

**The River Gallery
Newsletter
May 2013**

Mission Statement
“It is our mission to be a dynamic visual arts center for community and public, to be a group of artists, expressing and experiencing an awareness of art expression in all media, to be an avenue for the public to experience a growing knowledge of the visual arts, and to be an encouraging factor in the development of upcoming artists.”

The River Art Gallery
308 Trenton Street
West Monroe
Louisiana, 71291
Phone: 318-322-2380
Tuesday – Saturday
10am-5pm

Website:
www.ouachitariverartgallery.com

Blog:
<http://www.ouachitariverartgallery.blogspot.com/>

Established July 1, 1990

Best Of Delta 2011

Featured Artists for 2013

January: Marlen Waters
February: Happy Mardi Gras
March: Debra Heard
April: Joyce Beauvais
May: Sue Abbott
June: Jerry Jones
July: Charlie Heck
August: Don Hudnall
September: Cindy Blanchard
October: Anne Eberle
November:
December: Christmas Display

The River Gallery



May Featured Artist: Sue Abbott
“Night Mares”



Sue Abbott

“The Bigger the Better”

E. Sue Abbott is The River Gallery’s featured artist for the month of May. Sue finds an artistic quality in everything she sees. Her unique interpretations of her favorite subjects- the animals on her farm- are expressed in acrylic on giant canvases. According to Sue, “The bigger the better.” Sue is from New Mexico and finds inspiration from the Land of Enchantment. A self-taught artist, she has lived and worked in the art field all of her adult life. After high school she spent a year on the reservation living with an Indian family, creating and selling art in the market. She spent several years in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico studying at the Instituto Allende and working with her friend who owned the Galleria San Miguel.

Her show is the second in the series called “**Night Mares**” Sue's featured show will hang at the gallery throughout the month of May. The **Ouachita River Art Gallery**, voted Best Art Gallery in 2011, is at 308 Trenton Street, West Monroe, and is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is the oldest and largest co-op gallery in the state. Many of the artists accept commissions, so if you see a style of work that you like, don't be afraid to inquire about having one of the artists create a custom piece. Admission is always free. Gallery member's work can also be seen at ORAG's extension gallery located in the lobby of Ouachita Independent Bank/Bankers Mortgage Plaza at 18th and Louisville in Monroe. Call 322-2380 for more information or visit www.ouachitariverartgallery.com and don't forget to "like" us on Facebook for sneak peeks of new art.



GALLERY ARTISTS

Jewelry Crafters

Marsha Cabuk
Marlene Gremillion

Painters

Sue Abbott
Phoebe Allen
Joyce Beauvais
Jane Dixon
Melanie Douthit
Anne Eberle
Margaret Ellerman
Susan Erlemeier
Marlene Gremillion
Debra Heard
Jerry Jones
Rita Mann
Brenda McDaniel
Donna McGee
Melba Pickering
Nancy Shutt
Carol Smith
Donna Tucker
Linda Ward
Marlen Waters

Photographers

Cindy Blanchard
Emily Brodnax
Allen Harrison
Charlie Heck

Potters

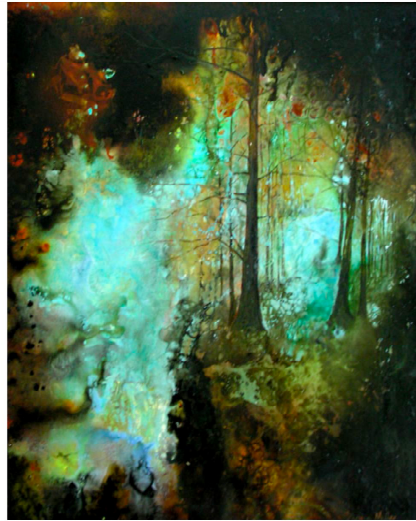
Don Hudnall

Wood Crafters

Rusty Patterson

Cottonport Historic Cultural District

Visit
The River Gallery Wall
At
Ouachita
Independent
Bank
North 18th St
Monroe



Delta Artists

Tunica River Park and museum opens with a curated exhibit, "DeltaArtists".

Four Downtown Art Alliance artists were recently invited to participate in an exhibit in Tunica, Mississippi. The Tunica River Park and Museum will open its new gallery to the public on April 25 with the "Delta Artists" exhibit. The exhibit features the art of Mississippi Delta natives and residents and takes a special perspective on the 2011 flood's effect on the area. An open house the night of April 25 will allow visitors to meet the artists and view the exhibits.

T. Clifton Art in Memphis, Tennessee curated the exhibit which will run through August 31. Pat Brown, co-owner of T. Clifton Art, said she selected a diverse range of artists and art for the exhibit. "In looking at the richness of all the Delta artists, we wanted visitors to see different mediums and styles," said Brown. "Each of the artist's area of emphasis truly epitomizes the diversity of the region. I also selected artists with a wide range of experience; some are emerging artists and some are well established." Brown chose 25 artists who have an association with the Mississippi Delta. The artists were either born in the area or are living around the region.

The Tunica RiverPark, which was named a 2011 Rand McNally Best of the Road winner, features the Mississippi River Museum, riverboat cruises, nature trail, 48-foot river overlook and gift shop. For more information. visit www.tunicariverpark.com

Member News

Donna McGee's artwork accepted into Texas & Neighbors juried exhibition & the Louisiana Watercolor Society show.

Linda Snider Ward was juried & accepted into the Center for the Arts **Evergreen Summer fest**, July 20-21, 2013. I'll have a booth there and be selling my artwork. Yea!

<http://www.evergreenarts.org/Summerfest.html>

New Orleans Arts Fest March, 30th, April 27th, & May 25th.

Melanie Douthit, Don Hudnall & Linda Snider Ward showed and sold pieces of their art at the **Kiroli Arts in the Park** April 20-22.

Delta Artists

Local artists with pieces in the "Delta Artists" exhibit include:

-Joli Livaudais from Monroe with photography

-Don Hudnall from West Monroe with pottery

-Donna McGee from West Monroe with acrylic/mixed media paintings

-Melanie Douthit from West Monroe with acrylic paintings.
<http://www.tunicariverpark.com/mississippi-river-museum>



Donna McGee's been Busy!

She currently has works in or on the way to 5 juried exhibitions. World Aflame in Texas and Neighbors in Irving, Texas, April 20 - May 26. Great Blue in Tom Peyton Memorial Exhibition in Alexandria, LA, April 12-21.

Swampfire in Louisiana Watercolor Society's International Juried Exhibition, New Orleans, May 3- 23. Warm November Wind in the Art League of Hilton Head's Biennial International Juried Exhibition, May 4- June 1.

Red Sky Morning and Sorrow Falls Like Mist in Hoover Watercolor Society's Annual Spring Juried Exhibition. Red Sky Morning recieved an Honorable Mention Award

View more of Donna's amazing paintings at:

<http://www.donnamcgee.artspan.com/home>





Linda Snyder Wards' "Even Cows Have Dreams" (oil on canvas) which was accepted into the 2013 Tom Peyton Memorial Arts competition. Below, "Thunder of Hooves" is headed to New Orleans for an Art Show April 19, 20 and 21.

View more of Linda's work at: <http://www.lindasniderward.com/>



Marlene Gremillion is teaching a "Jewelry" workshop in Batesville, AR April 27, 2013.

She is also taking part in a "Plein Air" painting event competition in Cotter, AR the first week of May. Charles Harrington is the judge.

She is also in an exhibit with the Arkansas Pastel Society at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs, AR.

Why Collecting Art Is Important

Talk at DAA sponsor party, 10/3/2012, by Ben Hickey, Curator, Masur Museum:

I would like to thank the Downtown Arts Alliance for inviting me here this evening. I have been asked to speak briefly about the importance of collecting art and that of art in general.

This is my opinion and is not meant to be a definitive.

I will begin by saying something some may disagree with, but I promise to explain.

Art is a luxury. You do not need it to survive. That being said, there are paintings in caves for a reason. Frankly, living without things like art is not living. Art and collecting art communicates many things. Art be a document related to a time and place. It can also be therapeutic, sentimental, or tied to a rite or ritual.

The one thing art or good art must do, and this is clearly subjective, is evoke a response. It then gives you a platform to express yourself, the collector. With art you communicate to others how you conceive of yourself, your identity, and if you are lucky your art will transport you to a different time and place by speaking about some social or historic context. This type of art tells a story either created by the artist, owner, or both.

Taste can never be accounted for, so do not worry about that. Instead make sure the art you own is not neutral, sitting on a wall. It needs to be selected for several of the reasons I just mentioned. Think of this when you are at the crawl tomorrow or in an office or a home. It may be interesting to learn more about yourself, a colleague, family member, or friend when you look at their art or share with them your opinions about a work of art.

In general terms, the thing you are certain to learn about someone who collects art is they are self possessed, thoughtful, and sophisticated; capable of articulating ideas to others and accomplishing their goals in a very specific way. Simply it communicates to others you have a great deal to offer and, frankly, are probably too smart to try and cross.

Lastly, collecting art especially shows you are investing in something larger than yourself. You are investing in an artist, creating a personal connection with them, your history and community, as well as some type of ideal.

This seems like a natural point to discuss the importance of collecting work by local artists. Their work is likely to have an immediacy work by an artist from outside the area may not possess. Their prices are also probably more competitive for a similar or better work of art. There are some things, works of art by a local artist are less capable of saying than a canonical artist or work of art, but regularly including local artists in your collecting habits will lend your collection an air of sophistication and being well rounded that I can assure you is particularly rewarding, just make sure you like it!

In closing, I also want to say the galleries downtown are fantastic and give you many opportunities to first find something you will really like.

**The River Gallery
Exhibition Dates
2013
(New Works)**

May 26

July 28

Sep 29

Nov 17 or 24

The River Galleries Artists strive to challenge themselves by bring fresh concepts, techniques and styles to their ever- evolving body of work. Our exhibits change every two months to reflect fresh new works from each Artist.

**Monroe and West
Monroe
Downtown Art Alliance
Gallery Crawl Dates
2013**

April 4, 5 PM – 9 PM

June 6, 5 PM – 9 PM

Aug 1, 5 PM – 9 PM

Oct 3, 5 PM – 9 PM

Dec 5, 5 PM – 9 PM

***The River Gallery
has moved to:***

rivergalleryartists.com

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The River Gallery has been through a few changes in the last few months, and these changes have all been made with the hope of bringing our presentation quality into the 21st century and “wowing” our visitors and viewers.

We are re-arranging everything!!! Be sure you come in ASAP to check it out!

**The River Gallery
Officers 2013**

**President: Don Hudnall
Vice President: Charlie Heck
Treasurers: Brenda Mcdaniel and
Marlene Gremillion
Secretary: Carolyn Smith
Marketing: Melanie Douthit
Scheduling: Nancy Shutt
Membership: Jane Dixon
Window Display: Phoebe Mathys
Event Coordination: Phoebe Mathys
Newsletter: Cindy Blanchard
Scrapbook: Joyce Beauvais
Website and Blog: Linda Ward
Facebook: Melanie Douthit
OIB: Carolyn Smith
Supplies: Melba Pickering
Workshops: Margaret Ellerman
Gallery Display: Jerry Jones**