



ART GUMBO NEWS

GREETINGS

Ron Stasko - President
abundantsoul@live.com

Carolyn Bowman - 1st VP

John Robbins - 2nd VP

Cy Rawls—Treasurer

Aline Pine—Secretary

225.644.8496

Facebook-River Region Art
Association

2012 is here and January is already half way over! Can you believe it? We've already had our first general membership meeting, *Click Art* is in full swing, and *March Into Art* and our spring festival are right around the corner!

Behind the scenes our new board has been very busy working in the community with the Ascension Parish Tourism Commission and American Legion Post 81 on some of our upcoming events! The Docent Calendar for Houmas House is full, but we are still needing some help at the Art Gumbo Center. If you can volunteer please help us out!

As we proceed through 2012 our goals are to be to a stronger, healthier organization from the inside out. To becoming better organized, improving our associations image, building a larger presence within our community through partnerships, and being better organized and more known and supported through our efforts and membership initiatives. We will work to make our existing programs better, and our

presence in the community more known and supported in the process. So be on the look out for the little things. That's where we will see the most improvements. I learned a long time ago that the devil is in the details. If we are strong in our efforts are there, we will continue to grow and be strong everywhere.

Please feel free to communicate your thoughts and ideas with me anytime. I can be reached by email at abundantsoul@live.com.

I look forward to all of us working together to build a sound, strong, and known arts community here in the River Region.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead you as President.

Ron Stasko

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artist of the Month is Elaine Forstall. Elaine, raised in New Orleans, began painting as a young girl. She is a Primitive Artist and is exceptionally gifted with very little formal training. Her paintings of the old south capture the beauty and heritage of Louisiana. Elaine's paintings have won many awards and were formally sold at the Gallery Bon Amis and Gallery Toulouse in the French Quarter of which she was part owner. Through acrylic and oils, each piece is

brought to life with a primitive touch and the heart of the South. Her art tells a story about her beloved heritage and the city she grew up in. Elaine now lives in Abita Springs, Louisiana. She is 81 years old and enjoys painting every day!

RRAA welcomes new member Jamie Burleigh to our community. Jamie lives in the Prairieville area and paints on pottery. Jamie says she does not

make pottery but she loves to paint it. Welcome, Jamie! May you enjoy your time with us.

Cathy McLauin has graciously extended an invitation to RRAA members to display their art in local restaurants. Art must be Louisiana themed, i.e. bayou, seafood, wildlife, mardi gras, etc. Unframed, gallery wrapped is preferred or with finished edge

but no staples. Size is not a particular factor. Anyone interested should email Cathy at ccmclaurin@gmail.com and submit jpeg photos of the art they would like to have considered.

RRAA is working with the Ascension Parish Tourism Commission to present the annual Click Art Show. The theme is "The Best of the River Region: Promoting Tourism in Ascension Parish and the Surrounding Parishes". The goal is to promote tourism in the region by finding the best images that represent what the River Region has to offer.

Photos must be taken during 2011-2012 in Ascension and surrounding parishes. Images can be traditional or contemporary and can be presented framed or on canvas with wire on back for hanging. Images can be no smaller than 5X7 or larger than 16X20.

Art take in will be February 2-4, at the Ascension Parish Tourism Center on Hwy 22 from 8:30am—4:30pm.

The show will be on display at the Tourism Center through February 25. Closing reception will be February 25 at which time awards will be presented.

A special exhibit for the 4 winners from each category will be held at CC's Coffee House, Prairieville, LA during the month of March. Winning artists will be acknowledged in the Advocate, Ascension edition, the Gonzales Weekly Citizen, RRAA Facebook and RRAA website www.artgumbo.org. Contact Chairpersons Deborah Bianchetti or Michael Bianchetti at 225.673.5007 with any questions.

February

2nd, 3rd, 4th—*Click Art* Take In

6th—RRAA Board Meeting

12th—Gen Meeting/Artist Rcpt

25th—*Click Art* Show Reception

NO Art Gumbo Market

March

1st—3rd —*March into Art* Take In

5th—RRAA Board Meeting

11th—Gen Meeting/Artist Rcpt

17th—Art Gumbo Mkt-Houmas House

24th—Youth Creativity Day

April

2nd—RRAA Board Meeting

12th—*Spring Fest* Take In

13th—*Spring Fest* Judging

14th-15th—*Spring Fest* @ Am Legion

21st—Art Gumbo Mkt-Houmas House

22nd—Gen Meeting/Artist Rcpt



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Gonzales, La 70737
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It is now time to pay 2012 dues. Dues are \$40.00 annually. Anyone not paying by February 1, 2012, will be dropped from the roster.

Robin Rotolo will be instructing a three week class at Art Gumbo Center beginning February 9, 2012. The class is called *Stretch Your Imagination*. Students will learn how to create art using some unusual items.

Jan Hebert will teach *Beginning and Intermediate Oil Painting* classes at Art Gumbo Center each Wednesday evening.

If you or someone you know would like to take one of these classes please apply at artgumbo.org/

[class schedule](#) or at the center.

Our librarian has discovered there are books that have not been returned from checkout. The books are:

Painting People,
Exploring Colored Pencil,
A Treasury of Bookplates,
Painting Great Pictures from Photographs,
Chinese Brush Painting Techniques,
Decoys,
A Painterly Approach,
The Big Book of Painting Nature in Oil,
Marie Adrien Persac a Louisiana Artist,
Lifelike Portraits from Photographs,
How to Paint Skintones

This list is also posted in the library. Please check to be sure that you do not have one of these books, We thank you for the return of these books.



CC's Coffee House

17100 Airline Highway
Prairieville, LA 70769
225.744.2244

A great way to show your art and make the public aware of RRAA. This is a chance to improve our image, become strong, and known in the community. Does not require hanging fee or docent day!!!

Currently there are several people showing during the month but Cy still has open dates. You can stay a few hours or all day, your preference.

CCs is a great way to showcase your art to the public in a relaxed atmosphere. The management and staff are friendly and helpful.

Please contact Cy Rawls at 225.622.2872 or rawleid@eatel.net for information and to participate. Cy will ensure that you are scheduled and can answer any questions you may have.



Houmas House & Gardens

40136 Highway 942
Darrow, LA 70725
225.473.9330

Management at Houmas House in Darrow graciously allots space in the Gift Shop for RRAA members to display and sell their artwork. RRAA members earn this privilege by being a docent at least one (1) day per month.

So be sure to make your scheduled day for docent.

If an RRAA member is not available, Houmas House personnel have to make the sale which could result in fewer sales for RRAA members because no one is in the RRAA section to discuss the artwork with visitors.

If you cannot be there on your scheduled day, please notify or the on duty docent the next docent up so that a replacement can be found.

There will be no Art Gumbo Market for the months of January and February 2012. The next scheduled Art Gumbo Market is March 24, 2012. Look forward to seeing you there.



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RIVER REGION ART ASSOCIATION

MISSION

The purpose of the Association shall be to allow artists from all disciplines to work together to improve public awareness of all art forms. We associate to help individual artists in whatever way they need, and to help promote the arts in the communities of the River Region. We associate to help artists and communities relate. Most of all we associate to share the sheer joy of creating.

When I was a kid, a book I read advised young artists to be themselves. That decided it for me. I was a corny kind of guy, so I went for corn.....Walt Disney