



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana

December 2024

www.artguildlouisiana.org
agl@artguildlouisiana.org

Introducing New Officers for 2025

President - David Gary

David Gary is a dedicated plein air landscape painter from Baton Rouge. Prior to his artistic pursuits, in 1997 David founded Redstick Internet Services, Louisiana's oldest web development firm, where he worked daily on the management side of things, but found he ultimately preferred collaborating with his design team and developing beautiful compositions and effective marketing messaging. Fortunately, the urge to use those creative skills outside of the digital world beckoned him to turn to painting in oil, and for the past seven years, he has focused exclusively on plein air techniques that allow him to capture the essence of the outdoors. His college education began in Architecture at Elon University in North Carolina, but he returned to Louisiana Tech and ultimately LSU to study Marketing. His later journey as an artist began with formal training at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, where he developed a strong foundation in classical painting techniques. This education, under Academy instructors such as Auseklis Ozols, Phil Sandusky, Billy Solitario, and others, gave him the skills to translate his observations of nature into expressive artworks.



He is the founder of Baton Rouge Plein Air (2017), a member of Oil Painters of America, American Impressionist Society, National Oil and Acrylic Painters' Society, The Outdoor Painters Society, and the Baton Rouge Arts Council. David has participated in the Shadows on the Teche Plein Air Competition three times, attended Plein Air South five times, and attended more three-day workshops than he can count. His paintings have been exhibited in numerous shows and collections across Louisiana, where they have garnered praise for their authentic portrayal of the state's landscapes.

As he looks to the future, David remains committed to exploring new techniques and expanding his artistic vision. His goal is to continue capturing the beauty of Louisiana's landscapes and sharing them with audiences far and wide, preserving moments in time that depict the essence of the Bayou State. David finds his ultimate inspiration in his faith and family life, which grounds and motivates him. When not painting, he also enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, cooking, and photography.

Secretary - Linda Pace

I have a long, sporadic history in art. My first art class was in Shreveport, after I dropped out of Louisiana Tech in my sophomore year. I found an art class by Gladys Morgan, wife of Arthur Morgan, a well-known sculptor, both of whom were unknown to me at the time. I drove to the two-story house which looked like it had never been painted, and the grass/weeds in the yard were over a foot tall. I turned around and went home, but despite the intimidating scene, I went back. It was one of the best things I have ever done. We did pen and ink. I still have them after my parents saved and framed them when my apartment got hit



by a tornado. This class was the first time I experienced the feeling that if someone asked my name, I would have to think about it.

I later moved to Baton Rouge with a friend whose boyfriend lived here. I said, "Okay, I'll go."

My first acrylic painting class was at the YMCA on South Foster. An old friend in San Marcos, Texas, still has one of my paintings in her living room. An LSU class was not so much fun. I did a matrix of a bell pepper and my instructor decided she didn't like me because I refused to connect some lines. I then moved to the mountains of Colorado to be a ski bum and art was forgotten.

After some time in Aspen, Crested Butte, and three months in Vermont, I came back to Baton Rouge to go to school. Long story short, I worked at Hart's nursery for five years, Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson for nine years, got married, later divorced, completed undergraduate and Master's degrees, and worked at the Department of Natural Resources/Coastal Management in various environmental positions. I retired in 2013.

It was then that a friend told me about Larry Casso's classes. I then found out about the Art Guild (2015) and here I am today. I have enjoyed being a member of - and volunteering for - the Guild and look forward to my term as Secretary.

PONDERINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

December, a time of endings and new beginnings. It's been a crazy year. While it's been hot, there haven't been any major weather events in our area. Instead, the airways have been filled with heated debates and non-stop coverage of the comings and goings of our leadership, both national, state, and local. At least that has pretty much ended.

Luckily, some of us have been able to find refuge in Open Studio where we've managed to maintain an atmosphere of sharing and caring, laughing and loving, especially the Tuesday group. They always seem to be celebrating birthdays, or anything they can think of. And you can always find food there. The Wednesday group seems a bit more focused on art, sharing newly discovered artists and techniques, showing and critiquing each other's works, and eating Tuesday's leftovers. There you will find our resident instructor/artist Larry Downs, always willing to share his time and knowledge.



There have been a few things of note this year. Thanks to the efforts of Leah Schwartzman and lawyer Jeffrey Oaks, who has been volunteering his time and talent, and to all those who attended the Member Meeting in October, we were able to complete the process of amending the Articles of Incorporation. It now more accurately reflects who we are.

Also this year, I have noticed an influx of participation in our exhibits, with several new members showing their talents. This may at least in part be due to the efforts of the newly formed Phone Chain. It was activated to remind all members of the Library Show and the Christmas Party December 15. Be sure to go see the Library Show as well as the "Let It Sneaux" exhibit, right across the street, at Independence Park Theatre.

You may have noticed that there weren't any fundraisers this year. However, we have managed to stack up quite a few miscellaneous items we hope to sell at a yard sale in 2025. Please clean out your studios/art spaces and donate items you have accumulated but don't use. **But hold them for now; we'll let you know when to bring them.**

And so, as I am ending my term as president, we look forward to David Gary beginning his term in January. Preliminary discussions with David indicate that he has big plans for AGL—exciting plans! He will need support and help in implementing those plans, and as much as I was anticipating my setting off into the sunset, I will be there for David, and I hope you will be, too.
Hope to see you at the Christmas Party!

... Marilyn Gensler

I try to avoid stories that end with ... and he was never seen again. ... Ken Poirot

2024 Memberships Expire Soon — Renew Now!!

The holidays are upon us and life is busy, busy, busy. AGL memberships for 2024 expire December 31, 2024. Don't wait! Renew your membership now and avoid any disruption in member benefits. Here are three easy ways to renew your membership:

Pay
Dues

1) Renew online now using PayPal or a credit/debit card (you do not have to have a PayPal account). You can also use Venmo to pay online.

www.artguildlouisiana.org/membership-form

2) Download and print a membership form, enclose a check, and mail both to: Art Guild of Louisiana, PO Box 42072, Baton Rouge, LA 70835. www.artguildlouisiana.org/downloads/AGL-membership-form.pdf

3) Pay in person at the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Ave, located in the BREC Cedarcrest Park. Check or cash only (no credit cards or Venmo).

Also, now is the time to invite new members to join. Any new member who joins after October 1, 2024 can begin using their benefits immediately. An AGL membership makes a great Christmas gift at just \$45 per year, and it's a gift that keeps on giving for an entire year.

SAVE THE DATE – AGL CHRISTMAS PARTY – DECEMBER 15

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Studio in the Park: 2490 Silverest Ave, Baton Rouge



The AGL Board invites all members to join us in celebrating the holidays. After spending time visiting with fellow members while enjoying a potluck holiday “feast” and refreshments, we will have a short update for members on recent Guild news, followed by a “Dirty Santa” gift exchange and by a “Secret Santa” painting exchange. For members who are new to the AGL Christmas party festivities, here are the details:

Attending members are invited to bring a finger food for the refreshment table. Cold drinks provided.

Each person who wants to participate in the “Dirty Santa” gift exchange must bring one gift, wrapped and unsigned; minimum gift cost is \$10. We always have lots of fun playing games of chance to distribute the gifts.

Each person who wants to participate in the "Secret Santa" painting exchange should bring one unframed, original piece of their artwork wrapped in plain brown paper. Please do not use anything but plain brown paper (i.e., no bows/ribbons, wrapping paper, etc.) so that it is not distinguishable from any other painting. Paintings are distributed via a random drawing.

You are invited to participate in both gift exchanges (which many people do), either one of the gift exchanges, or none of the gift exchanges. Just come to eat, visit, and watch the fun.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

AGL Art Supply Yard Sale 2025

As mentioned in the President's Ponderings, AGL is once again planning to have an art supply yard sale at the Studio in the Park for 2025. We have not worked out all the details at this time. Currently the plan is sometime in the Spring. So start scouring your studios for things you don't use or have finally figured out you won't use. We all have them stuck in nooks and crannies here and there. But please be sure they are in good, gently used condition. We have limited space at the studio and we need that space to continue having workshops and open studio. So, please, do not bring yard sale items to the studio until we send notice out saying we are ready to accept the donations.

Thank You to Our Members!

The AGL Board appreciates all the support of those who showed up at the October 13 Member Meeting and those who voted by proxy. We put a lot of work into updating our Articles of Incorporation to reflect who we are today as an organization. Due to the great attendance at that meeting the updated Articles were overwhelmingly approved. And the work has begun on updating our Bylaws to assure we are in compliance with the newly updated Articles and with who we are today. The Board also thanks Jeffery Oakes, Attorney for time and effort he has donated to the Guild and continues to donate to ensure our ongoing compliance as a Louisiana non-profit organization.

MEMBER NEWS

Marjorie Shanks has really been busy showing her work and it has been paying off in awards. Congratulations Marge! Judge Tony McDonald presented her with an Honorable Mention at the 7th Plein Air Marksville. Carol Peebles was the judge for the New Orleans Art Association's 25th Annual Juried show where Marge's plein air painting *Morning Roll Call* won an Honorable Mention (pictured). Last, but certainly not least, Marge won the LSUA Purchase Award at the Farm to Forest Plein Air Festival at the Alexandria Museum of Art.



Pat Wattam was the featured artist in the Weekly Artist's Spotlight in the Arts Council's weekly newsletter. Pat says the "spotlight" brief is her "in a nutshell".

If you have not subscribed to their newsletter yet, or missed that one, click the link then scroll down:

<https://bit.ly/4e8xntD>

At the recent Louisiana Watercolor Society's member exhibit at the Acadiana Center for the Arts in Lafayette, dual AGL/LWS members had a trifecta win:

Tracy Hebert: 2nd Place, *Gumball Kaleidoscope*

Emily Efferson: Merit Award, *Tree Hugger*

Leah Schwartzman: Merit Award, *Monet's Boats-Giverney*



EXHIBITS

Current Exhibit: "Let It Sneaux" - November 14, 2024 – January 9, 2025

The holiday member exhibit at Independence Park Theatre "Let It Sneaux" was installed November 14, 2024 and will remain open to the public until January 9, 2025 during regular business hours, Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 – 5:00. This is a fun holiday exhibit with 19 works of art submitted by 9 artists. The reception will be held on December 8.

The **Goodwood Library Show** will be installed on December 2, 2024 and will be on exhibit in the main lobby as well as the 2nd floor until December 27, 2024. A People's Choice ribbon will be awarded for each floor.

Call for Entry – Winter Member Show, January 9 – March 13, 2025

The first exhibit for 2025 kicks off at the Independence Park Theatre, 7800 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge on January 9, 2025 until March 13, 2025. It is a non-juried show, so all entries will be accepted. However, all artwork must meet the AGL exhibit requirements at www.artuillouisiana.org/exhibits. Please read the requirements to ensure your artwork will be accepted. The entry fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry up to five entries total. The exhibit will be open to the public, free of charge, during regular business hours.

Take-In: January 9, 2025 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Awards Reception: February 9, 2025 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Pick-up: March 13, 2025 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

A People's Choice Ribbon will be presented at an artists' reception from 2:00- 4:00 pm on Sunday, February 9, 2025. 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. Friends and family are welcome! Exhibiting artists are encouraged to attend and to bring a finger food for the table.

All artwork in the exhibit must remain on display until the end of the exhibit and may only be removed by a member of the exhibits committee. Artwork not picked up on January 9, 2025 between 11:00 am – 1:00 pm is subject to a \$25 handling/storage fee. NOTE: BREC takes 20% commission on all sales.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Larry Downs – Color Your Life – Beginning Acrylics

January 2, 9, 16, 23 (Thursdays), 3:00–6:00pm

Early Bird fee thru December 21: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins December 22: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

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



Start your year with color! Larry's class will get you into using acrylics from the beginning in four 3-hour sessions – a great way to start 2025.

Larry takes you step by step through the tools and concepts and applications of basic acrylic painting. Learn and practice the various ways that acrylic can be used like watercolor, oils or abstract acrylic. He will also cover geometric shapes, values and use of additives to create textures. You will learn first by observing Larry doing demonstrations and then by hands on practice under Larry's guidance. Participants will end up with at least one completed painting.

Diego Larguia: New Orleans Architecture in Watercolor

February 1-2 (Saturday-Sunday), 9:30am–4:30pm

Early Bird fee thru December 31: \$200 members / \$225 nonmembers

Regular fee begins January 1: \$225 members / \$250 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Cherie Gravois: cheri.gravois@gmail.com or 225-413-6942



Diego Larguia is a New Orleans multifaceted artist and teacher. Working in watercolor and oils, he has exhibited his work in galleries and museums. He has also taught art for more than 30 years, including at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts (20 years), the Ogden Museum, the Beauregard Keyes House, and the New Orleans School of Arts and Crafts. His works have been featured in *American Artist* magazine and several other art publications. To learn more about Diego, visit his website at www.diegolarguia.com.

In this two-day workshop, we will attempt to complete a total of four watercolor paintings. Participants will be provided with four images from the instructor's artwork in advance of the workshop. Participants will have the choice to do the preliminary drawing in advance or draw at workshop. The instructor will perform a complete demonstration of each painting while covering topics of interest as they refer to each particular piece. These topics may include drawing, color theory, composition, perspective, etc. Following the demo, participants will do their own work.

This workshop is open to all skill levels. Workshops are conducted in a friendly and welcoming environment. You can also read an interview with Diego published in the October 2022 issue of the Guild's newsletter [News from the Palette](#).

Larry Downs: Acrylic Painting Your Way (Intermediate)

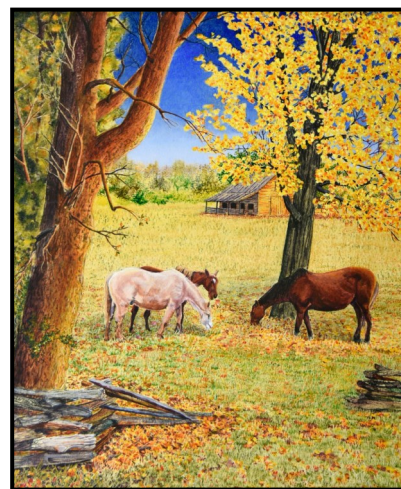
February 6, 13, 20, 27 (Thursdays), 3:00–6:00pm

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

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

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

This workshop is for participants who have some background knowledge of painting with acrylics. The first day will be spent creating interesting compositions. You will learn how to reduce clutter of a panoramic view into a compact visual composition. But what is composition? There should be nothing in a painting that doesn't have a reason for being there. Come join this class to learn what goes in and what doesn't and why.



The classes will be spent in practical application of what you have learned. The final class will be setting up and painting your own still life.

Larry Downs: Drawing from the Start (Beginning Drawing)

March 6, 13, 20, 27 (Thursdays), 3:00–6:00pm

Early Bird fee thru February 22: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins February 23: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

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

"If you are looking for a meaningful way to express yourself, you are not alone. Come learn how to draw. The Art Guild of Louisiana is the place to learn and communicate who you are creatively; a place to stretch your imagination and to commune with others who have like interests."

This is the core belief of self-taught, award-winning artist/instructor Larry Downs. 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.



In this workshop, you will learn the fundamentals of drawing and how to develop observational skills, to "think" like an artist, how to "see" like an artist. The basic drawing skills that Larry will share with you will provide you with the confidence and ability to draw anything. Come join us for fun and learning!

Larry Downs – Drawing 2: Composing in Depth

April 3, 10, 17, 24 (Thursdays), 3:00–6:00pm

Early Bird fee thru March 22: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins March 23: \$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 piece that can be completed for a finished work.



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 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.



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 15th of every other month : January, March, May, July, September, November.



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