

Conversazione

The Newsletter of the River Region Art Association

May 2008

ART GUMBO MARKET

On April 26 RRAA's Art Gumbo Market joined the Ascension Fresh Farmer's Market at their new location Hwy 621 and Airline and enjoyed a nice morning of sales. It was our first time at this new location. The following artists had sales: Mary Demarest, Jack & Vicki Miller, Sally McConnell, Mary Crochet, Chloe Daniel, Janice Carter and Peggy Carbo.

We will have the next Art Gumbo Market with the Farmers on Saturday, May 17 from 8am-noon at Hwy 621 and Airline. RRAA plans to continue to set up at the market on the third Saturday of each month. Please email or call Donna Braud at 225-328-7354 to get your name on the list to participate and be included in the advertisement for the Art Gumbo Market.

MAY GALLERY EXHIBIT

The theme of the May Art Exhibit at River Region Art Gallery is *May Flowers*. Take-in of art will be May 1-10. Artist of all ages are welcome to bring in their paintings, drawings, photographs or three-dimensional pieces for this month of May Flowers. This promises to be a colorful exhibit with all the different hues of flowers blooming. It can be anything from a dandelion weed to a rose garden. It can be one lone bloom or a field full_ There is no entry fee. All two dimensional art must have wire on back for hanging. This is a judged show with ribbons only being awarded. More info at www.artgumbo.org.

RED HOT NIGHT IN ASCENSION

A Red Hot Night in Ascension Parish is coming up on Thursday, June 19 from 5:00 until 7:30PM hosted by River Region Art Association at our gallery in Gonzales. It will be a Fiery night open to the community with Red Hot fun, Red Hot art, Red Hot Entertainment, Red Hot prizes, Red Hot food, and Cool Refreshments. There will be a Gumbo of Art under the trees along with a RED HOT ART competition displayed on the Front Porch.

Calling all creative people to prepare to bring their RED HOT ART to the RRAA Gallery between June 3-14 for the Red Hot Art Exhibit. No entry fee. The winners will be decided by a People's Choice ballot on Red Hot Night, June 19. Exhibit remains on display until July 1.

The Art may be paintings, drawings, photography, or three dimensional art...but it must be RED or HOT or Fiery_ Let your imagination explode with RED and HOT_ All 2-dimensional art must be framed with wire for hanging. The back of art must be labeled with name, address and phone number. Each person is allowed 3 FREE entries. This unique RED HOT event is free for all the COOL people in the Community. Wear RED and come meet your Cool neighbors_ You will be seeing RED all night_ If you would like to donate an inexpensive RED item for a doorprize it would be appreciated-just drop it by the Gallery. Also members are asked to prepare a RED HOT dish to bring for our reception buffet.

Please call our food chairperson, Carolyn Bowman, 622-6667, and let her know what covered dish you will be bringing for our RED HOT BUFFET.

SUMMER EXHIBIT SPECIAL

WE WANT TO SEE YOUR ARTWORK_ The RRAA Board invites each member of RRAA to exhibit two pieces of your artwork in the Gallery FREE OF CHARGE (no exhibit fee) now until September 30, 2008. No pieces larger than 20x30 please.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Janice Carter, Vickie Durfey, Sue McAlum, Aileen Pine, Jenn Prochaska, Robin Rotolo, Shirley Russell, Kristin Veillon, Adam Connor and Michael Vincent.

SALLY MCCONNELL is ARTIST OF THE MONTH for May 2008. Sally was born and raised in Columbus Ohio. She attended Ohio State University, majoring in Art. After moving to Louisiana she went back to college at LSU where she received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Education.

Sally has been an “artist in hiding_ all her life, but after the death of her son she felt the need to openly express herself through gardening, photography and working with the tactile medium of clay. Sally works with stoneware clay and enjoys hand-building the most. She feels that pottery is such a wonderful outlet for her, giving her time alone to create and allowing her to share with others her love of pottery. The pottery she creates is meant to be functional and enjoyed.

Sally’s inspiration comes from her friend and partner Joan Beselman who talked her into going to classes with her. For over two years she and Joan attended pottery classes regularly. Sadly, Joan passed away in 2002, yet her spirit continues to fill Sally’s studio. In Joan’s memory she makes crosses and donates her pieces to local churches and schools for their auctions.

Sally is a member of the Retired Teacher’s Association, the American Ceramic Society, the Potter’s Council and for the last couple of years an active member of River Region Art Association. The public is invited to stop by River Region Art Gallery and see samples of Sally’s work which will be on special display during the month of May.

ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Oil Painting (Beginner & Intermediate) - Jan Hebert, Instructor. 4 sessions on Wednesdays, 6pm to 8pm. ONGOING CLASSES. \$45 for 4 sessions.

An Evening of Drawing and Fun (ages 14-Adult) - Alexis Braud, Instructor. Fridays, 6pm to 8pm. ONGOING CLASSES. You can come to any number of classes. Fun class to awaken your creativity. \$40 for 4 sessions or \$12 for one session.

Masking and Pouring Over Watercolor Painting (Advanced Beginner-Intermediate) - Kathy Stone, Instructor. May 6, One-day workshop, 9am to 4:30pm. \$50.

Study the 'Fauves' and do an artwork - all mediums (Fauve is a term meaning 'wild beast' where a group of artists in the late 19th and early 20th century created artwork with wild and crazy colors. Two of the Fauve painters were Deran and Matisse) - Renee Fletcher, Instructor. One-day Workshop, May 17, 9am to 4pm. \$50.

Digital Photography - Helen Haw and Donna Smith, instructors. One-day workshop, May 31, 9am-4pm, \$45.

Clay Firing Day - The next clay and firing day will be on May 15 from 10am to 4pm. Check details at artgumbo.org or call Gallery.

ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Ongoing Class for Children. (Ages 7 and up) - Jan Hebert, Instructor. (Includes drawing and painting) Mondays 5pm to 6:30pm. \$20 per session, pay as you go.

YOUTH SUMMER ART WORKSHOPS

Registration is now being accepted for *Children's Summer Art Workshops*. There will be two sessions of classes. The first session will run from Monday June 9 thru Thursday June 12; the second will run from Monday June 16 thru Thursday June 19 from 10AM to Noon. Classes for children ages 6 to 7 will offer Multi-mediums: painting, printmaking, story illustration, collage. Classes for children ages 8-14 will offer 1)Acrylic Painting and 2)Drawing (basic design, shading, perspective). \$45 per 4-day session includes all supplies. *To assure a spot in class students must fill out registration form by May 31 and pay \$45 class fee. Call the Gallery at 644-8496 or visit www.artgumbo.org.*

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ART CLASSES:

RRAA's art classes represent one of our best outreaches to the community. Please try your best to support our classes by taking them or passing-on information about them to everyone you know. _ Word of mouth_ is one of the best promotions. Some of our classes are not enrolling enough students and thus must be cancelled which is discouraging to those who teach them. We want the program to be successful and need your support. Contact Jean Liehe if you have suggestions. 673-5484.

ALONG WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ART CLASS QUESTIONNAIRE TO LET US KNOW WHAT CLASSES YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING. Please fill out and mail to Jean Liehe, 18421 Plantation Ct., Prairieville, LA 70769 or drop it by Gallery.

Check out our ***RRAA WEBSITE***, artgumbo.org, and you will find much info about our Association, members, classes and upcoming events. RRAA member Gene Ferguson is our webmaster. If you have any questions or comments about our website send them to webmaster@artgumbo.org.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO VOLUNTEER AT GALLERY ONE DAY A MONTH. RRAA is able to keep its gallery open only through our member's time and effort. We are asking all RRAA members to volunteer to man the Gallery one day (6 hours from 10AM to 4PM) or two half days (10 to 1 or 1 to 4) every month. You will have a brief training session to acquaint you with the routine of opening and closing the gallery and making sales. You may bring a friend to keep you company or spend your free time working on your current art project. To volunteer, call the Gallery (225 644-8496) and leave a message for Jan Hebert.

PLEASE PUT THE FOLLOWING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

May 1 May Board Meeting, 6pm at Gallery
May 1-10 Take-in for May Flowers Gallery Exhibit, 10am-4pm
May 17 Art Gumbo with Farmer's Fresh Market, 8am to noon
May 25 General Meeting at the RRAA Gallery, 2pm. Alexis Braud will be our guest speaker.
Jun 3-14 Take-in for Red Hot Art Exhibit
Jun 5 June Board Meeting, 6pm at Gallery
Jun 19 Red Hot Night at Gallery, 5pm to 7:30pm

Every Wednesday is ***OPEN PAINTING DAY*** at the Gallery. Feel free to bring your painting or drawing materials and spend a few hours in leisurely, unstructured art work with your RRAA colleagues.

COMING EVENTS IN THE RIVER REGION

Exhibit Opportunity: All area artists are invited to exhibit their 2-dimensional hanging artwork at the Jambalaya Festival Art Show for the weekend of May 23-25. This is a judged art show with cash awards and there is an entry fee. Includes a division for young people ages 13-17. Take-in is Thursday, May 22 at Gonzales City Hall on Irma Blvd. from 1pm to 6pm. For more information call Randy LaPrairie (545-3240) or Gaynelle Moore (647-5577).

Red Hot Night in Ascension Parish is scheduled for Thursday, June 19 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. The community is invited (no charge) for refreshments and entertainment in addition to the RED HOT ART EXHIBIT to be judged by a People's Choice ballot. All attendees may vote.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Arts and Crafts Fair is taking applications for booths for their next fair on Oct 4, 2008. Booth rate is \$70. Phone 225-275-5588.

RRAA is accepting applications for art booths for it's annual *Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens* at Houmas House on Oct 11 and 12., 2008, 10AM-4PM. The fee for RRAA members is \$50, for non-members \$75. This is our biggest art event of the year and our annual fundraiser. Booths must be juried in by the Awesome Art Committee. All art must be the original work of the artists. No commercial, retail or food booths allowed. Call Donna at 225-328-7354.

RIVER REGION ART ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WE RELY ON UNPAID VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP THE GALLERY OPEN AND THE ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONING. PLEASE COME TO MEETINGS AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP US REALIZE OUR MISSION TO MAKE ART ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TO ALL IN THE RIVER REGION.