which participants will transfer to their watercolor paper. The workshop will cover transferring the drawing, then painting, masking, and pouring dark colors over the surface to emulate shadows in the background and light colors to emulate reflections in the water. Sounds like a great learning opportunity.



Laura Allums Mitchell - Discover the World of Watercolor – Working With Compatible Color

July 21-23, Thursday through Saturday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm

Early Bird Registration Fee until June 14: \$200 LAAG members / \$250 nonmembers

Regular Fee after June 14: \$250 LAAG members / \$300 nonmembers

[Workshop info on the LAAG website](#)

This is a 3-day workshop focusing on working with compatible colors, organizing colors into a workable system based on the characteristics of color. Participants will make compatible color wheel circles. Day 1 focuses on the Delicate Palette and the Standard Palette; day 2 on the Intense Palette and the Opaque Palette; and day 3 on the Old Masters' Palette and the Bright Earth Palette.



Steve Shamburger

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

Drawing Caricatures

July 11 - August 1, Mondays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Early Bird Registration Fee until June 27: \$120 LAAG members

Regular Fee after June 27: \$140 members / \$140 nonmembers

[Class Info on the LAAG website](#)

Participants will learn the definition of caricature, and how to identify and capture variations in facial features that make each of us unique. You will study the "average" face, and then practice capturing the likeness of the subject by exaggerating those features in caricature drawings.



Drawing Portraits from Photos

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

Early Bird Registration Fee until July 27: \$120 LAAG members

Regular Fee after July 27: \$140 members / \$140 nonmembers

[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 thumbnail layouts to final detailed rendering, you will learn proven techniques for creating a memorable portrait sketch.



Billie Bourgeois - Tea and Biscuits with the Muse - All Media

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

Early Bird Registration Fee until July 14: \$150 LAAG members / \$200 nonmembers

Regular Fee after July 14: \$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](#)

Billie Bourgeois says "Making art is a journey! Sometimes a smooth process, but usually, especially for me, with rocks in the road. Most of us have stacks of work that never made it to the 'top' so to speak. We come across them when cleaning out the studio, get that sinking feeling when we see them again, put them back in the stack.....only to bump into them again at another time and so it goes...O.K. NOW, let's pull them out and bring them to the LAAG Studio in the Park and see what we can learn from them and how we can tease the MUSE with these not so loved pieces. We will have fun and lots of stimulation from looking at them with new eyes and using them to jump off to make new exciting work!"



Spring Judged Show

Congratulations to the following award winning artists at the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild's Spring Judged Show, which was on exhibit from March 3 – May 12 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. During a reception held on April 3, the exhibit judge, Billie Bourgeois, local artist/instructor presented the following awards:

1st Place – Jim Packard – *Where to Now* – acrylic

2nd Place – Marge Campana – *Flushing Fronds* – graphite

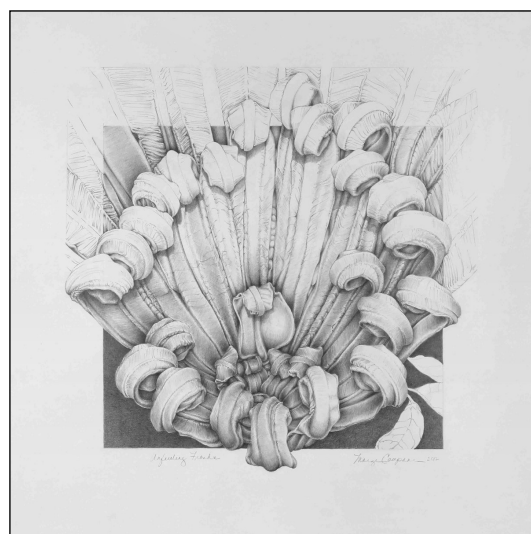
3rd Place – Jo McWilliams – *Smiling Alligator* – acrylic

Honorable Mention – Cheryl Hoyt – *Colorful Alligator* – acrylic

Honorable Mention – Louise Hansen – *Invasion of Lichens* – watercolor



After the awards were presented, Billie graciously offered to walk through the exhibit and give a personal critique to any of the exhibiting artists in attendance who was interested in having one. What a treat! Everyone present had a fun time “seeing” their painting through the judge’s eyes and gained valuable insight about their work. Thanks, Billie!



Mayor's Office

The new exhibit was installed at the Mayor's Office on May 6, and will be on exhibit until August 5. The following artists are participating in this exhibit: Brenda Parisi, Mary Heckman, Marcie Jenkins, Don Rast, Margaret Blades, Christen Ferris, Joel McLain and Beth McLain. The exhibit boasts a variety of media including, ink, acrylic, oils, watercolor, colored pencil and mixed media.



We would like to thank our volunteers Beth McLain, Barbara Andrepont, and Jim Packard who regularly donate their time to install this exhibit.

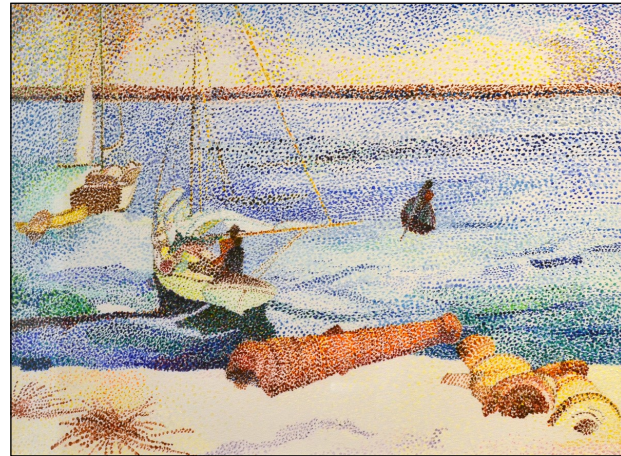


Old Masters Member Show

Over the past year, the Guild has published photos in “News from the Palette” of paintings by Winslow Homer, Paul Gauguin and Edward Manet, and invited members to take part in a an “Interpret the Old Masters” challenge by painting part, or all, of one or more of the paintings. It has been a great deal of fun to see the variety of “interpretations”.

And thanks to all those artists who “took the challenge.” The “Interpret the Old Masters” paintings, along with a variety of other paintings, is currently on display at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery located at 7800 Independence Park Boulevard, in Baton Rouge. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the gallery's regular hours – Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm.

A People's Choice Award will be presented at an artists' reception at the Gallery on Sunday afternoon, June 5 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Bring your friends and family, stop by to visit with the artists, have some refreshments and see some great art!



CALL FOR ART

The Louisiana Art and Artists’ Guild will host their **Summer Judged Show** from July 14 to September 15 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery.

The LAAG Summer Judged show is open to Guild members and nonmembers. The hanging fee is \$8.00 per painting for members and \$10 per painting for nonmembers.

All entries must be delivered to the Independence Park Gallery, 7800 Independence Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, on July 14 between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. All artwork must meet the LAAG installation/hanging requirements (available at laag-site.org/exhibits). Artwork must be picked up September 15 between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. A \$25 storage fee will be assessed for all artwork not picked up at that time.

The Louisiana Art and Artists’ Guild will sponsor a Reception and Awards Presentation at the Gallery on August 7, from 2:00pm – 4:00 pm.