



News from the Palette

Art Guild of Louisiana

www.artguildlouisiana.org
agl@artguildlouisiana.org

February 2025

About Calvin Liang – 2025 River Road Show Judge

AGL is thrilled to host Master artist Calvin Liang as juror and judge of the 55th River Road show. If you are new to the Guild, the River Road show is our premier annual exhibit, a national show and competition held at the Louisiana State Archives Building on Essen Lane in Baton Rouge, during the months of August and September. Over \$4,000 in cash and merchandise prizes are awarded at the much-anticipated reception.

Calvin Liang was born in Canton, China and is currently a resident of Corona, CA. From a very young age, around five or six years, Calvin said he always loved to draw. He exhibited a promising aptitude for art at an early age. And his parents arranged for him to take art lessons from a family at age 12. He began painting in high school and completed his art education at the Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts, one of China's most prestigious and competitive art academies. He utilized his skill in the theatrical industry in China as a designer and creator of stage sets for the Canton Opera Institute.



Liang moved to the United States in 1987 and had a long and successful career as a full-time visual artist in the entertainment industry in animation including such greats as Nickelodeon Studio and Walt Disney Studios, where he worked for the wildly popular Little Mermaid and Spongebob Squarepants.

However, in early 2002 Liang left his animation career to pursue a full-time career as a fine artist with a strong desire to paint subject matter of his choosing, subjects that "spoke" to him. Although a successful commercial artist, Calvin says there is not much enjoyment creating art just for the money. Before he became an oil painter, he painted in gouache and acrylic. But says he loves oils because it allows him to paint and repaint. His goal was/is to make a living painting everything that he enjoys and finds beauty in. He hopes that his paintings bring a feeling of joy and happiness to those who view them.



Since making his pivotal career change, Liang has garnered much attention, winning several prestigious awards including the Award of Excellence in the Oil and Acrylic Painter's Society, Lifetime Achievement Award at the 18th Annual Laguna Beach Plein Air Invitational in 2016, Bronze Medal Award in the Master Signature division in Oil Painters of America, and many more too numerous to list here, thus securing his position as one of the nation's leading artists. In addition, he has been featured in numer-

ous popular art magazines and is a Master member of Oil Painters in America as well as the American Impressionist Society and signature member of the prestigious California Art Club, Laguna Plein Air Painters Association, and American Society of Marine artists.

Calvin will be teaching a 3-day workshop at the Studio in the Park in mid-August. Seating is limited. Get the details in the workshop section of this newsletter and on the AGL website: www.artguildlouisiana.org/workshops.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thank you. As I step into this role of president, I want my first words to be of gratitude to Marilyn, our immediate past president, past and current board members, committee members, and dedicated volunteers. Your dedication has been the backbone of our organization and the wisdom you've gained over the years is invaluable. I will be relying on your continued support and mentorship.

Those initial words also apply to my fellow members. Having been a part of this Guild for seven years, I am excited to continue working alongside a community of artists committed to fostering an inclusive and thriving organization. As you know, our esteemed Guild has thrived for an incredible 72 years, thanks to the unwavering dedication and passion of our members. Our collective love for painting has been the cornerstone of our community, and I am honored to work alongside you all.



My vision for our organization going forward is **GRAND**. Together, over the next two years of my leadership, we hope to greatly expand learning opportunities, update and further secure our studio space, raise funds, add new members, improve and expand marketing/branding and even add community programming.

You likely know that our Guild's mission is "to promote visual art and artists and to increase public appreciation and awareness by providing education and exhibition opportunities to artists of all proficiency levels." Since 2017, I have served on the workshop committee because my passion is seeing educational opportunities abound. I am a firm believer in the old adage "a rising tide raises all ships" and believe that more high-quality educational opportunities produces higher quality work, attracts new members, retains existing members and gives aspiring teachers in our own ranks the opportunity to begin instructing in a comfortable, local environment.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, our 2025 Board will have convened for our annual planning meeting at the end of January. I will be presenting specific ideas, and if they are well received, I look forward to sharing more details with you over time. For now, rest assured that I am ready to significantly build upon our current foundation and further elevate the Guild as Baton Rouge's leading source for fine art programming and a vibrant community for thriving visual artists.

Finally, as I reflect on my own art journey, I recall seven years ago when I decided to start painting. The first thing I did - and I mean the very first thing - was to join the Guild. I knew my chances for success were going to be far better if I could find local like-minded individuals and boy, was I right! So pay your dues, find a friend and encourage them to join and together, let's thrive in '25!

At Your Service,
David L. Gary

A true artist is not one who is inspired, but one who inspires others. - Salvador Dali

We are very happy to say that as of January 27, 2025 the AGL membership stands 131 strong. Thank you to all the renewed and new members. If you are not sure if you renewed your membership for 2025, you can check the website to see if your name is listed as a 2025 member, or if you think you have renewed your membership, but you do not see your name on that list, please send an email to: membership@artguildlouisiana.org. Memberships must be renewed by March 31, 2025 in order to continue receiving the newsletter and member emails uninterrupted.

Three easy ways to renew or join!

1) Online 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).



Notice to Members

Members, before you jump in your car and head out to open studio. If you haven't been in a while you should check the AGL website calendar. Sometimes regularly scheduled events like open studio days are preempted by a workshop or reception. For the convenience of AGL members, we strive to keep the AGL website calendar as up to date as possible regarding the where and when of Guild activities. However, occasionally a lack of electricity (or other situations) may cause a last minute closure that we are not able to send in a general email or put on the calendar. In those cases, the regular attendees of open studio are personally notified.

Pardon our mess!

If you have been to the Studio in the Park recently, you have seen lots of construction trucks and other unattractive and inconvenient activities happening. We promise, this is a temporary state of affairs while BREC is making improvements to the park area, including a cement walking path, a place for soccer games, new playground equipment, and improved drainage. And as we continue to work with BREC, we are hopeful for some building improvements also.

AGL Annual Planning Meeting

The AGL Board had its annual Strategic Planning/Board meeting on January 27, 2025. Our new president, David Gary, presented a full agenda. There was a focus on what has been working well and what can we improve on over the coming year. Some of the specific areas of discussion were how to improve the aesthetic appeal of the Studio in the Park, stepping up enrichment opportunities for artistic development, such as 1-day workshops that may be more convenient than a 3-day commitment, or short 2-3 hour focused study sessions at Studio in the Park. These are just a few of the many ideas that are being considered to provide AGL members with interesting and beneficial activities. If you have an idea, special workshop or activity that you would like for the Board to consider, send it to agl@artguildlouisiana.org

Pastel Open Studio Resumes

Pastel Open Studio resumed in January, 2025. On the fourth Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted on the AGL Calendar) pastel artists are gathering at the Studio in the Park to create lovely works of art and to network with other pastel artists.

Have you been interested in trying pastels, but don't want to make a big investment in yet another medium? The studio has an assortment of "community" pastels that we are willing to share, but you will need to bring your own paper. No fees, no registration; just show up. Questions about Pastel Open Studio can be directed to Dee Dee at deedeewilbert@gmail.com.

AGL Art Supply Yard Sale 2025

Another AGL art supply yard sale is still in the plans for 2025.. 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 but is still in good, gently used condition. We all have them stuck in nooks and crannies here and there. Space at the studio is limited, so please, do not bring yard sale items to the studio until we send notice out saying we are ready to accept the donations.

MEMBER NEWS

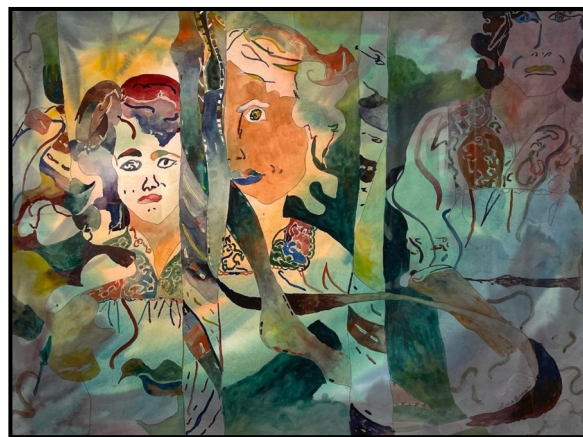
Anna Hingle has been putting her art "out there" and it is being noticed. Her oil painting "Hear Here" was accepted in the Arts in Medicine exhibit at the Baton Rouge General Hospital cafeteria and was awarded a 3rd Place Ribbon. And a bonus: the painting sold.



In addition, her painting "Early Morning in the Quarter," which was accepted in the Art's Council Member exhibit at the Shell Gallery downtown, also sold. Congratulations Anna, keep up the good work!



New Roads, LA member, **Lana Toniolo** is very excited to have her watercolor painting "Mirror Images" accepted into the Baton Rouge Gallery's very popular international Surreal Salon exhibit for the month of January 2025



Winter Member Show

The current exhibit is open at the Independence Park Theatre Gallery until March 13, 2025 and is open to the public during regular business hours Tuesday – Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The exhibit features 26 works of art representing 18 local artists. Come enjoy a variety of artistic styles and mediums from oil, to watercolor, to pastel, and more.

The current exhibit also features a special “retrospective” exhibit wall in honor of Jo McWilliams. Jo was an integral part of the Guild, an avid attendee at open studio and receptions, an award-winning artist, and an honored lifetime member. She welcomed everyone with a warm, inviting smile. She freely shared her knowledge with many new/beginning members as well as long-standing members seeking guidance. Jo passed away September 2, 2024, just a few weeks before her 90th birthday. Her smile and her presence will continue to be missed by many.

Join us for an artist reception on Sunday, February 9, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. We encourage exhibiting artists to attend and bring a finger food dish for the refreshment table. The reception is open to the public, so please invite family members and friends to join you for an afternoon of art and camaraderie.

A “People’s Choice” ribbon will be awarded and a \$25 cash prize will be presented to some lucky exhibiting artist in a random drawing.

Call for Entry – Spring Member Show: “Ode to Andy Warhol” March 13 – May 8, 2025

American visual artist Andy Warhol began painting in the late 1950’s. He was a pioneer in the Pop Art movement of the late 1950s to the 1960s. He became famous as a major player in the pop art culture with paintings like the “Campbell Soup” can series and neon-colored faces of Marilyn Monroe and other celebrity portraits, wooden Brillo Pad boxes, and many other advertising logo/products, all works that challenged traditional ideas about art and originality.

Channel your inner Andy for this exhibit. Choose your favorite Warhol painting to interpret your way, or come up with your own personal “pop” art creation. However, if you aren’t into the whole Andy Warhol challenge, that’s fine too. Any subject, or style will gladly be accepted into the exhibit.

Bring your entry to the Independence Park Theatre Gallery, 8700 Independence Boulevard, Baton Rouge on March 13, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. A maximum of five paintings may be entered. The entry fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry. The maximum acceptable size is 48” in any direction.

This is a non-juried exhibit, meaning all entries will be accepted but *ALL* entries must meet AGL exhibit requirements at www.artguildlouisiana.org.exhibits. We encourage a variety of two-dimensional media from oils to pastels, to graphite, to ink. All art must be original. Photography and non-original prints, including giclées, are not acceptable. To view AGL’s originality requirements, click on the web link above. BREC retains a 20% commission on sales.

An artists’ reception for the exhibit will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Exhibiting artists are encouraged to attend the reception and to bring a finger food dish for the refreshment table. Receptions are open to the public so please invite your family and friends to join you for an afternoon of art and camaraderie. In addition to a “People’s Choice” ribbon being awarded, one lucky exhibiting artist will win \$25 in a random drawing during the reception. Exhibiting artists will earn one “chance” for each painting entered towards the random drawing for \$25. The drawing is only open to exhibiting artists.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

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.



Roberta Loflin: Watercolor Basics – Focus on Materials and Techniques

February 8, 15, 22, and March 1 (Saturdays), 9:30am – noon

Early Bird fee thru January 23: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

Regular fee begins January 24: \$75 members / \$90 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Barbara Andrepont: barbara.andrepont@gmail.com or 225-773-8020

Learn the basic watercolor supplies, materials, and techniques and how to use them. Great class for returning to watercolor, too, if it's been a while. Open to aspiring artists 14 years and older.



Larry Downs: Drawing from the Start (Beginning Drawing)

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

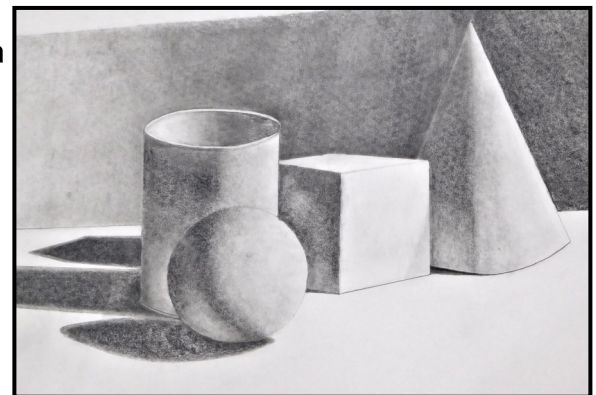
Early Bird fee thru February 22: \$60 members / \$75 nonmembers

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!

Kathy Daigle: Painting the Effects of Light – Oils

March 28 - 30 (Friday – Sunday), 9:00am – 4:00pm

Early Bird fee thru February 28: \$325 members / \$350 nonmembers

Regular fee begins March 1: \$350 members / \$375 nonmembers

Workshop Coordinator: Betty Gravois: elizabethgravois@gmail.com or 732- 216-1095

Explore the techniques for creating oil paintings with strong lighting effects. Students will learn the correct use of photographs to understand composition, values, color temperature, paint mixing, and paint application. Day One will be a full demonstration with shorter ones as needed. Accuracy in drawing will be emphasized. Constructive feedback will be given to each individual each day and collectively on the last day of the workshop.



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), 10:00am–4:00pm

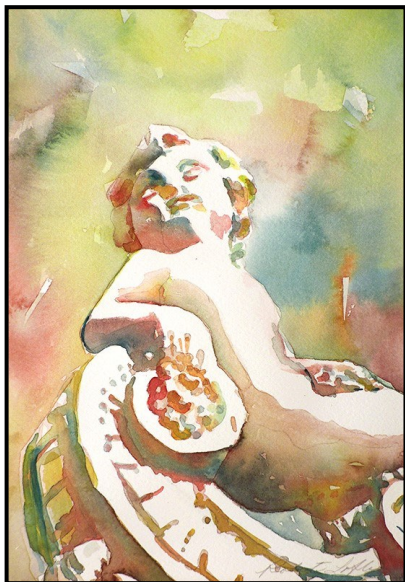
Early Bird fee thru April 1: \$125 members / \$150 nonmembers

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.



Roberta Loflin: The Colors of Spring – Watercolor

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 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.



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 or 225-

252-8384

Skill Level: Intermediate to advanced - Only 13 seats available

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



Born in Canton, China, Calvin currently is a resident of Corona, CA. After leaving his animation career with Disney in 2001 to become a full-time fine artist, Calvin went on to win many prestigious awards. He 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.

In conjunction with the River Road show, Calvin will be teaching a 3-day workshop in the Studio in the Park, 2490 Silverest Avenue, Baton Rouge. The time will be spent working 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. The lessons focused on in the workshop will 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.

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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