

# The Guild: Past and Present, A Retrospective Look

Written by Lane Downs, Leah Schwartzman, Trish Poynot based upon conversations with various Guild members including Ruth McNaylor, Kathy Stone, Brenda Parisi and review of Guild history documents.

On October 27, 1953 Marguerite Woods, Barbara Beaucoudray, Dale Hammond, Kathleen Willie and Mrs. Curtis Barton met at Marguerite's house to discuss her idea of forming a club of art enthusiasts. In the middle of the meeting, with words and ideas tumbling over each other, they all dashed down to the Old State Capitol to talk with Mr. Jay Broussard, the head of the Louisiana Art Commission, about their idea for a wonderful new art organization. He shared their enthusiasm and gave them invaluable help. A Charter was presented to a dozen members at the first meeting at the Old State Capitol. This was the beginning of the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild whose mission was "to study art by actually participating in some form of creative work and to establish a Louisiana art association to promote art education throughout the State."

Barbara Beaucoudray, the first president of the Guild, organized sketch trips, the first exhibit which hung on the fence at the Old State Capitol, and planned out-of-town shows and organized an art club in Denham Springs. Marguerite Woods was the second president; it was during her term that the Guild exhibited for the first time, at the Governor's Mansion on North Boulevard. As one president to another, Marguerite invited President Dwight D. Eisenhower to exhibit one of his paintings. He graciously thanked the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild for inviting him, but declined because he thought his work was too amateurish.

During the early years, the Guild didn't have a "studio" or other place for artists to gather and paint. Later, events such as meetings, exhibits and workshops were held at members' homes, the Old State Capital building, the Glidden Paint Center on Government Street, the Sears & Roebuck building on Florida Blvd., the Doherty Building, and at a huge property owned by Phil Whitter, and other locations over the years. In 2004 the Guild moved to the Studio in the Park at Cedarcrest Park providing the members their first place of stability where they could have workshops and open studios—a place of their own.

Conversations with a few long time members offer many memories of their years of involvement with Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild. Kathy Stone thought the biggest change the Guild experienced over the years was when they moved to the Studio in the Park. Kathy also emphasized that in order to make things work in an art guild, everyone needs to participate. She remembers active members over the years: Mary Jane Cox, Norma Roy, Carolyn Godso, Mary Shaffer, Judi Betts, Bill Stracener, Sammie King, Verlin Jackson, and Iris Curry.



Another long time member, Brenda Parisi, says "The Guild really broadened my



horizons!" She remembers the efforts of Betty LeBeau, Iris Curry, Carol Creel and Jean McMullin, the Secretary who opened and closed the gallery. Geraldine Broussard and Jean worked on the newsletter. Brenda also has "fond memories" of hanging shows with Mary Jane and her husband Jim, Geraldine Broussard, Norma Roy, Ken Herd, Greg Kiger, Joe Lackie and more.

Ruth McNaylor, still an active member today, believes she is the only surviving member from "the good old days" at the birthing of the Guild. She believes Judi Betts is the "most famous" artist to have been a part of the Guild. Brenda Parisi agreed that Judi Betts is the "most famous" artist, with Carol Creel a close second.



Ruth remembers several Guild members who would regularly drive over together from Lake Charles to participate in shows. Kathy Stone also remembers that people from all over Louisiana used to participate in Guild shows, especially the festivals. They came from Hammond, Lake Charles, St. Francisville, Morgan City, Alexandria, New Orleans, and all over the southern part of the state; they would carpool and bring their paintings, sometimes transporting each other's paintings to the shows.

One of the Guild's most notable and longest running exhibits is the national juried River Road Show. It began in 1968 with the efforts of Col. White, who organized a National Great River Road Show where each of the states bordering the Mississippi River from Canada to the Gulf held a state River Road Show. The top three winners from each state then went to St. Louis MO to be judged in the National Great River Road Show. Kathy Stone believes that our River Road Show is the only one of the states' shows remaining. Past River Road Shows had a festival associated with it with booths to sell artists' works, an auction, a raffle, medieval reenactments and lots of other activities. A similar festival was held in conjunction with October Fest, and the monies from these events went into a high school Scholarship Fund.

From the 1980s until the late 1990s, the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild coordinated the Christmas in July project selling Christmas Cards to various businesses. Guild member Al Junek headed a committee who visited approximately 25-30 companies with portfolios displaying a large selection of photos of members' Christmas paintings. One year, C. J. Brown purchased 13,000 cards of a single design to send to all of their realtors and clients and bought the original painting. The monies from company purchases funded a scholarship program. Each year the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild held a Scholarship Show for High School Seniors in which the winning artist was awarded a scholarship to help with art expenses in their first year of college. Art teachers in several area parishes encouraged their students to enter each year.

This year the Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with several events throughout the year. In the Spring, two paint-outs were held at the Bluebonnet Swamp, followed by a special exhibit at the Bluebonnet Nature Center. The main celebratory Anniversary event is the Members' Retrospective Exhibit, featuring members' artwork—"then and now." The Anniversary Award will be presented at the reception on October 20, at the Independence Park Theatre. The year long celebration culminates with the Christmas Party and the River Road Show reception in December.

# **Membership Challenge**

Below are some early photos of Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild members from days gone by. Unfortunately the pictures are not labeled, so, we are asking for your help. If any of you recognize anyone in these photos please contact Lane Downs at laagbr@laag-site.org. Be sure to indicate which photo and specify which person in the photo you are identifying. Also, if any of you



have photos or know someone who has photos of Guild members in the early days, please contact us so that we may make arrangements to get copies to add to our history files. If you are interested in seeing more of these pictures, there will be a slideshow playing at the reception for the Retrospective Show at Independence Park Theatre on October 20 from 2-4pm.





# **Message from the President**



IT'S ALREADY FALL!

The weatherman noted recently that average daily temperatures are now below 90 degrees. ...I could almost be convinced to paint plein aire again! (Note the "almost.") Of course, it will likely be mid-October before really cooler nights and days.

**Building Renovations** 

I am thrilled with BREC renovations at Cedarcrest Park. The Studio building already has new light fixtures and new fans. They plan to replace the siding on the building. There will be concrete parking pads for the handicapped parking places. The BREC coordina-

tor for this work joined us at the September Board Meeting. Board members were assured that work on the building will not disrupt workshops. Come to the Studio and enjoy the changes with us.

Retrospective Show

You must see our 60th Anniversary RETROSPECTIVE Exhibit at the Gallery at Independence Park Theatre! Your participation in the show is phenomenal. We have 76 paintings by 32 artists. Your take-in and hanging team for the exhibit included Cathy Sarrazin, Claudia LeJeune, Lorie Dalton, Jo Busse, SuEllen Lithgoe, Kay Bailey, Lane Downs, Roberta Loflin, and Leah Schwartzman. It is quite a show.

Officers and Board

Betty Klenke will be our 2014-15 Vice President and Claudia LeJeune will continue as our Treasurer, also for 2014-15. These two officers were nominated and unanimously approved at the September 19 Board Meeting. There was one nominee for each position, and the Board approved their 2-year appointments. The other two elected officers — Lorie Dalton, Secretary, and I — will finish our two-year terms at the end of 2014. Four Members-at-Large will be named by the 2014 officers to serve next year. The continuing Board members include Suzanne Antoon (Member-at-Large), Lane Downs (Satellite Chapter Liaison) and Kay Bailey (Past President). I especially appreciate Kay Bailey serving as Vice President, after Don Schifferl's departure.

Paint (or draw) daily. Be part of a team that inspires you. And, care!

Sincerely,

Barbara Andrepont bandrepont@bellsouth.net

Cell: 225.773.8020

# Message from the RIVER ROAD SHOW Chair

Claudia LeJeune, the River Road Show Committee Chair, shares the following update:

"I am excited to report that the River Road Show judge, Judi Betts, has completed the selection process for paintings to be included in the River Road Show! From the 403 entries by 131 artists, Judi has chosen 75 paintings representing 18 states including California, New York and even Alaska. The accepted entries are posted on the LAAG website and include these LAAG members: Suzanne Antoon, Kay Bailey, Calvin Balencie, Nanci Charpentier, Denice Cyrex Ducote, Betty Efferson, Emily Efferson, Jane Flowers, Cheri Fry, Mary Heckman, Ellen Jenkins, Claudia LeJeune, Byron Levy, Ralph Marino, Carol Ordogne, Lisa Pope, Marilyn Price, Wilma Roy, Patricia Ryan, Kathy Miller Stone, NWS, June Tuma, Sue Wang and Pat Wattam. Congratulations to all! See you at the reception December 13. It is going to be a beautiful show!"

### **Welcome New Members**

The Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild sends out a warm welcome to all new members who have joined the Guild over the Summer months. We hope you take advantage of all the Guild has to offer and we will see you at an upcoming event.

Nancy Bailey, Linda Brockhoeft, Gladys Chapman, Lori Crow, Diane Hunter, Jessica Lawrence, Laura Mitchell, Lisa Pope, Susan Thibodeaux, Janis Tooley, Brenda Tull

### **Members' Forum**

Nineteen members participated in the September Member Forum. The key discussion topics included Upcoming Workshops, the River Road Show, and the Retrospective Show. Carol Mahan gave a talk and demo on Oil Painting without Fumes using non-harmful oils without turpentine. She talked about the health issues she has had over the years directly re-



sulting from the regular use of oil paints, linseed oil and turpentine. Carol told us about "user-friendly" M. Graham oil paints which are formulated with walnut oil as a carrier



for the pigments—These paints require no special ventilation. Walnut oil can also be used as a painting medium, and has another benefit: it cleans up with soap and water! How very interesting, thanks, Carol!! All members present were invited to complete a short survey and the results were shared at the end of the meeting. Door Prizes were awarded to four lucky members. The next Members' Forum will actually be the Christmas Party held at the Independence Park Theatre on December 8.

### A Brief History of Oil Paints by Carol Mahan

The History of oil painting begins between the fifth and tenth centuries but did not become popularized until the fifteenth century. Among those early painters were Buddhist Painters, Indians and Chinese painters in western Afghanistan. During the Middle Ages, oil paint may have migrated westward becoming a modern and popular replacement for the use of tempera paints across the majority of Europe. The transition of oil painting began as it was widely used by Northern European painters of the Netherlands, Jan van Eyck of Bruges among the most famous. Nearly one hundred years later, Giorgio Vasari wrote several books that included a number of traditional painting techniques and painting "recipes" with their applications thus helping to keep the oil painting trend alive. Oil painting became a mainstay and was adopted because the oil made the pigments permanently brighter and it was easy to change colors if needed. In chemistry and physical terms oil paints dry by oxidation, a loss of electrons, and not evaporation, a vaporization of the liquid, hence the slower drying process.

Advances in chemistry have brought back an old technique to mix once again with the newer drying paint mediums. We have many options these days for speeding up the oil paints drying process. One way to quicken the pace is to use an acrylic underpainting then start adding layers with a walnut oil alkyd that dries at a moderate pace...then finalize with a "fat" layer of the desired pigment and walnut oil.

Art is forever, so take your time and make it count!

### **Brush with Burden Call for Entries**

The Burden Horticulture Society is looking forward to another exciting Brush with Burden show and have made some changes to make it bigger and better than ever! The theme of this year's show has expanded: "The Nature and Culture of Louisiana." The paintings and three dimensional art will be judged by New Orleans Artist Billy Solitario



(billysolitario.com). The photography will be displayed in an expanded format in the conference center and will be judged by three distinguished jurors, C.C. Lockwood, David Humphries and Beverly Coates. Deadline for submitting entries is November 30. Find out more on the Burden Horticulture Society's website at burdenhorticulturesociety.com.

# **Open Studio Opportunities NEW!!!**

### **Mosaic Open Studio**

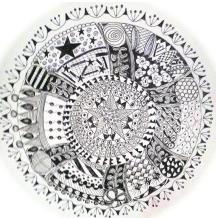
On August 8th the Guild held the first Mosaic Open Studio for members who want to come in and work specifically on mosaics. One of the mosaic pieces from the first Mosaic Open Studio are shown here. The Mosaic Open Studios will continue to be available to members on the second Thursday of each month, from 9:30am-12:30pm, as long as there is sufficient participation. The current dates scheduled are October 10, November 14 and December 12th. Please direct any questions regarding the Mosaic Open Studio days to Kay Bailey at 225-933-6008.

### **Zentangle Open Studio**

For members who are interested specifically in working with Zentangle art, the Guild has Zentangle Open Studio on the third Tuesday of each month from 9:30am-12:30pm. The scheduled dates are October 15, November 19 and December 17. Please direct any questions regarding the Zentangle open studio to Betty Klenke at 225-371-3405. Shown here is one of the art works from the first two Zentangle Open Studios in August and October.

NOTE: These are "open studio" times. There is no formal instruction and no cost. They are being offered due to popular request and will continue as long as participation and interest support them.





# **Interpret this Photo**

Interpret this Photo is an ongoing exhibit at the Studio in the Park featuring members' artwork depicting each artist's interpretation of the same photograph. We are skipping the Interpret this Photo feature this issue. We are asking all members to submit photographs they would like considered for the next Interpret this Photo.

Note that photos should be taken by or expressly for the submitter and must be copyright free. If possible, please indicate where and/or when the photograph was taken. Members can also send in suggestions for a subject matter that would be good for the next Interpret this Photo. Send suggestions and/or pictures to Lane Downs at newsletter@laag-site.org.



#### Current

It's time to bring in your interpretations of the Burden water feature to the Studio in the Park on any Open Studio day. They will be exhibited at the Studio in the Park through October and November.

### **Previous**

See pictures of the shrimp boat scene interpretations on the Guild website at www.laag -site.org/interpret-this-photo.



### **Member News**

Roberta Loflin had a one-woman show at Jones Creek Library August 29—September 29. She has been invited to teach a workshop entitled "Pattern and Rhythm in Watercolor" at the Walter Anderson Art Museum, Ocean Springs, MS, on October 4. Check out more of Roberta Loflin's available workshops on her website at robertaloflin.com.

*Madonna With Child*, an 55" x 58" pastel with inks by Don Rast, was sold at the recent Ochsner Health Center exhibit. Congrats, Don! Keep up the great work!

Donna Kilbourne was selected as one of the emerging artists for the magazine "Art Galleries and Artists of the South" Volume 10, Issue 2, sold at Books a Million and Barnes & Noble. Donna says, "I haven't seen the article yet—can't wait to see it! (My daughter picked up a copy for me from Books a Million.)" ...maybe we can get a copy for the Guild library!? Kudos to Donna!



Cash prizes were awarded to the winners of the Jackson Historic Commission Art Competition.

Donna Kilbourne received a First Place award of \$150 for *Cottage on College Street* and a Second Place award of \$100 for *Road into Jackson*. Linda White received \$75 for Third Place for *Lockridge Cottage*. Other Guild members participating were Mary Heckman, Merry Hobgood,

Frances Durham, Dahn Savell, and Joe Savell. For those members who didn't have their paintings finished in time—another contest will be held in 2014!





Mary Heckman's painting of the First Baptist Church of Jackson LA was in the Jackson Historic District Art Competition. Since August 30, it has been at Pipes McKowen Store in Jackson, together with other paintings. Congratulations, Mary—Way to go!

Anne Thigpen is presently having a Solo show titled "Touché 'a Tout," at the Livingston South Branch Library, 23477 Louisiana 444, Livingston LA. About 30 of Anne's art works, plus some delicate lace, different crochet and knitting works are all on display. We're proud of you, Anne!





# **Recent Feliciana Workshop**



An oil and acrylic workshop was held the weekend of September 13-15 at the Charter Street Art Studio in Jackson, LA. Nine artists participated in this workshop sponsored by FLAAG.

Della Storms, a well known local artists and art teacher, shared her expertise with the group. Friday started with a display of Della's works showing the full spectrum of art ranging from realism to expressionism. The remainder of the weekend was spent with Della working one-on-one with each participant. She commented on how to look for weaknesses in a composition and make corrections to strengthen the end result. Students at the workshop ranged in degree of expertise from beginners to 30+ years. A real plus in Della's teaching method was her ability to take each student where they were and help them move forward as an artist.

Participants in the workshop brought photographs and pictures to create their paintings. Most of the artists created their art using oil as the primary medium; however, some preferred to use acrylic. Artists were encouraged to cover their canvas with acrylic, either by painting it one solid color or filling in a drawing of the picture in colors that would help guide them through the finished work. Everyone completed from 1 to 3 small painting(s) over the weekend.

The workshop was a tremendous success. All the artists were encouraged by what they learned and will continue their creative journey using input from Della and from sharing ideas and information with each other.







# **Recent Iberville Workshop**



At our recent workshop, teacher and artist Sandra Keller taught a technique using a pattern (or not) to draw a design on a surface that will support a little weight, then

sculpting the pattern with sheetrock mud. On the 2nd day of the workshop, we painted the pattern and background, used a blow dryer to speed up drying, then poured an epoxy over the entire surface, letting it drip over the sides. After 24

hours of drying time, everyone had a wonderful piece to take home and hang, or give as a gift. All nine participants had a great time, learned something

new, and the workshop was a stunning value! Thanks to all who participated and made this event a success, and thanks to Sandra for a spectacular workshop!





### **Recent Baton Rouge Workshop**

Roberta Loflin's Watercolor on Yupo Paper workshop resulted in several colorful paintings from the participants who enjoyed an evening of experimenting on this unique material. Yupo paper is a 100% recyclable, waterproof and tree-free synthetic paper. Yupo paper, which is actually a polypropolene paper alternative, developed for a variety of commercial marketing, design and package needs. Since Yupo is waterproof, using watercolors on this surface is a very interesting challenge controlling the

paint on this slick/nonabsorbent surface; it also means that it you lose control of the paints and do not like the results you get .....you simply wipe/ wash the paint off and begin again with a clean sheet. You can see on the right some of the colorful works achieved in this workshop.





# **Upcoming Workshops**

### Roberta Loflin — Watercolor: "Scenes of Louisiana"

October 5-November 9, Saturday mornings from 9:30am-12:00pm Fee: \$100 LAAG members/\$125 nonmembers

Ages 14 and older

To register contact Roberta Loflin at rloflin@gmail.com or 225-803-6785 Roberta says, "Artists are most successful painting what they know." In this class students will work from photos of their favorite sights to create scenes of Louisiana. Focus will be on composition, mixing greens and address concerns of students in putting together an interesting composition.

Visit laag-site.org/workshops/Loflin/LAscenes for a supply list.



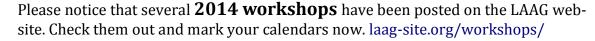
October 29-November 1, Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00am-4:00 pm Fee: \$400 LAAG members/\$450 nonmembers

To register contact Betty Efferson at bettyeffersonartist@me.com,266-7064 In Ken's workshops he presents unique color ideas each day and encourages you to develop your personal color style. They are for anyone wishing to paint with dramatically enriched color. For more information about the workshop and Ken Hosmer, visit laag-site.org/workshops/Hosmer/ or Ken's website at www.kenhosmer.com.



# <u>Kathy Miller Stone — "Pouring Water Scenes in Watercolor"</u>

November 6-8, Wednesday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm
Early Bird Rate until October 5: \$200 LAAG members/\$225 nonmembers
After October 5 Regular Rate: \$225 LAAG members/\$250 nonmembers
To register contact Kay Bailey at kay.bailey@cox.net or 225-343-3265
Kathy is an excellent instructor whose workshops receive rave reviews. She gives more than 100% and her students come away with new skills and techniques.





### **EXHIBITS**

# Summer Judged Show

Robert Howerton, art teacher and LAAG member, judged this exhibit and his selections were presented at the Reception and Awards Presentation on August 11. The judge's comments on the winning paintings were shared at the reception. Congratulations to the winners of the Summer Judged Show!

First Place: Cheri Fry, Map Guy Second Place: Betty Jo Troxclair, Summertime Third Place: Pat Elam. Fence Me In **Honorable Mention** Larry Downs, Mountain Valley Station Claudia LeJeune, Anole Betty Io Troxclair, Reflections







### Ochsner Health Center

The Guild hosted an exhibit of members artwork at the Ochsner Health Center during the month of August. This is the Ochsner "clinic" located at 9001 Summa Ave, across from the Baton Rouge General Medical Center Bluebonnet Campus. The paintings were displayed on a large wall near the entrance of the clinic, easily viewed by everyone who entered. Congratulations to Don Rast who sold a painting from this exhibit!



### Salon Fashion

The exhibit at Salon Fashion is changed out on a two month cycle. The current exhibit went up on September 10 and will hang until November 12. On display are 9 pieces of artwork by 5 participating artists. This opportunity is free and open to all Guild members so please bring in one or two paintings for the next show to the Studio in the Park on any Open Studio day in October.





### **Mayor's Office**

Calling all artists who paint BIG. We have the perfect space to display your large paintings. The walls at the Mayor's Office are best utilized by artwork larger than 22"x28". The paintings currently on display will be exchanged on October 11 and hang until February 7. Only 11 spots are available, so now is the time to bring in your best big paintings to the Studio in the Park.

# Retrospective Show

The members only Retrospective Show is currently hanging at the Independence Park Theatre. The largest LAAG exhibit this year with seventy-six pieces filling the Gallery, the show brings together an eclectic display of both old and new artwork from thirty-two different artists. Some paintings date back as far as the 1960's

and 1970's. Many artists furnished a short written statement providing an insight into the artist's thoughts about the painting. The show will be up until November 7 so be sure to stop by and check out the artwork.





# Winter Judged Show

Take-in for the Winter Judged Show will be on Thursday, November 7 from 10:30 am—2:00 pm at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. Paintings hanging in the current Retrospective Show should be picked up at this time. The Winterer Judged Show Reception and Awards Presentation will be on Sunday, December 8 from 2:00—4:00 pm at the Theatre Gallery. This coincides with the Christmas Party. It will be a big celebration so mark your calendars now. A total of \$500 will be awarded for the paintings judged 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We will announce the judge for this show via email and the LAAG website. The exhibit will be on display until Thursday, January 9. Artists who enter artwork in this show must come to pick up their paintings on January 9 between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm.

# Serop's Express Restaurants

Sue Wang had a one woman show in August and September at the Serop's Café Restaurant on Highland Road. Jo McWilliams will be exhibiting next, from October 3 through the end of 2013.

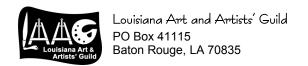


The artwork of Joyce Hensley currently on exhibit at Serop's

Express Restaurant on Jefferson Highway will be changed out on October 30 and Joann Smith's acrylic works will be on exhibit until the end of 2013.

Most "one person" exhibits require the artist to have 20-40 paintings to hang, the Guild has agreements that allow us to offer you the opportunity to have a "one person" exhibit with only 6-10 paintings. We are currently accepting reservations for slots beginning in January 2014, for members to exhibit their artwork at the Serops Restaurants on Highland Road and Jefferson Highway. These popular eating establishments provide great visibility for your artwork and have yielded sales for several artists who have exhibited in these locations. Each exhibit hangs for a two month period. The exhibit space at each location can accommodate approximately

6-8 paintings depending on the size of the paintings ... usually from 5x7 to 16x20. There are a couple of spaces in each location that can hold a single larger painting. To take advantage of this opportunity email Roberta Loflin at rloflin@gmail.com to reserve your time slot NOW.



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Louisiana
Art & Artists' Guild
Celebrating
60 Years
1953 — 2013

# **NEWS** from the **PALETTE**



**Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild** laagbr@laag-site.org 225-926-4657 www.laag-site.org www.facebook.com/LouisianaArtandArtistsGuild

October 2013

This newsletter is produced by a Committee consisting of the following members:

Chair: Lane Downs

Art & Design Director: Lane Downs Information Director: Trish Poynot

Copy Editor: Trish Poynot Guild News: Lane Downs Member News: Trish Poynot

Iberville and Feliciana News: Trish Poynot

Exhibits: Open

Workshops: Leah Schwartzman

Interviews: Caroline Derbes, Kay Bailey, Tom Skillern and Howard Hershberg

Any member information to be included in the newsletter should be sent to Trish Poynot at newsletter@laag-site.org by the tenth of every other month. The newsletter is then published and mailed on the first of the next month.