



# News from the Palette

**Art Guild of Louisiana**

**April 2025**

[www.artguildlouisiana.org](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org)  
[agl@artguildlouisiana.org](mailto:agl@artguildlouisiana.org)

## Getting to Know Pat Wattam ...

Pat Wattam joined the Guild in 2019 and since then, has been a frequent exhibitor and award winner in Guild exhibits, as well as winning awards at venues not associated with AGL. Pat is also the person who keeps the AGL Facebook page updated with news, workshops, and exhibits, etc. Thanks to Pat's diligence in quickly posting information, our Facebook activity/presence is consistently increasing, and our number of followers is also growing.



Pat says as a preschooler, she was obsessed with pens and paper (and still is!). She began drawing stick figures of horses and later in grade school, drew what today she would call a "story board" i.e., cowboys and horses chasing the outlaws. Being from a very small town, art lessons/classes were not available. Even though she enjoyed drawing and continued to draw though her school years, art always took a back seat to music. She began taking piano lessons at age 5, learned clarinet to play in the band at age 12, and began playing flute around age 16.

Pat said the gene pool for both visual and performing arts was always there for her to tap into. Her dad, born in 1901, was a traveling musician until he settled down with his first wife at age 27. And her mom's older sister, (also named Pat), was an artist who died in her early 20s. Pat earned a master's degree from Michigan State in clarinet performance and enjoyed a successful career as a classical musician in Nashville, TN.

Upon moving to Baton Rouge in 1979 from Arkansas, Pat embarked on a new career in real estate, where she met local artist Debbie Denstorff. Despite not having picked up an artist's brush since high school, after buying her first beach condo around 2008, she and her girlfriend, who had a condo in the same complex, decided they would create artwork for their condo décor. Upon seeing the artwork Pat was creating for the condo, Debbie encouraged her to join her in taking acrylic classes with Elise Toups. Apparently, Pat had some natural talent and she learned that she may be more suited to oil painting than acrylics.

The following year, Pat was fortunate enough to secure an opening with another local artist, an oil painter, Elayne Kuehler. Pat quickly learned the forgiving nature of oils suited the whims of her changing mind and the design halfway through working on a painting, which she said she still does today. Pat went on to study privately with Elayne over the next 11 years. And so it was that Pat discovered a love of creating visual art that ran deeper within her than she had ever realized.



Pat's very successful full-time real estate career continued for 43 years and included painting in her spare time. Scheduling painting time around her busy work schedule meant that many days, she only had maybe an hour in the middle of the day. She would go to the studio for an hour or so and would paint something very specific, something she

could focus on for that short period of time. But Saturday was set aside as her "painting" day. Saturday mornings could mean hours spent pondering ideas and delving into her creativeness.

Saturday afternoons she would visit her mom, who had moved to Baton Rouge from Arkansas at age 80, and take her shopping. Sometimes, she could steal a little time on Sundays after church and before going to pick up her mom for an outing of some sort. It was all about juggling multiple schedules to carve out precious bits of time to paint.



Although Pat has taken a step back in real estate and has been painting full time for the past three years, she continues to be available on a consulting basis to the team of realtors/clients she developed during that chapter of her life. Several have been with her over 18 years.

Today, instead of scheduling art around work, work is scheduled around art. Her typical schedule looks like this: Weekdays she arrives at her studio between 9:00 and 9:30 and paints until 2:00 or 3:00. Weekends are organized to accommodate family time, such as painting on Saturday morning while her husband plays tennis. Sunday is a day off unless she has a deadline to finish a painting. The occasional needs of real estate clients are fit into the afternoons.

Visit Pat's website to see more of her inspiring art: [www.artbypatwattam.com](http://www.artbypatwattam.com) and check out her Facebook page.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring has sprung, and so have opportunities for our Guild. At the Board's annual strategic planning meeting where we embraced our motto "Thrive in '25!", we focused on expanding educational offerings, member retention and growth, fundraising for studio improvements, and creating more exhibition opportunities for your artwork. I'm pleased to report that all of our committees are doing great; membership is healthy and our vision for the future is strong. I'm particularly excited about plans for two fun events at the studio where we can share our work and give guests the chance to get creative with us. Can you say "pARTy in the Park"?



Perhaps you've noticed our ad in *Country Roads* magazine and social media advertising several new workshops. A new Spring-Fall Saturday afternoon series will complement Roberta's popular morning watercolor classes and provide weekend learning opportunities in various mediums. They also serve as a platform for aspiring instructors (like me) to gain teaching experience in a supportive, relaxed environment, so if you are interested in teaching, contact me.

With the season of renewal upon us, I encourage everyone to participate in our annual studio clean-out for the upcoming "Garage Sale" scheduled for Saturday, May 31 – June 1, 2025. Your gently used materials and tools could find new life in another artist's hands. All supply donations and subsequent monies directly support Guild activities throughout the year.

The deadline for entry in our 55th Annual National River Road Show is May 12, 2025. As you know, this prestigious national juried exhibition attracts entries from across the U.S. and offers awards exceeding \$4,000. Let's showcase the incredible talent within our Guild and beyond. Also, if you plan to join juror Calvin Liang's workshop, don't wait; we will begin advertising it publicly soon.

In this beautiful season, whether you choose to paint outdoors or the studio, I hope you'll embrace the spirit of renewal that spring brings and perhaps make a resolution to learn something new and get involved in a charitable way. Our guild thrives because of our shared participation and passion.

I look forward to seeing your faces, and your artwork in the coming months. Let's Thrive in '25.  
David Gary

### **The 55<sup>th</sup> River Road Show**

The 55th River Road Show will be open from August 4, 2025, through September 24, 2025, at the Louisiana State Archives, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge. We are extremely excited to have the nationally recognized, award-winning master oil painter and instructor, Calvin Liang, as our juror/judge for this year's show.

Get the Entry Requirements and enter online at: [www.artguildlouisiana.org/river-road-show](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/river-road-show)

#### **Calendar**

May 12	Entry deadline, midnight online or postmark
June 18	Accepted/declined notices emailed/accepted list on AGL website
July 1-17	Deadline for receipt of shipped artwork
July 31	Hand delivered artwork, 11:00 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
August 4	Exhibition opens
August 14-16	Calvin Liang workshop
August 21	Reception/Awards ceremony 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
September 23	Exhibition closes
September 24	Shipped art returned /Pick-up hand delivered artwork 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### **Artists Galleries – AGL Website**

Many of you are aware the Guild sponsors a "Picture Day" every third Sunday of each month (except as noted on the AGL website calendar) to photograph art work of Guild members. After a member has had at least five pieces of their work photographed, AGL will automatically set up a personal artist's gallery for that member on the AGL website.

That is just one way you can have a personal artist gallery on the AGL website. If you do your own photography and/or already have photographs of your art work, you may email them to the webmaster, Lane Downs, and he will set up an artist's gallery using the photos you already have. You may submit up to 20 images at a time. However, to maintain consistency and quality of the galleries on the website, the following criteria must be met:

1. Images should be sent as attachments, not embedded in the email.
2. Images must be at least 1,200 pixels on any side.
3. In the email include the title, medium, size of each artwork.
4. Attached image files can be named anything as long as we can match the titles in the email to the correct image files.
5. If sending multiple emails with five or six images each, please indicate the total number of emails and total number of images so the webmaster will know how many he should have, i.e. email 1 of 4/17 total images; email 2 of 4/17 total images.

View Artists Galleries here: [www.artguildlouisiana.org/galleries](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/galleries)

## **AGL Art Supply Garage Sale 2025: May 31 and June 1, 2025**

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge

Stuffed in closets and drawers, slipped into nooks and crannies, art supplies and gadgets, waiting for that inspirational moment to try out that new medium or tool. Or maybe you tried it and said “one day...” but years later “one day” still hasn’t come. We all have them.

Now is a great time to clean out those closets and drawers, nooks and crannies! AGL is hosting another public art supply yard sale. Please consider getting those items together and donating them to the AGL for the sale. By donating those “nearly new” and “gently used” items to AGL, you not only support the AGL, but will also benefit others in our community. During our previous sale in 2022, we met several “new” artists, LSU students, and art teachers who were there buying supplies.

Prices are set reasonably low to ensure bargains for the buyers and funds for the AGL. All proceeds go directly to AGL to help pay for general operating expenses, like award ribbons, prize money, and utilities, etc. Also, we will be needing volunteers to help before and during the sale!

If you wouldn't buy it, please don't donate it; no dried up paints, damaged frames, etc. Thank you. Please bring all donations to the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge on the following dates and times:

**Tuesday, May 20 and Wednesday, May 21 between 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, May 25 between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.**

**\*\*NOTE:** If you have items to donate but absolutely cannot make any of the drop off dates/times contact: Jennifer Cutrer or Emily Efferson and we will try to work something out.

**Jennifer Cutrer** contact: cutrer@hotmail.com / **Emily Efferson** contact: etefferson@cox.net

## **OUT AND ABOUT**

### **Louisiana State Archives Invitation**

The following invitation has been sent to our membership from the Louisiana State Archives. The Archives has been a longtime supporter of the AGL and Betty Efferson is a fellow AGL member. We hope that many of you will have the opportunity to take part in this very fun event and/or view the Baton Rouge Art League's fantastic collection of art.

*My name is Catherine Pearson Puma and I am the exhibits curator at the Louisiana State Archives. I am reaching out to personally invite your membership to attend a special “live art” program featuring artist Betty Efferson that we are hosting on April 9, 2025 from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Louisiana State Archives. I have attached the flyer for the program that you can share with anyone.*

*Additionally, I also wanted to let you know that we are giving guided tours of our spring exhibition, Beyond the Frame. This exhibition celebrates the Baton Rouge Art League and features ninety-three works from their collection. If you are interested in scheduling a tour, please let me know and I would be more than happy to be your guide. The exhibition is up through May 30, 2025.*

## Open Studios BR: A Self-guided Art Studio Tour

Claudine Diamond shared the following event: On Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., get a look behind the scenes of a dozen or more Baton Rouge artists and artisans in the second annual Open Studios BR: A Baton Rouge Artists' Studios Self-Guided Tour. Explore behind the scenes of some of the talented artists that you may already know.

Painters, photographers, woodworkers, jewelers, potters, and more will open their creative spaces and share the inspiration behind their beautiful work. Many of our patrons from last year won prizes just for attending, and many of our artisans provided activities for their guests. There will also be a couple of food trucks located at one or more locations for your convenience.

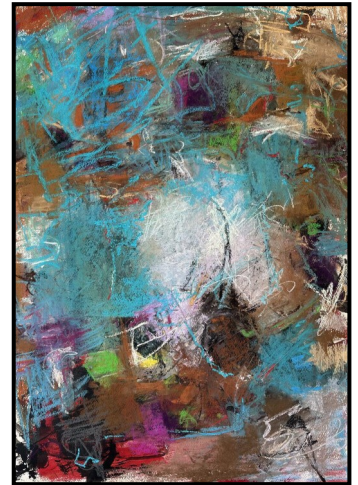
Open Studios BR is free and open to all ages. A web-based map will guide you from studio to studio and contains a list of every participating artist so that you can plan your day.

For more information, please see [www.jewelofhavana.com/openstudiosbr](http://www.jewelofhavana.com/openstudiosbr)

## MEMBER NEWS

**Betty Efferson** is honored to win Third Place the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Pastel 100, in the "Abstract and Non-Objective category." Betty and her winning art work is featured in an article in the Spring Issue of *Pastel Journal*. The winning work of art "Hidden Jewels" is a 30 x 22 pastel and ink on paper. Congratulations, Betty!!

Juror Diana Sanford summarized her thoughts about the piece as a painting full of "distinctive, dynamic scribbles that truly dazzle" with marks that "convey profound emotions."



## EXHIBITS

### Winter Member Show 2025 – People's Choice Winner

William "Bill" Guillory – *Mary's Tears* - Acrylic



### Goodwood Library Member Show 2024 – People's Choice Winner

Tad Hardy – *Shenandoah Dew Drops* - Acrylic

**“Let It Sneaux” Member Show 2024 – People’s Choice Winner**

Tonia K. Guidry – *Create in Me* – Acrylic



**Autumn Judged Winners: 2024**

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Mylinda Lanzl – *Summer Nap* – Acrylic w/texture

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Dana Mosby – *Lovelace Drugs* – Oil

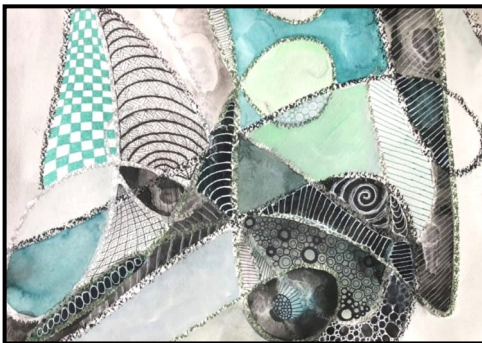
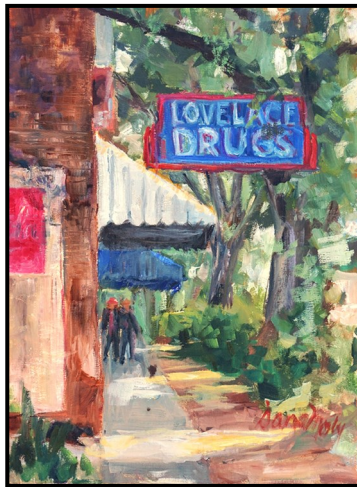
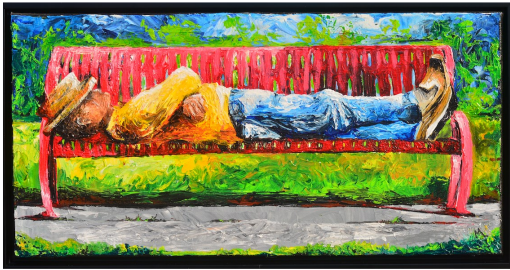
3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Anna Hingle – *Remembrance* – Pastel

Honorable Mentions:

Claudine Diamond – *Cleanup Kreaux* – Mixed Media

Tonia Guidry – *Sunset on the Pier* – Acrylic

Alicia Thomas – *Bright Spot in the Grass* – Watercolor



## **Current Exhibit: Ode to Andy Warhol**

"Ode to Andy Warhol" opened on March 14 and will be open to the public until May 8, 2025, featuring 22 works of art by 14 artists expressing their inner pop-art creativity. It is an homage to Warhol in mediums other than Warhol's signature photographic screen printing techniques.

A People's Choice ribbon will be awarded at a reception on April 13, 2025 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Also, one lucky exhibiting artist will win a \$25 cash prize in a random drawing. And a special treat we will also have a painting demonstration presented by local artist/instructor and member volunteer, Larry Downs.

This is a really fun show! Invite friends and family to stop in to vote for their favorite!

## **CALL FOR ENTRY: SPRING JUDGED SHOW**

Entry Fee: AGL members \$10 per entry/ nonmembers \$20 per entry

Location: 7800 Independence Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge

Exhibit Dates: May 8 – July 10, 2025

The Art Guild of Louisiana is calling for art for the Spring Judged Show at Independence Park Theatre Gallery, Baton Rouge. The exhibit is open to all two-dimensional artists aged 18 years and up. We encourage a variety of traditional two-dimensional mediums. All art work must be original in execution and design/composition, and must have been completed in the past two years. Photography, prints/giclées, computer generated/enhanced and other non-original art will not be accepted.

This is a non-juried exhibit, which means that there is no selection process. Artists interested in exhibiting must bring their entries to the Independence Park Theater on May 8, 2025 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please see the Installation Requirements at [www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/exhibits) to ensure that your entry will be accepted.

A total of \$325 in cash awards and two Honorable Mention ribbons will be presented at an awards ceremony on Sunday, June 8, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Independence Park.

All art must remain in the exhibit until the takedown, July 10, 2025, from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 pm. BREC retains 20% commission on all sales.

## **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

### **Saturday Afternoon Fine Art Adventures with Oils and Gouache**

**by David Gary, Nanci Charpentier, and Madhuri Yadlapati**

Saturday Afternoons 1:00–4:00pm

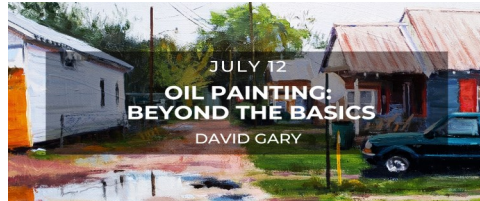
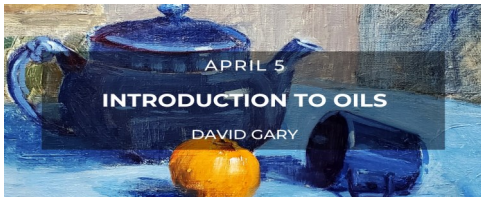
April 5, May 3, May 17, May 24, July 12, and August 9.

Registration fee: each workshop is \$65 members / \$75 nonmembers

If you ever thought about trying to paint with oils, here is your opportunity. Tap in to your creative side and register for one or all six workshops. On April 5, "An Introduction to Oil Painting" kicks off the line up of Saturday afternoon workshops (all supplies are provided). You will start with the basics in oils and develop a more confident foundation with each successive class.

These workshops are presented by three local, talented award-winning artists whose artwork has been exhibited in various venues around the state and nationally. What a great gift for someone who is interested in taking that first step into the world of painting.

For details of each workshop, supply lists, and where to direct questions, just click on the specific workshop below. Register for your favorite workshops on our website: [www.artguildlouisiana.org/workshops](http://www.artguildlouisiana.org/workshops)



### **Claudine Diamond: Introduction to Gel Plate and Collage**

April 11 (Saturday), 1:00–4:00pm

Fee: \$50 members / \$60 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Anna Hingle: [anna.hingle@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hingle@gmail.com) or 225-572-5975

Spend a Saturday afternoon with Claudine creating personal one of kind artwork. Bring a friend! Create decorative papers using a gel plate in order to create an abstract piece of art using collage. The 12 different types of abstract compositions will be discussed and utilized. Students will leave with a completed piece of artwork



Claudine Diamond is a local self-taught artist. She creates art to uplift the spirit, calm the mind and take the viewer on a whimsical journey to places they never knew they wanted to go.

### **Betty Gravois: Capturing Your Travels in Art Journals - Watercolor**

April 26–27 (Saturday-Sunday) from 10:00am–4:00pm

Early Bird fee thru April 1: \$125 members / \$150 nonmembers

Regular fee begins April 2: \$150 members / \$175 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Anna Hingle: [anna.hingle@gmail.com](mailto:anna.hingle@gmail.com) or 225-572-5975

Betty said, "It may have started during COVID when I started to paint and sketch in an old journal. Twelve months later I had over 360 pieces, many of which were from vacation photos in the past." She has many examples of different creative ideas for travel journals and will have them available during



the workshop. Journals can be from European tours, to local vacation travels, or jaunts around the state. Live your past vacations again by creating a travel journal of your own. Journals can include on-site sketches or can be done when you return home. We will talk about different journal formats (i.e. formal journals and creating your own journal). Betty will show you her travel kit and suggestions on what you should bring on a vacation or even around town.

Betty is a fun, creative, and knowledgeable workshop instructor. Other workshops Betty has taught at AGL include: Watercolor Post Cards, Adobe Southwest in watercolor, Scrap Paper Houses, Mosaics on Stepping/Garden Stones, and Adult/Child Christmas Workshops.

### **Larry Downs: Acrylics 3 – More of Painting Your Way**

May 1, 8, 15, 22 (Thursdays), 3:00–6:00pm

Early Bird fee thru April 20: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins April 21: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Karri Oaks: [karrilouwho@gmail.com](mailto:karrilouwho@gmail.com) or 225-405-3988

\*You do not have to have taken “Acrylics 1 and 2” but you do need to be proficient in working with acrylics.

In this four-week course, Larry will pick up where Acrylics 2 left off. During the break between classes, students had time to hone skills they previously learned. Larry will build on those skills and give students the confidence to move forward. This class will work on producing works suitable for entering into shows.



For the past 30 years, Larry has taught in various venues in Baton Rouge and the surrounding area including Leisure Classes and O.L.L.I.E classes at LSU, BREC classes, and now with AGL.

### **Roberta Loflin: Watercolor Basics - Focus on the Colors of Spring**

May 3, 10, 17, 24 (Saturdays), 9:30am - noon

Early Bird fee thru April 20: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins April 21: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: [barbra.andrepont@gmail.com](mailto:barbra.andrepont@gmail.com) or 225-773-8020

In this class, you will work one-on-one with Roberta to focus on composing your paintings, working with values and lighting. You'll work from still life “models,” which is an excellent practice to develop your skills. Come spend Saturday mornings with us, working on your watercolor skills. This class welcomes beginners!



### **Larry Downs: Drawing 3 – Putting It All Together**

Jun 5, 12, 19, 26 (Thursdays), 3:00–6:00pm

Early Bird fee thru May 25: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins May 26: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Karri Oaks: [karrilouwho@gmail.com](mailto:karrilouwho@gmail.com) or 225-405-3988



"Drawing 3" will pick up where "Drawing 2" left off. During the break between classes, students had the time to hone the skills they previously learned. Larry will build on those skills and give you the confidence to move forward. This class will work on producing works suitable for entering into shows. You do not have to have taken Drawing 1 and 2 but you do need to be proficient in drawing.

### **Roberta Loflin: Watercolor Basics – Focus on Perspective with City Scenes**

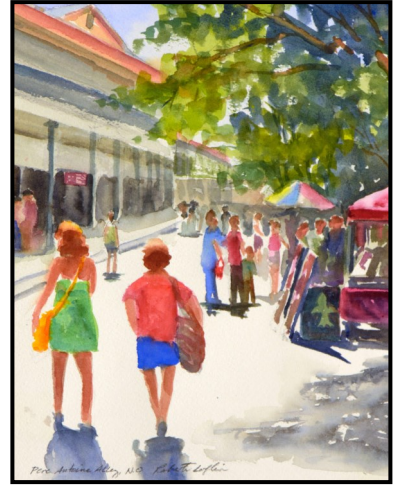
June 7, 14, 21, 28 (Saturdays), 9:30am - noon

Early Bird fee thru May 25: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins May 26: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: [barbra.andrepont@gmail.com](mailto:barbra.andrepont@gmail.com) or 225-773-8020

In this class, you will work on city scenes of your choice, finding the focal point and ensuring that everything comes together. Bring photos of your favorite city scenes. Come spend Saturday mornings with Roberta, working on your watercolor skills. This class welcomes beginners!



### **Roberta Loflin: Watercolor Basics – Focus on Waterscapes**

July 12, 19, 26, Aug 2 (Saturdays), 9:30am - noon

Early Bird fee thru June 26: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins June 27: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: [barbra.andrepont@gmail.com](mailto:barbra.andrepont@gmail.com) or 225-773-8020

Everyone loves to paint a water scene. Come learn to paint cool scenes of water with watercolor, in the midst of summer's heat. Bring photos of your favorite wet places. This class welcomes beginners!



### **Calvin Liang: Brushwork and Design - From Photo to Fantastic Finish - Oil/Acrylic**

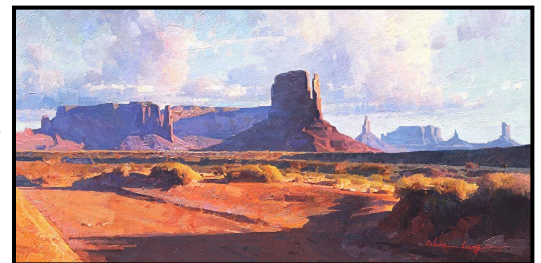
August 14 - 16 (Thursday - Saturday), 9:00am - 4:00pm

Early Bird fee thru June 23: \$575 members / \$600 nonmembers

Regular fee begins June 24: \$600 members / \$625 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: David Gary: [dgary@redstick.com](mailto:dgary@redstick.com) or 225-252-8384

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced. Only 7 seats still available.



We are excited that Master artist Calvin Liang is the juror/judge for the 55<sup>th</sup> River Road show, a national art competition sponsored by AGL in August and September, 2025. While he is in Baton Rouge Calvin will be presenting a 3-day workshop at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Ave, Baton Rouge. World-class art instruction at your doorstep!

Participants will work on a single studio painting based on photos you have taken on location. Calvin will begin with a slideshow to show how he uses the photo as a reference for the painting, then a demo followed by spending individual time with each student as they work on their own painting. Lessons focused

on in the workshop include: planning an effective composition; use of warm/cool colors in landscapes; creating space with hard/soft edges; why use different paint textures/brushstrokes; and getting good results in a short time.

Calvin is a Master member of the Oil Painters of America and the American Impressionist Society. Calvin also holds signature membership in California Art Club, Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, and the American Society of Marine Artists.

## Calvin Balencie

April 7, 1936 - March 26, 2025

It is with sadness, that we close this issue with news of the passing of a beloved friend and fellow member artist. Just days before this newsletter was to be published we were informed that Calvin Balencie passed away on Wednesday afternoon, March 26, 2025. Calvin was a native of New Orleans who moved to Baton Rouge after Hurricane Katrina, with the love of his life, wife JoAnn. (JoAnn preceded him in death after 61 years of marriage.) He became a very active member of the Guild, a frequent exhibitor and volunteer. One of his favorite volunteer jobs was "bartender" at AGL's annual River Road Show. He was also an active member of the Louisiana Watercolor Society. He was a talented award winning artist; one of his favorite and most popular subjects being the peaceful and beautiful sand dunes and sea oats of Destin, FL. Calvin always brought an element of gaiety and laughter. He was a jokester and a gentleman and one couldn't help but smile when they saw Calvin walk in. He will be greatly missed by so many. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go to his family and all of us who knew him. Visitation Services: Wednesday, April 2, 9:30-11:00a.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Get the details [www.resthavenbatonrouge.com/obituaries/calvin-balencie](http://www.resthavenbatonrouge.com/obituaries/calvin-balencie)



# News from the Palette

## Art Guild of Louisiana

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[facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana](https://facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana)  
[instagram.com/ArtGuildLouisiana](https://instagram.com/ArtGuildLouisiana)



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— ask them to do the same —

Get the word out about YOUR organization

“connect art and people”

