NEWS from the PALETTE

Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild www.laag-site.org 926-4657 **February** Issue

Clark Derbes - Interviewed by Caroline Derbes, aka mother-of-the-artist



Former LAAG member, Clark Derbes, now lives in Vermont with his artist-wife, Wylie Sophia Garcia, and their young son. From his first sale, Derbes has been determined to create a sustainable career from his art practice. He makes art every day, and "painter's block" does not exist for him. He and his wife split parenting as well as studio time. They also share house-work and meal -prep so that they can juggle careers and family.

His work is constantly evolving as he feels that it is good to be free and not to get too constrained. He follows his intuition to choose various subjects or create non-representational works. By painting sty-listic portraits and landscape paintings, he satisfies his artistic longings; however, he does tend to focus on what sells at the moment. Derbes enjoys observing people's responses to his work. He tries not to give titles that would influence perception of the work. He prefers that his audience arrive at an under-standing of his work through a non-verbal perspective.



Derbes's present method of learning is to check out many library books. Influen-tial artists have included Keith Haring, Sol Lewitt, and Jean duBuffet. He studies art history and enjoys perusing gallery websites.

Derbes studied color theory with Beverly Dudley (who studied under Ron Lukas in the Russian Impressionistic style). Clark also credits LSU Professor Ed Smith for allowing him to explore at his own pace, not only without much interference, but also with much positive reinforcement: "My professors realized I was ex-tremely self-motivated and self-directed."

"Actually, I would say my mom gave me self-confidence by teaching me right-brain lessons when I was 9 -years old. I was never fearful after that." At the time, Clark had already been accepted into both the Gifted and the Talented Art Programs.

Becoming a father has influenced a change in media from oils and encaustics to acrylic-based pieces and collages which he could work on at home. When commissioned to carve a totem pole for Camp Kee-waydin, he became fascinated with chain-saw sculpting. He now creates modern polygonal shapes using this method.

Derbes and his art have been featured in Louisiana's 225, Country Roads, and Vermont's Seven Days.



He is represented by Ann Connelly Fine Arts, The Schoolhouse Gallery in Provincetown, and is having a November show at Redbud Gallery in Houston. Check out his works by Googling "clarkderbes" and his recent online project called Clark's Public Art School www.publicartschool.com. His work can also be seen on youtube.com and www.clarkderbes.wordpress.com.



Greetings From the President!

The Year in Review

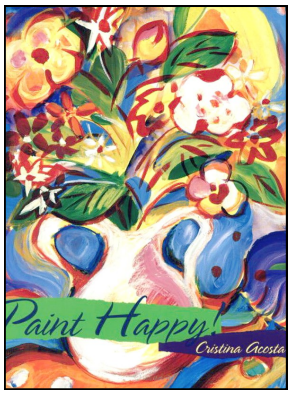


2011 was a great year for Louisiana Art and Artists' Guild. Some of the things we accomplished include the major clean-up of the studio and the income of $605 from the many items we sold. Those funds were used to purchase new book shelves for the library collection. The lending library was moved to the main studio area and is now easily accessible to all members. Members participated in the St. Luke's Craft Fair and reserved a spot for participation in 2012. A very successful Fall Art Sale was held where all who participated sold works while Steve Shamburger did a pastel portrait demonstration. The board approved a $25 student membership. Members participated as judges of the Wildlife and Fisheries Youth Art Show. One-man shows at the Serop's Restaurants provided additional exhibition opportunities for members. And the list just keeps going.



We are off and running in 2012. Memberships are rolling in. Workshops are being scheduled. Open Studio is providing time for artists to paint with each other and the Winter Judged Show is on exhibit at the Baton Rouge Little theater. Don't be left behind. Volunteer now. We need you if we are to continue the momentum. Say "yes" when a committee chair asks you to help hang an exhibit, provide refreshments, and help with a bulk mail-out or other task that is the work of the organization. No special talents needed, just a willing spirit. You may learn a new skill and you will certainly make new friends. The Art Guild is what you make it. Don't let a few people shoulder the workload for the group. I'll be calling you! So, please say "yes".

From the Library



Paint Happy! by *Cristina Acosta* Reviewed by Caroline Derbes

"By the time [Acosta] was proficient, the holy grail of technique seemed disappointingly empty. I had given nearly all of my attention to developing the skills to paint whatever I wanted and very little attention to discovering what I really wanted to paint."

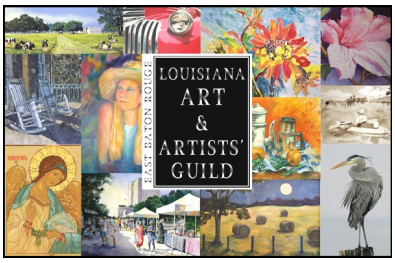
While teaching college drawing and painting, Acosta thought "there must be some way to teach artistic skills without getting in the way of a student's unique vision of the world."

Like Picasso, her epiphany came when observing the utter abandon with which her own toddler painted. Acosta was then inspired to spend an hour a day painting in the same fashion. Within a few months her style had changed as she discovered the joy and simplicity of creating.

She encourages her readers to "paint like a child" using images from her mind's eye rather than re-creating subjects she sees. "One way to begin painting with your inner eye is to start with a recent memory. Hold that thought and begin painting."

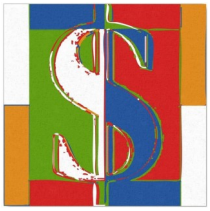
Her book progresses through "playful" activities. Yet, as any good art teacher would, Acosta discusses and uses elements of design. At the same time "you don't work from life exactly as it looks, but as you see and experience it…always developing the inner eye…ability to create visually will grow."

Artwork Needed



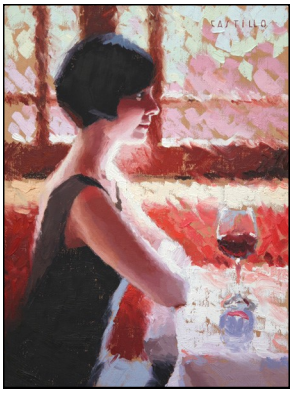
The Membership Committee is redesigning the LAAG Postcard. We are looking for members to submit 1 picture per artist of completed artwork for this project. Please email your picture to laagbr@laag-site.org. Your participation is very much appreciated!

2012 Dues



Annual membership dues were due in January, but we will continue to accept dues throughout the year. To be included in the Membership Handbook Directory your dues must be paid ASAP. The 2012 Membership Handbook will be published and delivered in early March. Also, please note that if your dues are not current you will no longer receive newsletters or email notifications.

42nd Annual River Road Show



The Cocktail Hour

This year 153 artists submitted 479 entries to be considered for the show. The Judge and Juror, Pam Ingalls, selected 80 paintings from 51 artists from 15 states, to be exhibited in the show.

First Place: Victoria Castillo, *The Cocktail Hour*
Second Place: Maureen Killaby, *My Dreams*
Third Place: Janice Cipriani-Willis, *Rose*



My Dreams

<u>Merit Awards</u>
David Savellano, *In Full Swing*
Kurt Weiser, *Property Line*
Daniel Cassity, *Explosives*
Patsy Lindamood, *Seaside Romp*
Bill Eshelman, *Oranges*
Ernie Fournet, *Pelican Over Barataria*
Laurel Lake McGuire, *Crazy Hair*
Mareth Curtis-Warren, *Sixty Years of Sundays*



Rose

<u>Honorable Mentions</u>
Suzanne Stewart, *Offering*
Carol Creel, *Red Silk*
Jovann Armstrong, *Lemons with Blue and White*
Joann Mobley, *Home to Roost*

Congratulations to the following LAAG members who had a painting accepted into the exhibit. Jovann Armstrong, Calvin Balencie, Larry Downs, Seay Earehart, Betty Efferson, Claudia LeJeune, Theresa Marchiafava, Joann Mobley, Muriel Prejean, June Tuma

Pictures of the winners and all exhibited paintings are on the website at www.laag-site.org/Gallery/LAAG_Galleries/River_Road_Shows/River_Road_Show_11/index.html

From the Internet



Nita Leland-artist: www.nitaleland.com
Lots of information and lots of link for more art information

North Light Books: www.northlightshop.com
Art books galore

Art Support: www.art-support.com
Lots of information for the business side of being an artist

Picture Day



Wouldn't it be nice to have high quality pictures of your paintings? For free! Eliminate the hassle of dealing with reflections, glare, incorrect lighting, shadows, etc. Picture Day is a free service provided for all LAAG members. You can bring in up to 5 paintings to be photographed at the Studio in the Park on the third Sunday of every month from 1 pm - 4 pm. You can bring framed or unframed paintings, any size from 4x5 inches to 4x5 feet. They can even be behind glass!

First, your artwork will be photographed in a semi-professional setup using appropriate equipment and techniques. Then the pictures will be transferred from camera to computer and digitally "developed". This process includes cropping and tone, contrast, color correction. The end result is an image that represents the actual artwork as accurately as possible. The final images will be burned onto a CD for you, in both screen/email and print quality.



You are more than welcome to wait while your artwork is being photographed and processed. This could take up to a couple of hours depending on a number of circumstances. If you do choose to wait please try to come early as work is done on a first come-first serve basis. A more popular option is to drop off your artwork anytime during the day. Artwork that is dropped off can be picked up on Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm. Other drop off/pick up arrangements can be made as well.

Laura Boyett



On January 5, 2012, one of our members, Laura Brandt Boyett, 47, passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. She attended LAAG open painting studio and participated in Judi Betts' Watercolor Workshop held at LAAG in April, 2011. Laura was a positive person with a strong faith in God and a creative spirit. We will miss her! Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Member News

From Nanci Charpentier:



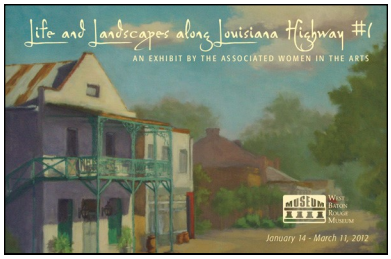
Nanci Charpentier announces that her work is included in a current exhibition, "The Waking", January 12-March 3, 2012, at the Du Mois Gallery, 4921 Freret, New Orleans, LA. The opening reception: was held January 14.

From Anne Thigpen:



Anne Thigpen sold her painting titled *Water Pelican* at the Forum Salon, one week before Christmas. The pelican portrait is in watercolor.
Congratulations, Ann!

From Wilma Roy:



The Associated Women in the Arts invites you to view the *Life and Landscapes along Highway #1* exhibit on display at the West Baton Rouge Museum until March 11. Many LAAG members are exhibiting artwork in the show.

Tablescapes



Seventeen artists will represent LAAG in the "Tablescapes—The Fine Art of Dining" presentation by the Baton Rouge Garden Club. Garden Club designers will interpret the artists' paintings with floral designs and place settings.

In its 18th year, the exhibition funds a scholarship program for students in landscape architecture, urban forestry, or horticulture. The Baton Rouge Garden Center at Independence Park will house the show on Saturday, February 25 from 1-4 pm, and Sunday, February 26, from noon to 3 pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door for $5 (cash or check). A catalog of prices for the paintings will be available, and refreshments will be served.

The LAAG artists presenting works at the Tablescapes Show are: Kay Bailey, Jo Busse, Dorothy Campbell, Betty Efferson, Mary Heckman, Beverly Heil, Claudia LeJeune, Roberta Loflin, Theresa Marchiafava, Joel M. McLain, Pearl T. Mills, Christy Olson, Leah Schwartzman, Steve Shamburger, June Tuma, Sue Warnock, and Robi Woody. The Guild thanks Mary Heckman for coordinating with the Garden Club to gather our work for their inspiration.

Exhibit Planner for 2012

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Theater 12th Members Show Fabulous Firsts	Serop's 10th Mayor's Office 17th *Theater Reception 19th* Forum Salon 27th	Theater Spring Judged 15th Ochsner Hospital
APRIL	**MAY**	**JUNE**
	Serop's 11th Forum Salon 14th *Theater Reception 20th*	Mayor's Office 15th
JULY	**AUGUST**	**SEPTEMBER**
Theater Workshop Show 10th *Theater Reception 29th*	Ochsner Clinic Serop's 10th Theater Summer Judged 16th	*Theater Reception 9th* Forum Salon 24th
OCTOBER	**NOVEMBER**	**DECEMBER**
Theater Fall Show 18th *Theater Reception 28th* Mayor's Office 26th	Serop's 10th Theater Winter Judged 15th *Theater Reception 18th* Forum Salon 26th	

Available Exhibiting Space

OCHSNER CLINIC: Space for about 12 paintings. Size of the paintings – up to 16" x 20"
OCHSNER HOSPITAL: Space for 8 paintings. Size of the paintings – up to 16" x 20"
FORUM SALON: Space for about 10 paintings. Size of the painting – up to 18" x 24"
MAYOR'S OFFICE: Space for about 11 paintings. Requested size – **minimum** of 22" x 28"
SEROP'S: One or two persons show (you're responsible for bringing and removing your own artworks). Space for 7 paintings. Size of the paintings – up to 18" x 24"

Hanging dates at these locations may be delayed if there is not enough participation to fill the spots.

Exhibits

Independence Park Theater



January 12th was the "pick-up" day for the Winter Judged Show and "take-in" day for the first show of the new year, "Fabulous Firsts". Don't forget the reception and the chance to vote for your favorite painting on Sunday, February 19th.
March 15th will be the "pick-up" day for the "Fabulous Firsts" Show and the "take-in" day for the Spring Judged Show. The show will be judged by Thomas Neff.

Please note, starting in 2012, the NEW time for take-in is 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.
Effective November 1st, by order of the LAAG Board of Directors, a **$25 storage fee** will be assessed for each painting that is not retrieved on the announced pick-up date. If you cannot retrieve your paintings on the announced date, please arrange for someone else to pick up your work.

Baton Rouge Little Theater



The paintings from the Winter Judged Show are being exhibited at the Baton Rouge Little Theater until February 12. At the end of the exhibit, the paintings will be brought to the Studio in the Park and artists will be notified to pick them up.

Anne Thigpen, Exhibits Chair:
If you have an interest in sharing a demonstration with your fellow artists, or if you have someone in mind that you would like to see, please email Anne Thigpen at athigpen@eatel.net with your suggestion.

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, I am always willing to listen to your ideas. The best ways to reach me are by email at athigpen@eatel.net or my cell phone 225-279-8637.

Mayor's Office



The paintings on display at the Mayor's Office will be exchanged on February 17th. You are invited to bring one or two paintings to the Studio in the Park on any Wednesday (10am-4pm) or Sunday (1pm-4pm) until February 17. Space is available for about 10 to 12 paintings of large size (at least 22" x 28"). This is a great opportunity for letting the Mayor and his staff see that art is still alive in us.

Also, we need some volunteers to help with the transportation and hanging for this event. If you are interested and available to lend a hand, please email Anne Thigpen at athigpen@eatel.net.

Forum Salon



The paintings on display at the Forum Salon will be exchanged on February 27th. You are invited to bring one or two paintings to the Studio in the Park on any Wednesday (10am-4pm) or Sunday (1pm-4pm) until February 27. This location is a great place to exhibit. The staff is warm and welcoming. You are free to visit them and view the artwork any time. They love to hear from us, and enjoy getting to know the artists that are exhibiting there.

Serop's Express Restaurants



This February, we have Leah Schwartzman sharing a show with Beverly Heil at the Jefferson Highway location, and Roberta Loflin exhibiting at the Highland Road location.

Would you like the opportunity for a one-person show? Or if you are not so sure, would you like to share the space with someone else? That would be a great step for you to take. All you have to do is email Anne Thigpen at athigpen@eatel.net to reserve your space at one or the other location. The month of May is welcoming you all!

Recent Workshop

PAM INGALLS.....Oil Painting in the Russian Impressionist Tradition



For four days, Jan 5-8, the Louisiana Art and Artists Guild Studio in the Park was transformed into a virtual exhibition of still life displays. The studio was filled with 15 energetic artists, as nationally recognized oil artist Pam Ingalls conducted an oil painting workshop. Over the four-day workshop, participants had 7 still life vignettes and several live models to choose from, to paint under Pam's friendly, practiced, and knowledgeable direction. Inspiring music and the warm, rich smell of oil paints filled the studio. The secret of the non-assaulting scent of oils was due to the fact that Pam uses a low odor medium instead of the usual oil painting components (turpentine/linseed oil etc.). It was both a relaxed and energetic atmosphere as Pam worked individually with each participant.



The workshop was preceded by a free demonstration the evening of January 4, attended by approximately 30 artists. Pam Ingalls, a tall, slender redhead, greeted everyone with a friendly smile and a warm hello. As the demonstration began, Pam told the audience what to expect....she "does not talk when she paints"....therefore there would be music playing - "very loud music"- so that she could "focus on painting the way that she normally paints and hope that she could forget that she was in a room full of people watching her...she would paint for approximately 25 minute sessions and then she would stop and answer any questions". Attendees observed intently as Pam effortlessly painted a portrait from a live model in her "Russian Impressionist" style. Her brush literally danced across the canvas as she painted to four rousing sessions of "loud", inspiring music by Ann Moura. Both the demonstration and the workshop were a treat for all who attended.



Workshop participant comment:

"This is my first time to paint with oils. I usually work in watercolor and this has been completely different for me. Everything is just the opposite of the way I usually paint. I have really learned so much, and a whole new way to look at things. I have really enjoyed the workshop and it has been a lot of fun. It is clear that Pam enjoys teaching as well as painting." *~Gary Drinkwater*



Upcoming Workshops

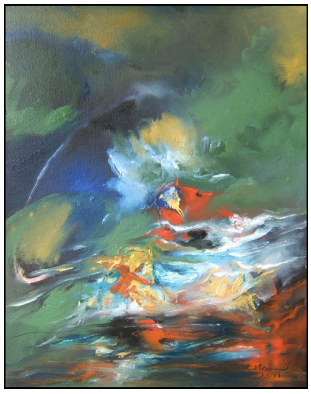
Lynn Washauer & Julie Dupre Buckner- Abstract Acrylics



February 7, Tuesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Fee: $100 including supplies, just bring a canvas
To register contact Kay Bailey at kay.bailey@cox.net or 225-343-3265

This workshop is designed to introduce beginners and established artists to the techniques of layering, blending, dripping, pouring, wiping-off and other techniques required in abstract painting. Participants will select from a variety of styles and color palettes. Few drawing skills are necessary for beginners and it really loosens up traditional artists.

Nami Yang - Abstract Oils



March 26-28, Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Fee: $250
To register contact Sue Wang at sw32048@gmail.com or 225-753-7566

In day one students will begin by focusing on their thoughts and feelings about an object and then use their preferred colors and subjects to extract an aspect of the object and use it to make art without using its shape. On day two students will clear their mind and paint freely without thinking. Day three will combine both methods.

Roberta Loflin - Exploring Color in Watermedia



Every Saturday April 21 through May 19 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm
Fee: $100
Ages 14 and older
To register contact Roberta Loflin at rloflin@gmail.com or 225-803-6785

In this class students will learn how to mix harmonious colors in watercolor and/or acrylic and how to avoid mixing "mud." Students will work with limited palettes and find out that one does not need a lot of different tubes of paint to create vibrant compositions.

Nora Scarbrough - Mixed Watercolor and Pastel

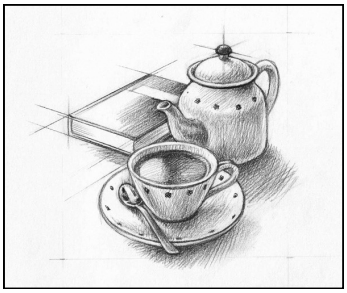


April 24,26,27, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Fee: $125
To register contact Kay Bailey at kay.bailey@cox.net or 225-343-3265

Students will work from photos to create a mixed media painting integrating the two mediums - watercolors and pastels. The layering of pastels over the watercolor will create luminous paintings focusing on light. The technique of using pastels will also enhance shadows to make for dramatic paintings.

Ongoing Classes

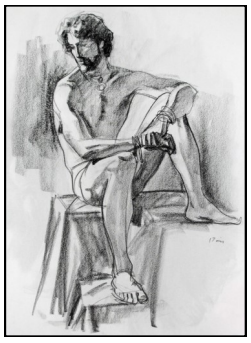
Steve Shamburger - Basic Drawing Skills



2nd Monday through the last Monday of each month, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Fee: $60 per month
To register contact Steve at steve@steveshamburger.com or 225-751-1049

This ongoing instructional series will teach students the basic drawing skills essential to accurately interpreting any subject in line and tone from direct observation. Classes will include lessons on defining edges, basic shapes used in picture construction, accurate measurement of proportions, line control, and shading. Each class will include demonstrations and exercises that build on previous lessons.

Life Drawing Sessions



Every Wednesday, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Studio in the Park
Fee: $10 per night / $30 per month

These sessions are open studio, no instruction is provided.
Each session starts with 15 minutes of one-minute gesture drawings, followed by longer poses of 5 to 30 minutes. The first Wednesday of the month will have 10 minutes of one-minute gesture drawings followed by one long pose. This will give artists a chance to develop a more finished piece of work and use different media, if desired. The gesture drawings are used as warm-up exercises for both the model and artists. Although charcoal and pencil are the most popular media, artists also use pastels, ink and water media.

For more information, e-mail Steve Shamburger at steve@steveshamburger.com

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Louisiana Art & Artists' Guild www.laag-site.org 926-4657 **February** Issue

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

Chair: Lane Downs
Art & Design Director: Lane Downs
Information Director: Trish Poynot
Copy Editor: Sue Warnock
Guild News: Lane Downs
Member News: Trish Poynot
Iberville and Feliciana News: Trish Poynot
Exhibits: Anne Thigpen
Workshops: Leah Schwartzman
Interviews: Caroline Derbes, Kay Bailey, Tom Skillern and Howard Hershberg

Any member information to be included in the newsletter should be sent to Trish Poynot at grannytrishp@yahoo.com by the first of every other month. The newsletter is then published and mailed on the first of the next month.