

# NEWS from the PALETTE

Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild

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

926-4657

October Issue

## Ruth McNaylor - Interviewed by Kay Bailey

Ruth McNaylor is a delightful octogenarian living the good life in a retirement community. I recently spent time with her to learn a little about her painting and about LAAG history. She was not easy to catch. I made numerous phone calls to her number, but she was always out. When I asked her about it, she told me there was so much to do she couldn't just sit in her room (a small efficiency apartment with a kitchenette, sitting area, and a place to paint).



Ruth is a native of Baton Rouge. She grew up here and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. When I asked her if she painted as a child, she told me that her grandmother said "nice people didn't do that". Not many occupations were available to women of her day. She went to secretarial school and was married at age 21. She raised her two sons as a single parent and worked to support them. While living with her children in Minnesota and working full-time, she had nothing to occupy her mind. She began painting while on vacation one year and was "hooked". It was fun. She had no money for classes, but the public library became her teacher with its large array of resources. Painting allowed her to "run away from home without walking out of the room".

Her first paintings were done in oils, but she soon discovered how convenient pastels are. You can pick them up, work on a picture, put them down, and come back later to finish. Ruth says she is not a watercolor artist—"never was, never will be". Her pastel paintings, mainly landscapes, adorn the walls of her room. Some of her paintings can be seen in the Gallery on the Guild's website. When asked the name of an artist whose work she admires, she named Don Wright. She has a lovely little watercolor painting of his and proudly pointed it out to me.

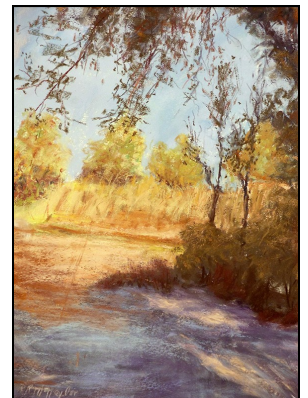


Ruth gave this advice for beginning artists: "Have fun; don't try to mimic other artists or try to paint what the camera sees. Paint for the pleasure of it." "Do you ever run out of things to paint?", I asked. "Good, lord, no!" was her answer.

Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild has been a live-saver for Ruth. She said the Guild provided a place to find other people who paint, gave her opportunities to learn, and a good place to go for help when she was stuck. Ruth has been active in the art guild for many years and remembers when members met at the Old State Capitol. She has been with the guild in all of its many homes and served as guild secretary for several years. In her day, the guild secretary was also responsible for the newsletter. I asked her if she had any advice for the president of the organization. She told me I have her sympathy!

Ruth's philosophy can be summed up as follows: "Painting is what I do and what I am; for me the best part is the journey. When I'm painting, I get lost in the world I'm creating and life is good. If I get a really good painting out of it, that's icing on the cake."

I was sorry when the interview was over as I enjoyed visiting with her so thoroughly. She is a wonderfully spirited lady with a sparkle in her eyes. I look forward to seeing many new paintings from her.



## Studio News

### Call for LAAG artists!

Mark your calendars – Saturday, November 5, 2011, 10:00am-4:00pm.

The Guild will have an Open House/**Art Sale** at the Studio in the Park. All artists interested **MUST** register before **October 7**. No exceptions. There will be a \$20 registration fee. **NO commissions** will be taken. Space inside will be limited but members will also be able to set up outside. This is your chance to sell your art and other items as you wish. Artists will be able to pick up their packets (invitations, flyers, name tag, etc.) at the Guild when they register. Participants are asked to get the word out and invite friends and family.

For more Information contact Roberta Loflin at rloflin@gmail.com or 225-803-6785.



### From the Internet

Empty Easel: [www.emptyeasel.com](http://www.emptyeasel.com)

At EmptyEasel our goal is to publish helpful information for both new and professional artists - *without* any of the vague or confusing “artspeak” common to the art world.



Painters Keys: [www.painterskeys.com](http://www.painterskeys.com)

Encouraging emails and information for artists

Daily Paintworks: [www.dailypaintworks.com](http://www.dailypaintworks.com)

A community of working artists

### From the Library

**Step by Step Guide to Painting Realistic Watercolors** by Dawn McLeod Heim

Reviewed by Anne Thigpen

This wonderful guide explores everything about watercolors:

Materials and their use, Basic terms, Color-mixing techniques and Brush stroke techniques

The book contains 10 complete step-by-step projects—all using different techniques. Before starting each project, you will read about the specific palette and brushes, the techniques used for the project, and associated theories. Each step is explained with a picture and detailed explanations. A big image of the project at different stages of its creation is provided as well. And at the end of each step, the author provides great notes about how to critique your own work and great tips to improve it.



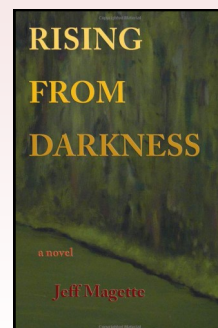
I tried one project from the book. Without wanting to brag about it, I did fairly well. Naturally I need to improve it to make it look more realistic. This book is really a great tool that I wish I could keep.

I recommend this book to any artist who paints watercolors—beginners and professionals as well.

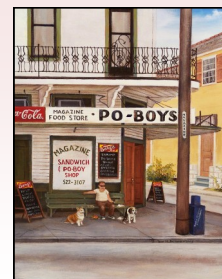
## Member News

*From Jeff Magette:*

Members who enjoy reading when they're not painting might enjoy this book. Using a detail from one of my paintings – "Genesis 1: 9-13, The Third Day" - as the cover, I recently published a novel on Amazon. It is a "woman-in-jeopardy" thriller set in this area with a number of critical scenes taking place in the Atchafalaya Basin. It is available as an e-book downloadable to many devices including the Kindle Reader, as well as Blackberry, iPhone, iPad, PCS, and others. It can also be ordered in soft cover. I invite members to check it out at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Search the title, *Rising From Darkness*, or search using my name, Jeff Magette. More information about the book is available online at the website and those interested can read a couple of chapters for free at the same site.



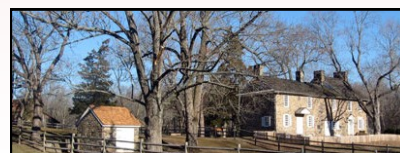
Congratulations to **Tom Skillern**, who sold his acrylic painting *Budrow, Roll-off, and Junior, "Lunch Break"* for \$250. This is the second painting Tom has sold at the Forum Salon in Towne Center!



*From Renee Kirkland:*

Stone Ridge Farm located in the heart of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, offers a selection of creative art workshops in oil, acrylic, watercolor, and pastel. Study your favorite art medium in picturesque Bucks County, home of the New Hope Impressionists, with accomplished instructors who excel in their field. The Inn is a historic converted barn, once the dairy farm of Nobel Prize winning author Pearl S. Buck (*The Good Earth*), whose estate is just down the road.

I have long wanted to attend since finding out about them, but cost has been a factor I couldn't overcome - so far. They offer discounts for groups. Wouldn't a New England Fall outing be just wonderful?! For more information, go to the following website: [www.buckscountyartworkshops.com](http://www.buckscountyartworkshops.com) Good luck!





## Exhibits

### Forum Salon



The Forum Salon is located in the upscale Towne Center (Corporate Blvd and Jefferson Hwy). With a warm welcome, the staff goes the extra mile to make salon clients comfortable. We appreciate the opportunity to complement the atmosphere with beautiful artwork from LAAG members. There is space available for 11 paintings of various sizes. The paintings on display will be changed out on November 21. You are always welcome to pass by the salon to look at the paintings at any time when the salon is open.



### Ochsner Clinic



On September 1, Ochsner Clinic on Bluebonnet Blvd gave the Guild the opportunity to showcase our paintings for the entire month. Thanks to Mary Heckman, Janet Anderson, Roberta Loflin, and Larry Downs for your participation.



## Exhibits

### Serop's Express Restaurants



Margaret Harmon

The Serop's Express restaurants provide great spaces for showcasing our art. Presently the two artists exhibiting at Serop's are Nancy Fillastre at the Jefferson Hwy location and Margaret Harmon at Highland Rd. On November 10, artwork by Kay Bailey will replace Nancy's works at the Jefferson location, and artwork by Suzanne Antoon will replace Margaret's works at Highland Rd.



Nancy Fillastre

### Mayor's Office

The paintings on display at the Mayor's Office will change on October 21. Don't forget that the Mayor's Office is the place to showcase your large paintings. The preferred size is approximately 20" x 28" up to 4' x 4'. If you are interested in this opportunity please bring one or two paintings to the Studio in the Park on any Wednesday (10am-4pm) or Sunday (1pm-4pm) until October 19.

### Exhibiting Notes

You do not need to be a professional artist to exhibit your paintings. Seeing your paintings hanging in a public place can make you feel really good, and give you more self-confidence.

It is free for any LAAG member to display their artwork at any of the exhibit locations except the Independence Park Theatre and there is NO commission charged on sales.

To review the Hanging Guidelines, look in your Membership Handbook (pages 9,10) or check the LAAG website.

Paintings exhibited at any of the shows at the Independence Park Theatre **MUST** be picked up on the last day of the show. This is also the first day of the next show and will always be on a Thursday.

If you are interested in having your own **one-person show** at one of the Serop's Express locations please contact Anne Thigpen at [athigpen@eatel.net](mailto:athigpen@eatel.net) to reserve your space for 2012. You have the choice between the Serop's on Jefferson Hwy, or on Highland Rd. Each Serop's location can accommodate 7 paintings.



## Exhibits

### Independence Park Theatre Gallery

#### Summer Judged Show

The Summer Judged Show was exhibited at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery from July 14 to September 15. The show was judged by Billie Bourgeois. The Reception and Awards Presentation was held on August 7 and featured a demonstration by Billie Bourgeois and Sheryl Southwick.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Nanci Charpentier, *Okra*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Joann Mobley, *Old Swimming Hole*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Marilyn Ehr, *Just After the Storm*

#### Honorable Mention

Ann Brown, *Mystic Morning*

Gloria Goza, *Windy Beach*

Therese Knowles, *Quiet Moment*

Roberta Loflin, *Veiled Attempt at Clarity*

Annette Melancon, *Cannas*

Phyllis Nola, *Pierre and Marie*



Nanci Charpentier, *Okra*



Joann Mobley, *Old Swimming Hole*



Marilyn Ehr, *Just After the Storm*



The **All About Autumn** Member Show is currently on display at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery and will be open to the public until November 10. The reception was on September 25.



The next show will be the annual **Winter Judged Show**. Take-in will be on November 10 and the show will hang until January 12, 2012. Stay tuned for further announcements regarding the judge and other specifics.

If you need more information about any of these exhibits, contact LAAG at [laagbr@laag-site.org](mailto:laagbr@laag-site.org) or the Exhibit Chair, Anne Thigpen at [athigpen@eatel.net](mailto:athigpen@eatel.net).

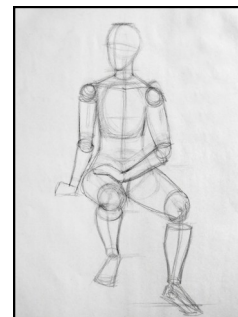
## August Workshops Participants' Comments

### **Steve Shamburger - Figure Drawing from the Model**

Steve's classes were held from August 7 to September 4.

I'm finishing up Steve Shamburger's Figure Drawing Class, and it has been wonderful. I decided to join the life drawing sessions on Wednesday nights this year, but was having trouble "getting it" and was discouraged with my work. Steve has done a wonderful job explaining how to see the model as a series of shapes - shapes of the different parts of the body, negative shapes, and shadows - and putting them all together. I have been avoiding painting the human form for a long time, but now that I can "see" (and that is what art is all about!), it's all coming together and the challenge is actually fun.

- Roberta Loflin

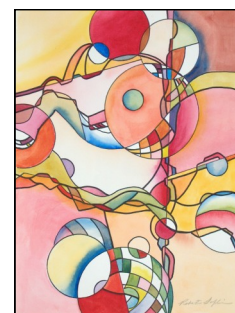


### **Roberta Loflin - Elements of Abstracts in Water Media**

Roberta's classes were held from August 13 to September 24.

"Roberta Loflin's class was wonderful. She has a wonderful set of teaching skills that allows her to cover a wide range of learning methods. She also can help you transform and understand concepts that may be challenging at times."

- Linda Thompson



"I always sign up for Roberta Loflin's classes because they offer opportunities to explore subjects and techniques in a stress-free environment. Roberta coaches without criticizing to allow her students to freely develop their own styles through experimentation. A patient mentor, Roberta welcomes all skill levels and provides individual attention, in addition to group instruction."

- Sue Warnock

**Hurry!! There is still time!**

## October Workshop

### **Tom Jones - Watercolor**

October 10 - 14, Monday - Friday

Fee: \$350.00 members / \$400.00 non-members

To register, contact Kay Bailey at [kay.bailey@cox.net](mailto:kay.bailey@cox.net) or 225-343-3265.

Kay, who attended one of Tom's workshops in Tennessee, shares the following about her experience: "At the workshop I attended, Tom demonstrated techniques and then we painted. He is an excellent teacher....very entertaining. He was personable and provided a lot of individual attention when students needed it."

A supply list for Tom's workshops can be found on his website at [www.tomjonesartist.com](http://www.tomjonesartist.com), where you can learn more about Tom and view his artwork.





Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild  
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This newsletter is produced by a Committee consisting of the following members:

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Iberville and Feliciana News: Trish Poynot  
Exhibits: Anne Thigpen  
Workshops: Leah Schwartzman  
Interviews: Tom Skillern and Howard Hershberg

Any member information to be included in the newsletter should be sent to Trish Poynot at [grannytrishp@yahoo.com](mailto:grannytrishp@yahoo.com) by the first of every other month. The newsletter is then published and mailed on the first of the next month.