



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana
www.artguildlouisiana.org

agl@artguildlouisiana.org
facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana

DECEMBER 2023

Why I Go to Open Studio by Anna Hingle

Before I found AGL, I only created my art alone in my home studio. I was happy doing that, mind you. I still love to, and my studio is my happy place. But something was missing. I had no one in which to bounce ideas off, or to share my joy of art with... someone who truly understood. I met some artist friends online, but something is missing when you can't look someone in the eyes and see your joy mirrored back to you when you talk art. We love our family and friends, but rarely do they geek out over art like we do!



This changed when I started going to Open Studio. It took me a while to get up the guts to go. I thought it would be intimidating. How could I possibly "do my art" in front of other people? Well, turns out it's not like that at all. You stake a place at a long table, in a spacious room. Some people have a table all to their own, and some people choose to share with people they've been painting with for a while. But it's never awkward with people staring at your work...

But more importantly, let me tell you about the people! Our members who go to open studio are some of the most welcoming, humble, and generous people I've ever met. No one is sitting at their table looking down at the beginner artist, looking askance at the intermediate artist, or being jealous of the advanced artist. These people are kind, supportive, and always willing to share their expertise and suggestions. In that room, we are all beginner artists, we are all ageless, and we are all students. Our members love sharing with each other what we're doing, what we've discovered, and what we've learned. And if you just want to sit there quietly and paint and just listen, that's good too.

This group helps me so much with my paintings. I might walk in to the studio frustrated with a piece feeling "stuck," but I always walk out with new ideas, insights and motivation. If I want help or a critique, I can ask for it and it is delivered with the wisdom and kindness of friends. My art levels up because of the generous spirit of these people. We are all travelers in our art journeys, and we recognize and support the traveler in each other, and that is priceless!

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention the "personal connection" piece of open studio. I have walked in personally down, and I have walked out "feeling the love." Shoot, sometimes the reception I get just walking in the door is enough to lift my spirits! It truly is a place where "everybody knows your name" (to steal a popular song line) and they're always glad you came. We've got each other's backs. We laugh, we eat, we paint, we help each other out, and sometimes, we just sit and have a cup of coffee and chat. Personally, this has had influence on my life, by making real connections with truly kind and generous people.

This place we have to paint together is a gift. We want even more members to enjoy it! Many art organizations are not blessed with a space of their own. We have more than a dozen long tables, a fridge, microwave and coffee machine, snacks, a library, some art supplies and props for still life setups. Come and join us, or just stop in and say hello and check us out if you're unsure. Have a cup of coffee and we'll show you around. If our open studio schedule doesn't work for you, tell us what would! We love fresh faces, and there's always room for one more. We hope to see you there!

NOTE: The author of this article is a relatively new member, joined in 2019 to take a workshop; just before our near death experience with Covid and since her return in 2021 has become a strong volunteer and an enthusiastic advocate for the goals of the AGL. We greatly appreciate that she volunteered to share her story with us. If you would like to share a story about how AGL has affected your life or art journey please email Leah Schwartzman at newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org.

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

December is such a beautiful month—not so much if we're talking weather this year in Louisiana, or the current state of the world at large. Close your ears and eyes to block out that reality for a moment, and let's reflect on the year at AGL.

2023. This year we celebrated ourselves! We celebrated 70 years of bringing art to our community! Our biggest event was the 70 Year Jubilee Exhibition and Reception event held in June at the Louisiana State Archives. We were able to find several of our early members who enthusiastically accepted our invitation to participate. It was an enormous success—if success is measured in a display of beautiful works of art and a party atmosphere as old friends reconnected.



Another happy event: we finally had our Member Appreciation Ice Cream Social. Those attending downed a couple gallons of Blue Bell, in banana splits or sundaes. (Well worth an extra pound.)

Late this year we invited Billie Bourgeois to a day at Open Studio. She worked with several artists, answering questions, and solving compositional or other problems, and did some very informative critiques. It was fun for all, and we hope to repeat this often.

Lastly, to motivate and put a little fun into the Independence Park Theatre member exhibit, we challenged artists to incorporate one, some, or all of the "Twelve Days of Christmas" into their paintings.

Okay, you can open your ears and eyes. Back to reality. I, as well as a few other members, have been around a bit longer than our organization. My reality is sometimes full of pain and loss and worry. Along with that can come feelings of static, stuckness, some questions like "why do we paint? Why do we think it is important to bring art to our community?"

One of our earliest and most celebrated members, Judi Betts, had her own Retrospective Exhibit this year. It was a large and inspiring display. One of her quotes is "... happiness is what I choose to display". And another: "I savor cheerfulness".

So maybe that's it. We all have our reasons for making art. Maybe that little bit of self-expression can help tune out the chaos and bring beauty to our community. And the Art Guild of Louisiana is all about that. Back to celebrations: Don't forget the Christmas Party is early this year—December 3. Hope to see you there! ...*Marilyn Gensler*

Happiness is a warm puppy! -- Charles Schulz

Christmas Party - December 3rd. 2:00-4:00 pm - Studio in the Park

The AGL Board invites all members to join together for a couple of hours to celebrate the holidays. The President will begin with about 20 minutes for a member meeting to update members on the year of activities behind us and a brief outlook for 2024. The floor is then open to members for questions/comments. Then the festivities begin, eating, visiting, and lots of fun and laughs during the gift exchange activities. Member spouses are welcome to attend all Guild events, of course. For those of you who are new to the event, here's the "scoop":

It is a Potluck Christmas Party - each member is asked to bring a finger food for the refreshment table. Cold drinks provided.

Each person who wants to participate in the Secret Santa Painting Exchange must bring one **unframed, original** piece of their artwork **wrapped in plain brown paper** (no ribbons/bows - this is very important so that all paintings in the exchange look just alike). Paintings are distributed via random drawing of numbers.

Each person who wants to participate in the gift exchange must bring one gift, **wrapped and unsigned**; minimum gift **cost \$10**. We always have lots of fun playing games for the gift exchange.

You are invited to participate in both exchanges (which many people do), either exchange, or none of the exchanges. If gift exchanges are not your thing, you are invited to come to eat and visit and watch the fun.

SEE YOU THERE!



Image by hannazasimova on Freepik

AGL's Member Appreciation Ice Cream Social

The ice cream social on October 22, at the Studio in the Park, was well attended and everyone had a good time eating banana splits and ice cream sundaes with lots of sprinkles and toppings. We had a photo set up and invited folks to create a painting of their ice cream creation. It was lots of fun to see everyone, and to visit with a few folks who have been absent recently.



2023 MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31 - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

AGL 2023 memberships expire December 31, 2023! Renew YOUR membership before it expires! AGL membership is \$45 for regular membership or \$25 for full-time student (18 years and up) for one calendar year, January 1 through December 31. All dues paid before December 31 go towards 2024 membership year.

Please consider including a year-end donation with your membership. We are an all volunteer organization so 100% of your dues and donation dollars go directly to Guild operations. And because we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization your donation is tax deductible as allowable by law.

Pay
Dues

There are three easy and convenient ways to join, renew, and/or to give a membership to a friend or family member:

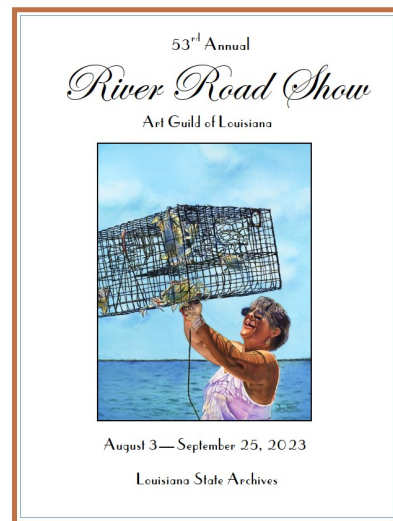
- 1) **Online** at www.artguildlouisiana.org/join. You may pay with a credit card or via Pay Pal.
- 2) **Mail** your check and a completed Membership Form to the Guild. Be sure to note on your check "2024 Dues." Make Checks payable to "Art Guild of Louisiana" or "AGL" and mail it to AGL, P.O. Box 41115, Baton Rouge, LA 70835. **BE SURE TO INCLUDE A COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH YOUR CHECK.**
- 3) **Pay in person** at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge during open studio hours. If you pay in person you must also complete a Membership Form. Download and print the membership form from the website: www.artguildlouisiana.org/downloads/AGL-membership-form.pdf

For questions or comments, contact AGL at www.artguildlouisiana.org/contact. Be sure to include a phone number if you want someone to speak with you.

River Road Show Catalogs

The deadline to order 2023 River Road Show color catalogs was October 31, 2023. Any orders for catalogs after that date are considered preorders for the 2024 catalog. Printed copies are \$10 each and a digital/downloadable copy is available for \$5. Archived copies of the catalog are available in digital format only.

Artists who are accepted in the River Road Show will receive one complimentary printed catalog. If you order a catalog early, and later get accepted into the River Road Show, you will receive two catalogs: the one you purchased and one complimentary copy.



Picture Day – December 17, 2023

AGL offers free photography services of members' artwork. On the third Sunday of each month from 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm, members may bring up to three pieces of artwork to be photographed in a semi-professional photography setting. You may wait for your work to be photographed (first come-first served basis) or you may leave the artwork and pick it up on the next open studio date, usually the following Tuesday. No paintings behind glass and no wet paint. For more details/tips to have your work photographed visit www.artguildlouisiana.org/picture-day.

MEMBER NEWS

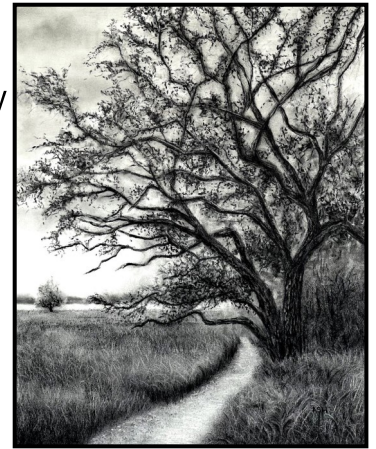
Baton Rouge General Hospital sponsors an annual art exhibit and reception as part of their Arts in Medicine program. The exhibit is in the hospital cafeteria and remains open to the public until the next call for entry in 2024. AGL member artists have long supported the exhibit by entering their art. Again this year several member artists were accepted in the exhibit, many of whom earned awards.



Kathy Stone - 1st Place in painting

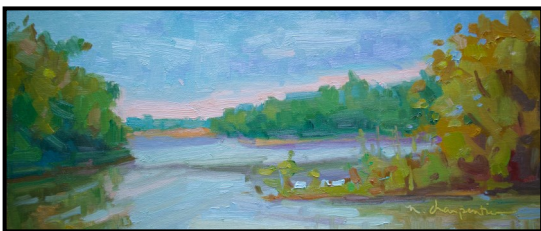
Anna Hingle - 1st Place in open category

Honorable Mentions went to: Margaret Hawkins, Leah Schwartzman, Larry Downs, Dee Dee Wilbert, Bonnie Cooper, and Lana Bernard Toniolo.



Iberville Parish Library presented the 53rd annual Acadian Art Show in Plaquemine for regional artists. Prizes were awarded in three categories Professional, Non-Professional, and Young Artists, plus a Staff Favorite. Several members of the Guild entered artwork in this year's exhibit and took home awards. In the Professional Division: **Bing Zheng** – 1st Place – *Dragonfly*, watercolor; **Beth McLain** – Honorable Mention – *The Little Villa*, oil. In the Non-Professional Division: **Leah Schwartzman** – Honorable Mention – *Houmas House Bridge*, acrylic.

Nanci Charpentier was juried into the Suffolk Plein Air Festival, September 5-10 in Suffolk, Virginia. Nanci was one of 40+ artists painting in and around the area and painted at a rustic duck camp on the Nansemond River as well as in Mattanock Town on tribal lands, and more. Her painting, *Sunny Disposition*, sold during the event.



For the second year, **Nanci** was juried into the Alexandria Museum sponsored Farm to Forest Plein Air Event in Alexandria, LA, October 12-15. The event began with a 2-hour quick paint and ended with a reception and awards ceremony. Her painting, *Lakeside (Lake Buhlow)*, sold during the event.



For the week of October 30-November 4, Plein Air Fairhope was the place to paint all week long in the beautiful town of Fairhope, Alabama. Returning for her second year of painting, **Nanci** was joined by two local Baton Rouge artists, Dana Mosby and Stacey Rhoades. The week ended with a quick paint and wet paint sale and show during the Friday Night Art Walk. Paintings will hang at the Eastern Shore Art Center, the sponsor for the event, until the end of December.

Baton Rouge Plein Air group hosted "Painting History: One Stroke at a Time, A Plein Air Event"

On behalf of Baton Rouge Plein Air, **Nanci Charpentier** and **Dana Mosby** joined forces to coordinate the Baton Rouge Plein Air group's first full weekend plein air painting event, exhibit, and wet paint sale. Baton Rouge Plein Air is a local open painting group facilitated by **David Gary** and is supported by participation of several AGL member artists as well as other artists from the region.

In collaboration with Beaugard Gallery & Bistro, BRPA hosted a 2-day plein air event September 29-30 in the historic Beaugard Town in Baton Rouge; the second oldest neighborhood, established in 1806. Twenty-two artists from across southern Louisiana participated in the event, *Painting History: One Stroke at a Time.* They ended the event with a wet paint sale and social. Over 40 paintings were created during the event and 15 paintings sold.

Participating event artists included Nanci Charpentier, Dana Mosby, Madhuri Yadlapati, Dee Dee Wilbert, Gary Green, Sarah Burnette, David Boucher, Lorraine Sauls, David Gary, Katherine Daigle, Robin Cook, Ellen Jenkins, Carol Hackler, Jennifer Carwile, Oksana Fogg, Sabrina Schmidt, Marge Shanks, Roderick Murchison, Marylyn Daniel, Adrianna Speer, Marilyn Gensler, and Laura Martin.

EXHIBITS

Autumn Judged Show winners

An awards reception was held for the Autumn Judged Show on Sunday, October 15 at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. We are very happy to have Cynthia Nicholas of Studio de Chene, the Framing Boutique and Gallery on Perkins Road, as judge for the exhibit. The winners selected by Cynthia are:

First Place – Kathy Daigle – *Tennessee Stream* – Oil

Second Place – Linda Pace – *Joy* – Mixed Media

Third Place – Marilyn Gensler – *Zinnia Patch* – Oil



Honorable Mentions

Julie Cacioppo – *Just the Two of Us* – Pastel

Oksana Fogg – *Windy Day on the Beach* – Oil



CURRENT EXHIBITS

Twelve Days of Christmas

Currently on exhibit at Independence Park is the holiday themed “Twelve Days of Christmas” exhibit. And twelve talented local artists, inspired by the long-standing Christmas favorite, submitted twenty-one fun paintings for your enjoyment. The exhibit will be open to the public throughout the holidays during regular office hours Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 – 5:00 until January 11, 2024.

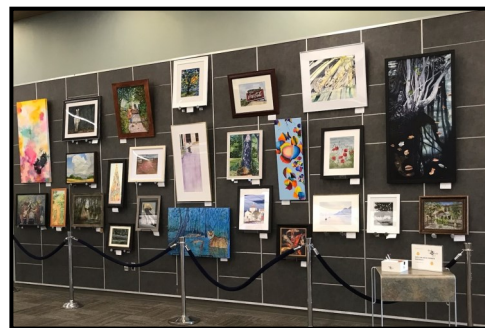
A People’s Choice Ribbon will be presented at an artists’ reception on Sunday, December 10, 2023, from 2:00-4:00pm at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery. A random drawing for \$25 will also be held for exhibiting artists only. Exhibiting artists receive one “chance” in the drawing for each art piece entered. AGL especially encourages exhibiting artists to attend the reception and to bring finger food to contribute to the refreshment table.

Special Exhibit–EBR Parish Library Goodwood Boulevard – December 1- 29

By the time you receive this newsletter a group of very busy volunteers will be taking in and hanging the special member exhibit at the Goodwood Library on December 1. This exhibit always brings in lots of talent with a wide array of subject matter and mediums. Art is normally exhibited on the first and second floors of the library.

One People’s Choice ribbon will be awarded for each floor. Votes will be counted at the end of the show. The winners are determined by the number of votes received from people who visit the library. The exhibit is open to the public during regular business hours. Those hours are subject to change during the holidays.

COME SEE THE SHOW AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE!



1st Floor—2021 exhibit

Call for Entry --- Winter Member Show

The first exhibit for 2024 is scheduled at Independence Park Theatre from January 11 until March 14. The show is open to all members and all two-dimensional mediums except photography and computer generated/enhanced work.

The entry fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry. Artists who want to participate must bring artwork to the Independence Park Theatre on January 11, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. This is a non-juried show (all entries accepted). However, all artwork must meet the AGL exhibit requirements at www.artuildlouisiana.org/exhibits. Please read the requirements to ensure your artwork will be accepted.

The exhibit will be open to the public, free of charge, during regular business hours, Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. All art must remain on display until the end of the exhibit. NOTE: BREC takes 20% commission on all art sold.

A People’s Choice Ribbon will be presented at an artists’ reception on Sunday, February 11. There will also be a random drawing for \$25 for exhibiting artists only. Exhibiting artists will receive one “chance” in the drawing for each art piece entered. Exhibiting members are encouraged to attend the reception and to bring finger food to contribute to the refreshment table.

RECENT WORKSHOP

A Child's Christmas, a workshop presented by Kay Bailey and Betty Gravois on November 20, was a huge success. The Art Guild was filled with 18 adults and young artists for a day of fun and creativity. The instructors developed four fun holiday projects; donating goody bags filled with basic project kits/supplies to complete the projects. But this is not just a 'run of the mill' workshop. This will be the third year that Kay and Betty have donated their time and money to present a holiday workshop for adults/children. All the proceeds from the workshop will go directly to the operations of the AGL. We are especially grateful to these two Guild members for their holiday spirit and generosity in support of the Guild.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

NOTE: Early registration for workshops is the KEY to whether or not a workshop actually gets to take place. Instructors have schedules and arrangements that must be taken into consideration. So please take advantage of the early bird discount and register early!

Roberta Loflin – Spreading Cheer (Christmas Stuff) - Watercolor

December 2 & 9 (Saturdays), 9:30am - noon

\$45

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: bandrepoint@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020

This workshop is all about fun, fun, fun! The bright colors and the joyful holiday symbols and traditions – ribbons, snowmen, and even Ole Santa. Whatever the holidays mean to you, bring your ideas and have fun painting with Roberta. It is a great workshop to create original hand painted cards, ornaments, or a fun holiday painting as a special gift for a friend or family member.



2024 WORKSHOPS

Larry Downs – Drawing 1: Learning to Draw in Four Weeks

January 11, 18, 25 and February 1 (Thursdays), 3:00 – 6:00pm

Early Bird Fee thru December 24: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins December 25: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Karri Oaks: karrilouwho@gmail.com or 225-405-3988

In this four-week course, Larry will cover the “hows” and “whys” of drawing – first through demonstrations, then by direct exercises and personal guidance. Participants will work from various still lifes arranged by Larry using direct lighting. Larry will lay the groundwork to ensure that you will be prepared to draw anything and everything.



Roberta Loflin – Getting Started - Watercolor

January 6, 13, 20, 27 (Saturdays), 9:30am to noon

Early Bird Fee thru December 22: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins December 23: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: bandrepont@bellsouth.net
or 225-773-8020

Learn the basic watercolor supplies, materials, and techniques, and how to use them. This is also a great class for returning to watercolor if it's been a while. (Open to aspiring artists 14 years and older.)



Larry Downs – Acrylics 1: Color Your Life with Acrylics

February 8, 15, 22, 29 (Thursdays), 3:00 – 6:00pm

Early Bird Fee thru January 28: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins January 29: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Karri Oaks: karrilouwho@gmail.com or 225-405-3988

In this four-week course, Larry will take the participants through the tools, concepts, and applications of basic acrylic painting. Larry instruction will cover; how to use acrylics like watercolors, acrylics as oils and abstract acrylics. Along the way, participants will learn how to paint basic geometric shapes, understand values, and use additives to create texture.



Roberta Loflin – All Friends-Furry and Feathered - Watercolor

February 17, 24, March 2, 9 (Saturdays), 9:30am - noon

Early Bird Fee thru February 2: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins February 3: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: bandrepont@bellsouth.net
or 225-773-8020

Learn techniques for painting fur and feathers. You can impress your pet (and your family) with awesome pet portraits in watercolor!



Larry Downs – Drawing 2: Composing in Depth

March 7, 14, 21, 28 (Thursdays), 3:00 – 6:00pm

Early Bird Fee thru February 25: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins February 26: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Karri Oaks: karrilouwho@gmail.com or 225-405-3988

*Drawing 1 is not required to take this course provided the participant has a knowledge of basic drawing skills.

In this four-week course, Larry will lead participants through a more advanced discussion of elements and principles of design. Using those principles, participants will compose their own still life drawing. Emphasis will be placed on composition, perspective, and finishing drawing. Participants will begin a work that can be completed for a finished work.



Roberta Loflin – Compose Yourself-Composition and Still Life – Watercolor

March 23, 30, April 6, 13 (Saturdays), 9:30am - noon

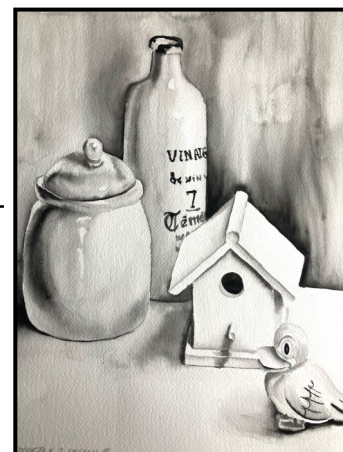
Early Bird Fee thru March 8: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins March 9: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: bandrepoint@bellsouth.net or 225-773-8020

You will focus on composing your paintings, working with values and lighting.

We'll work from still life "models," a good practice to hone your skills.



Suzie Baker – Creating Compelling Compositions En Plein Air

April 23-25 (Tuesday-Thursday), 9:00am - 4:00pm

Early Bird Fee thru February 1: \$500 members / \$525 nonmembers

Regular Fee begins February 2: \$525 members / \$550 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: David Gary, dgary@redstick.com or 225-252-8384

This workshop will focus on techniques for creating compelling compositions. Participants will experience a fun-filled, guided, hands-on learning experience. You will see demos and receive one-on-one instruction at your easel throughout the workshop. We will paint at various locations, to be discussed, around Baton Rouge, as weather permits.



Celebrating 70 Years
1953-2023





News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana

www.artguildlouisiana.org

agl@artguildlouisiana.org

facebook.com/ArtGuildofLouisiana

DECEMBER 2023

If you would like to help with any aspect of producing the newsletter please contact Leah Schwartzman at newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org.

Send member information for the newsletter to newsletter@artguildlouisiana.org by the 10th of every other month : January, March, May, July, September, November.



Visit Art Guild of Louisiana's Facebook page
"Like" us. - "Share" AGL with friends and family
— ask them to do the same —

Get the word out about YOUR organization

"connect art and people"