

2026 Art Show Judges

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Zora “Becky” Bergeron

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Ellen M. Martin graduated with honors from the Art Institute of Dallas, majoring in Commercial Art. A capable artist, but a better art director, Ellen handled major nationwide accounts such as IHOP, Pixar Studios, Nintendo, Playboy, and American Online for several West Coast ad agencies: Saatchi & Saatchi and DDB Needham Fitch.

Returning to Louisiana, Ellen's career in marketing has changed paths. Today, social-media marketing is how she spends her time = for her fresh produce stand and vintage cypress lumberyard _both located in Napoleonville, LA_ as well as for many other local enterprises. Her experience as an art director shines through all she does.

Denis Gaubert is a longtime resident of Thibodaux, Louisiana, where most of his family originates. He is a former attorney, having fully retired from active practice in 2019, after 40 years. As a child, he was fortunate to have lived in France and Germany due to his father's military career, and is introduced by his parents to great art museums cathedrals, castles, and other historic sites in Europe. He is a graduate of Thibodaux High School, Nicholls State University, and Louisiana State University Law School.

He attended the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts from 2006 through 2009, studying basic classical drawing and perspective, intermediate drawing, beginning oil painting, color and design, life (figure) drawing, and intermediate oil painting under professional artists Darrell Brown, Billy Solitario, Saskia Ozols, Carol Peebles, and others. He has sold a number of his still life paintings, and many featuring bold crawfish, as well as limited-edition giclee prints of that subject and his oil painting copy of Andre Gill's Lapin Agile signboard for the famous café and cabaret of that name in Montmartre. In 2017, he took classes in the traditional art of religious icon painting using tempera and gold leaf. He also returned to his undergraduate alma mater, Nicholls State University, in 2019, taking an advanced class in Italian Renaissance art for credit. His chosen subject for his term paper was a detailed analysis of “The Madonna of the Rose” by Giovanni Antonio Boltraffio, a student of Leonardo da Vinci.

Although he has stepped back from drawing and painting in recent years, he still actively studies artistic theory and techniques, as well as art history and biography, and plans to return to active oil painting after substantial completion of two books dealing with the local history of the Thibodaux area.

62nd AGU Art Show & Sale

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

PRIVATE Purchase Awards Reception

Tuesday September 1st, 2026 6-8PM

Exhibit Opens to the General Public

Wednesday Sept. 2nd – Friday Sept. 4 - 1-4 PM

Saturday Sept. 5 – Monday Sept. 7 11-5 PM

Regular Gallery Hours

Wednesday – Friday 1-4 PM, Saturday 11 AM-2 PM

Participating Artists Closing Reception

Saturday September 26th 1-3 PM

Photos of Children and Teen Winners

will be taken starting at 1:30 PM

followed by photos of adult winners.

*AGU thanks those who support our efforts to grow as a cultural
arts center in St. Mary Parish*

AGU Supporters

*Artists, Delta Printing, the Morgan City Review, St. Mary
Parish Government, City of Morgan City, Merit Award
Donors, Purchase Award Patrons, Scholarship sponsors*

AGU Show Winners

Adult Art Divisions

Oils

1 st Place-	"Lake Martin Morning"	Dawn Koetting
2 nd Place-	"Walk at First Light"	Jewel Ackmann
3 rd Place-	"Iris Delight"	Lisa Giandelone
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Shrimp Plate"	Anne Faillace
	"Fishers Camp"	Delores Legendre
	"Praire Street Oak »	Ann Faillace
	"Sweet Bayou"	Andrea Matte

Acrylics

1 st Place-	"Sugar Time"	Janet Robinson
2 nd Place-	"Tigress"	Allyssa Muse
3 rd Place-	"Anderson. Paak"	Cherish Lewis
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Disco Dillo"	Allyssa Muse
	"Poppin Tiger Floral"	Christy LeBlanc
	"Crew of Athena"	Andrea Matte
	"Jelly Fish Nation"	Regina H. Steele

Watercolors

1 st Place-	"Eat More Chicken"	Jean B. Ayo
2 nd Place-	"February Haul"	Adrian Naquin
3 rd Place-	"Dreamer"	Betty Porche
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Japanese Magnolia Blossom II"	Vera Judycki
	"Louisiana Rosant Spoon Bill"	Adrian Naquin
	"Monkey Business"	Jean B. Ayo

Pastels

1 st Place-	"Breaking Through I"	Dawn Koetting
2 nd Place-	"MorningVibes"	Charlotte Opperman
3 rd Place-	"The Journey"	Regina H. Steele
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Forsaken Swamp"	Charlotte Opperman
	"The Poet"	Mary Beth Machenberg
	"Amelia Cove"	Dawn Koetting

All Other

1 st Place-	"King of the Hill"	Mike Batson
2 nd Place-	"Under the Oak Tree"	Dolores Legendre
3 rd Place-	"Needle Point Flowers"	Zora "Becky" Bergeron
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Sparkle Beatle"	Mike Batson
	"With Age Comes Wisdom"	Dianne Duplantis
	"Lilies of the Vallery"	Dianne Duplantis

Color Photography

1 st Place-	"Al E Gator"	Terry Harrison
2 nd Place-	"Roanan's Garden"	Aaliyah Sok
3 rd Place-	"River of Gold"	Tyler Jones
HONORABLE MENTION :		
	"Clouds III"	Diane Martin
	"Mossy Blue Morning"	Danny Verret
	"Storms a Coming"	Terri Adams
	"Cat in a Tree"	Jim Firmin

Black & White Photography

1 st Place-	"Sunset Fishermen"	Diane Martin
2 nd Place-	"The Visitor"	Stephanie Jones
3 rd Place-	"Branches"	Zora "Becky" Bergeron
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Solo Tree in the Desert"	Nicholas Bergeron
	"Stillness on the Waterfront"	Aaliyah Sok
	"Where the Water Was"	Tyler Jones
	"Surprise Lake"	Nicholas Bergeron

Teen and Children Divisions

BOB GREENWOOD MEMORIAL AWARD

1ST Place Winner: Teens Division (ages 13-17)

Sponsored by Pitts & Matte, CPAs

1 st Place-	"It's Dinnertime"	Alayna Tran
2 nd Place-	"The Takeoff"	Jud Weido
3 rd Place-	"Shades of Green"	Genevieve Steele
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"Framed Frets"	Austin Weido
	"Church in the Village"	Adrianna Weido
	"Pieces of History"	Lexi Callais
	"Jawbreaker"	Jack Shirley

LORELLA LaROCHE-PITTS AWARD

1ST Place Winner: Children I (ages 2-6)

Sponsored by Pitts & Matte, CPAs

1 st Place-	"Dangerous Catch"	Henry Fernandez
2 nd Place-	"Flower Land"	Sutton Lemoine
3 rd Place-	"Deep Blue »	Henry Fernandez
HONORABLE MENTION:		
	"4 Fish"	Henry Fernandez

GLORIA MATTE MEMORIAL AWARD

1ST Place Winner: Children II (age 7-12)

Sponsored by Pitts & Matte, CPAs

1 st Place-	"Daydream"	Ella Barousse
2 nd Place-	"Black Cat"	Zoey LaCoste
3 rd Place-	"Bayou Bliss"	Andrew Weido
Honorable Mentions:		
	"Forgotten Forest"	Asa J. Weido
	"Self Portrait"	Olive Rose Veillon
	"Sunny Flower"	Thea Ibert
	"Butterfly"	Jolie Johnson

MERIT AWARDS

COMMUNITY DESIGN GROUP

MERIT AWARD IN PHOTOGRAPHY

By Jim Firmin

Color Photography-	"Old Red Shed"	Larry Cheramie
Color Photography-	"Sunset on the Teche 1"	Mary Etta Taylor
Color Photography-	"The Showoff"	Jud Weido
Color Photography-	"God's Great Glory"	Diane Martin

SAM FISHER MERIT AWARD

By The Sam Fisher Family

Acrylic-	"Shrimpboat Sam"	Barbara Brown
Acrylic-	"House on Wisteria Lane"	Gloria Darcey
Child 2-	"Love Birds"	Hailee Durand
Acrylic-	"Redwing Blackbirds"	Vee Taylor

OUTSTANDING CHILDREN & TEENS

ENCOURAGEMENT GIFT AWARD

By Carl "CJ" and Gora "Becky" Bergeron

Teen-	"It's Dinnertime"	Alayna Tran
Child 1-	"Danerous Catch"	Henry Fernandez
Child 2-	"Daydream"	Ella Barousse

HELENE B. ALLEN MERIT AWARD

By The Allen Family

Teen-	"Pieces of History"	Lexi Callais
Teen-	"Toucan Do It"	Alayna Tran
Teen-	"Furever Loved"	Adrianna Weido
Child 2-	"Dog"	Lauren Lombardo

PATTERSON STATE BANK MERIT AWARD

By Patterson State Bank

Color Photography-	"Historic Snow Fall"	Kathy Sicard
Child 2-	"Garden of Creativeness"	Adrienne Albo
Acrylic-	"Pretty in Pink"	Allyssa Muse
Watercolor-	"Singing for Spring"	Jean B. Ayo

KEVIN P. HEBERT, BERWICK TOWN COUNCIL

MERIT AWARD

By Kevin Hebert

Child 2-	"Sunset Slow Down"	McKenzie Arceneaux
Teen-	"Toucan Do It"	Alayna Tran
Teen-	"Furever Loved"	Adrianna Weido
Child 2-	"Meet Me In Paris"	Amber Settoon

ALICE GIBSON ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

By Charlotte Opperman

Acrylic-	"Kdot, pt t"	Cherish Lewis
Oil-	"Prairie Street Oak"	Ann Faillace
All Other-	"Oyster on the Half Shell"	Lisa Giandelone
Acrylic	"Koi Fish"	Caroline Simoneaux

GAY BRIEHN MERIT AWARD

By Heidi Hatch

Watercolor-	"Holly Branch"	Caroline Simoneaux
All Other-	"Blue Crab"	Mike Batson
Watercolor-	"Dry Dock"	Adrian Naquin
Watercolor-	"Soft Arrangement"	Jean Boudreaux

CREATIVE STROKES

By Jean and Ricky Boudreau

Acrylic-	"Roseats in the Swamp"	Muriel Prejean
Color Photography-	"Tranquil Ray of the Morning"	Danny Verret
Oil-	"High Mountain Meadow"	Jewel Ackman
Acrylic-	"Purple Passion Iris"	Lisa Giandelone

BEST MEETS DESIGN CRITERIA

By Jean Ayo

Watercolor-	"Japanese Magnolia"	Betty Porche
Oil-	"Double Quarter Sugar Plantation"	Dolores Legendre
Pastel-	"Horsin' Around"	Christi Comeaux
Color Photography	"Sunning Frogs"	Jean Boudreaux

RAY C. WRITTEN
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

By Angel Tisdale

All Other-	"Fleur-De-Lis Magazine Art »	Caroline Simoneaux
Pastel-	"Dancing Waves"	Charlotte Opperman
Color Photography-	"Left Eye Pelican"	Nicholas Bergeron
Oil-	"Pure Cajun"	Jewel Ackman
Child 2-	"Through Christ I Grow"	McKenzie Arceneaux

Encouragement Award

By Dr. Mel and Geri Bourgeois

Scholarship Recipient-		Sophia Haskins
Teen-	"Savasanva"	Ava Berry
Child 2-	"Nighttime Mountain"	Zoey LaCoste
Child 2-	"Grazing Horse"	Thea Ibert
Child 2-	"American Alligator"	Liam Lemelle
Child 1-	"4 Fish"	Henry Fernandez
Acrylic-	"Koi Fish"	Caroline Simoneaux
Color Photography-	"Redline"	Tyler Jones

AGU 2026

62nd Labor Day Art Show & Sale

This year we have 87 artists who have entered 315 pieces of art in the show. The show is filled with work from California to Florida as well as our local and Louisiana entries.

Our all-volunteer members have worked hard to make the show successful. This year we had to fill in for the chairperson, Diane Martin, because she had several surgical procedures the week of registration. She organized and did all the pre-planning to help us to do the work necessary to hang, judge, and get the proper paperwork done for the show. We wish her a speedy recovery.

The LDS will run from Sept. 2nd to Sept. 26th.

Zora "Becky" Bergeron" AGU President