



St. Charles Art Guild

## September/October 2021 Newsletter



1st Tuesday of the month from September until May

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**ALICE CHAMPAGNE**



“Art is where work meets love...”, as seen on a sign in a retail establishment.

Ready to work on what you love?

Here’s your chance...**IMPORTANT CHANGE!** Our first meeting is on **October 5, 2021**. We will meet at the [North Kenner Library](#) at **630 West Esplanade Avenue, Kenner 70065**.

Arrive for 9:30 am; meeting begins at 10. Masks required!

We can only keep this Guild going strong with your help! As you will see in Lynn’s report, please help your Guild by paying your dues **NOW!** There will be a special drawing for all those who have paid **BEFORE** the September meeting. Thanks to those of you who have already paid over the summer or back in May and especially to those who participated in the Showcase. (See Lynn’s report for more on how to pay.)

Our first meeting is **October 5, 2021**. Due to Hurricane IDA we will meet at the [North Kenner Library](#) at **630 West Esplanade**

**Avenue, Kenner 70065**. Masks are required! We will also still have our artist of the month competition and guest presentation. The board will provide snacks, and coffee/drinks will be available. The meeting room is upstairs; an elevator is conveniently located for those of you who need a “lift”.

Our Showcase was absolutely phenomenal, and it was wonderful to see everyone along with the spouses at this great event. Congratulations to all who participated and especially to those who won prizes. We had some amazing, diverse artwork on display. Also, make sure you thank Laurie Abadie and her “crew of elves” who set up the entire display. Thanks again, everyone, for making this annual event so special!

While many of you were lounging on the beach this summer, your board has been busy making plans for this upcoming year. The state grant is being written and revised. We have also already deposited our \$1000 grant award from the St. Charles Women’s Club. There will be more information on our plans and the showcase at the meeting and in this newsletter.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting on *October 5 at the North Kenner Library*. Remember to check your email and our Facebook page for any last-minute changes or updates.

Remember to pay your dues even if you cannot make the meeting!

P. S. Did I mention that we are meeting on *October 5 at the North Kenner Library* Oh, and did I mention that dues are due NOW?

## Vice-President's Message Kerry Allen

Happy Fall (almost) and welcome back to a new year of guild meetings and activities! My hope is that we can enjoy more of our usual gatherings and events without interruption.

I also hope that everyone had a productive, pleasant and healthy summer and that more and more people will be sharing what they created during our summer hiatus.

The annual showcase was held recently and was a great success. Attendance at the reception was very good, and as always, it was a fun event. Many thanks to **Laurie Abadie** for her usual hard work to make the event such a wonderful experience!

Plans are in the works for our two Adult Art Fairs for the coming year. One important change is that our Art Fair has a new name! Starting this fall, the **new name** will be **St. Charles Art Guild's "Art Expo"**! **The tagline is, "New name, same fun!"** Ideas are being planned to offer new, interesting, and fun activities for our Art Expos, and details will be shared as those plans are completed. We are lining up instructors and our fall Art Expo will be scheduled sometime in November. The spring Art Expo is tentatively planned for March or April. They will be advertised, and everyone will have information well in advance.

We are again planning to offer two-days workshops as we have in the past, one in the fall and one in the spring. The instructor for the fall workshop has not been confirmed yet. For the two-day workshop in the spring,

I have been asked to lead a drawing workshop. I am truly excited to teach a two-day drawing workshop because it is my belief that drawing is the foundation of all forms of art and improving the skill of drawing will certainly facilitate growth in any area of art we pursue. Of course, plenty of information, location and details will be on the way as they become definite.

As our 2021-22 activities begin, I have been working on inviting and scheduling our visiting guest artists. We have a full schedule planned, beginning with our Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. For our first meeting, we will enjoy a presentation from **Stephanie Gaffney, a live event painter. She defines what she does** "as a unique and entertaining service where an artist creates a painting from start to finish as the event unfolds. It is mesmerizing to watch, and the work of art produced will be cherished for a lifetime."

She lives in Baton Rouge. Please visit her [website](#) to be captivated by her work.

Other guest artists scheduled for the coming year are, **Phil Sandusky, Ellen McCord, Kim Bernadas, Debbie Kerwin and Robert Fisher**. More details will be on their way about each of these amazing artists before their planned visits.

I truly hope to see many of our members and welcome new ones this coming year as we enjoy our guild activities together. There is a great year planned, and I am excited to begin! See you all soon, and keep making art.

## AUGUST SHOWCASE IS CLOSED Laurie Abadie

Jonathan Meyers, visual artist and Baton Rouge Poet-Laureate judged our fifty-five pieces of art that hung at the Crescent City Brewhouse in the French Quarter until August 30<sup>th</sup>. A committee took down the

exhibit and Carolyn will transport the remaining painting to our October meeting.

**MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SHOWCASE MUST BE AT OUR OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING TO PICK UP THEIR ART AND RIBBONS.**

Please call Carolyn Clausing at 504-250-3138 if you do not attend this October meeting at North Kenner Library to pick up your painting.

The meeting will be held at the Jefferson Parish **North Kenner Library, 630 West Esplanade Avenue, Kenner LA 70065**. Laurie will hand out Showcase evaluation forms to gather opinions for future showcases. Laurie is looking for a volunteer to help with future shows. Note: a new participant to the Showcase submitted a reflective article which is posted at the end of the newsletter.

### **Hospitality Alice Gore**

Welcome back to St. Charles Art Guild's new year of gathering to share art experiences. At the Tuesday, October 5, meeting, the officers will provide the refreshments.

Because of last year's Covid restrictions, a change has been made in requesting snacks for the meetings. There will be no sign-up sheet.

For the meetings, I will ask for anyone who can bring a snack do so. Snacks can be store bought or homemade. For October's meeting the officers will bring the snacks but for the following meetings the newsletter will direct members to bring something if they can.

The Guild supplies coffee, water, and ice. Members can bring a soda to share. Winn-

Dixie and Dollar General have soda in a small bottle for about \$1.20 to \$1.49 and sometimes for a \$1.00

And remember, members may take-home left-over items at the end of the meeting. And if you bring an item, please remember to take home your serving pieces and food. Thanks to all for helping make the event delicious!

### **Artists of the Year Alice Champagne**

The Artist of the Month competition is meant to be an opportunity to share our art with our peers and showcase the work in the community. First, second, and third place is awarded. The person with the most points become the artist of the year



### **Membership**

Get your name in the **special drawing** for all those who have paid their 21-22 dues **BEFORE** the October meeting!

If you haven't yet paid your dues for 21-22, please send your \$25 check now to my home address: Lynn Thompson, 23 Belle Grove Dr., Destrehan 70047. If you live close enough to want to drop off your check, I have a secure locking mailbox so drop it by any time. If you're unsure if you have paid—we start collecting the end of the previous year, you know—give me a call or text, and I will let you know. If you're a new member, or if you have had any contact information changes, please fill out a membership form that you can find on our website: [www.stcharlesartguild.com](http://www.stcharlesartguild.com)

Your membership helps support all the good work and community service that SCAG does every year, despite the hurdles this last year has brought us. SCAG provides service

to our youth, to our elderly, and to our whole community as we provide art education and experience that enriches all our lives.

### Local Events

Two of our member artists, Karin and Paul “Jawbone” Doreaux, will be teaching community education classes this fall at various places throughout the St. Charles Parish area. To access all the classes offered, pick up a brochure at one of the library branches or follow the link below. There will be some brochures at the West Regional Library in Luling where our meeting will be! Here is the link for [the Community Education Fall 2021 Classes](#)

### Art Display Grand Ridge Country Club

Carolyn was last to show her work. Madelyn Neske will be showing her work next.

### Field Trip/Paint Outs Judy Perhay/ Shirley Colomb

**SURVEY.** A survey will be available for you to complete at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to help us plan group field trips and art experiences. If you can’t attend the meeting, the survey can be emailed. Send a request to [Jperhay25@gmail.com](mailto:Jperhay25@gmail.com).

### Grants Sheryl Hayes

Finally, our state grant was submitted thanks to Lane Hayes, our Grant Treasurer’s son in S. Dakota, who stepped in when the rest of us had no internet service. Also, thanks to Sheryl and our former Grant Treasurer, Carolyn Clausing, for putting things together to make it all happen.

### May Minutes

Posted on page 7 of newsletter

### 2021-2022 SCAG Officers

President..... Alice Champagne  
Vice President.....Kerry Allen  
Rec. Secretary..... Judy Perhay  
Treasurer.....Lynn Thompson  
Grants Treasurer..... Sherly Hayes  
Cor. Secretary..... Shirley Colomb

### St. Charles Art Guild Meetings

Meetings are held 1st Tuesday of the month at: St. Charles United Methodist Church  
1905 Ormond Blvd Destrehan, LA 70047  
Time: 9:30-noon.

### Social Media



Remember that Facebook is a great way to showcase our art and activities. Text or email Alice Champagne at [alicechampagne@yahoo.com](mailto:alicechampagne@yahoo.com) or 504-559-3580 if you have photos or news about upcoming art events. If you are on Facebook, "LIKE" **St. Charles Art Guild**. The SCAG Facebook page has offered a way to combat boredom and spark creativity during these stay-at-home times. It's a great place to share information. If you would like to post something on the page, tag Alice Landry Champagne on Facebook or send a text or email. Check out our FB page for any links to FREE online classes.

### Newsletter Information

Email Shirley Colomb at [stcharlesartguild@gmail.com](mailto:stcharlesartguild@gmail.com)  
Check out our website: **Newsletters are posted on our website-**  
[www.stcharlesartguild.com](http://www.stcharlesartguild.com) or ctrl click on logo.





## AUGUST SHOWCASE WINNERS

### Best of Show “Fir Solmen”

Donna Nassar



### Best Photograph Mary Sue Carter “Mimi’s Banana Tree”



### People’s Choice “Artemis” Kerry Allen



## Under Glass Winners

### First Place

Toni Tyndall  
"French Quarter Alley"



Second Place  
Ann Clement  
"Being Koi"



Third Place  
and Honorable  
Mention- Alice  
Champagne  
"Unluckly"  
"French Girl  
with Bagette"



## Not Under Glass

### First Place

Donna Nassar  
"Courage"



Second Place  
Mary Sue Carter  
"Panther  
in the Jungle"



Third Place  
Kerry Allen  
"Cat Nap"



### Honorable Mention

Judy Perhay  
"Reverie"



**St. Charles Art Guild  
Minutes,  
May 4, 2021**

**President Alice Champagne** called the meeting to order.

**Vice President Kerry Allen** lead the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alice Champagne welcome all new members and remarked how nice it was that we were able to attend without masks.

**Secretary Report**

Donna Nassar requested that the minutes of the last meeting in April be approved. Carolyn Clousing moved to accept and Ann Clement seconded.

**Treasurers Report**

Lynn Thompson reported a balance of \$358.23 in treasurer. Membership renewals of \$25.00 are currently being accepted for 2021-2022.

**Grants Treasurer**

No response has been received to date regarding the pending grant application for \$1000 from the St. Charles Women's Club. It is expected that a decision will be reached in the near future. Fundraiser is designated for May 15.

**Corresponding Secretary**

Shirley Colomb was absent. Alice reported that there would be no newsletter during the summer. Anything newsworthy would be in our emails.

Alice mentioned the Terrebonne Art Guild is accepting applications for a juried show. All artwork must be for sale and the fee is \$50 for non-members.

**Vice President**

Kerry Allen will begin setting up artist demonstrations for next year. She was thanked by the group for all the work she has done this past year which was difficult because of COVID restrictions.

**Publicity**

Donna Nassar reported that Herald Guide and Advocate are doing a great job reporting Artists of the Month. Alice mentioned that the Herald Guild wrote a nice article on the group with a picture from a past workshop.

**Showcase at the Crescent City Brewhouse**

Lauri Abadie reported that she got in touch with the person in charge of the art show at the brewery. The brewery will only be showing artists work in June, July and August. A member asked why we couldn't show for August and that got the group talking about the possibility. Laurie will get that underway shortly. Ten members agreed to show their work at the brewery. Alice said an email would go out to all members who may be interested.

**Hospitality**

Alice congratulated Alice Gore for the great job of supplying the group with refreshments every month. Alice thanked all those involved over the past year in helping her.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Destrehan Heritage Festival**

Alice Champagne applauded all volunteers that came out Saturday (May 2) to help with the Faux Marble Painting. Madelyn Neske demonstrated plain air painting. Sunday was a wash out because of the weather. It

was successful, very relaxing, and interesting day. This Festival will be continuing in the future, and we will be a part of it. Carolyn Clausing said a set of instructions can be emailed to all members.

### **Paint-Outs/Field Trips**

Field Trips will be discussed in the 2021-22 session.

### **Public Art Display**

Grand Ridge Country Club  
Paul Douroux volunteered to help swap out artwork at Grand Ridge Country Club in June. Marie Weiler is currently showing her work. Madelyn Neske and Joan Longo will be showing their work for the next 3 months.

### **Destrehan Gift Shop**

Alice suggested that all artists hang their business card with info about their painting at the gift shop. Price and information were not shown near artwork.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Installation of Officers**

Laurie Abadie, ex-officio Board Member and past President installed the new officers for next year. Alice Champagne, President, Kerry Allen, Vice President and Lynn Thompson, Treasurer were present. Shirley Colomb, Correspondent Secretary and Recording Secretary Judy Perhay were not available.

All table decorations were given to the members.

### **Artist of the Year**

Artist of the Year was Alice Champagne.

Meeting was adjourned and installation luncheon was served.



## TRUE CONFESSIONS

### OF A 72-YEAR-OLD (ART SHOWCASE) VIRGIN --- AND LESSONS LEARNED.

[AUTHOR'S NOTE: Shrouded in shame and remorse, I anonymously reveal these TRUE CONFESSIONS, and accompanying LESSONS LEARNED. In doing so, it is my fervent hope that at least one struggling individual will be spared the panic, the heartbreak, and the anguish of straying from the path of productivity and creativity.]



Back in May, when the interest survey was circulated for a possible SCAG Art Showcase in August, I summoned up my courage and agreed to participate, albeit in my capacity as a neophyte. Certainly, three months was more than enough time to create at least one submission, even for a first-time entrant.

I immediately began to assemble instruction books, inks, and canvasses; specialized papers, pens, and paints; brushes, markers, mats, and frames. Some materials were discovered on-line. Some were revealed in the enchanted realm of David Art Center. Some were retrieved from the depths of that exclusive purveyor of artists' supplies, the local Dollar Tree.

I watched countless YouTube "How-To" videos. I read articles and books on creativity. I snapped photos of flowers-a-bloomin', suns-a-settin', and moons-a-risin'.

Simply put, the only Fine Art I perfected was that of Procrastination.

When I received the email on that fateful Sunday near the end of July reminding me that the deadline to submit my works was Thursday at Noon, I despaired. How had I let three months

go by without putting pen to paper, brush to canvas? Alas and alack! My reputation in SCAG would be irretrievably ruined! My word meant nothing!

Freaked out, I contacted the Showcase Coordinator. She kindly encouraged me to consider previously completed projects and works in progress. I ransacked my office, crawled around in my garage, pulled out crumpled piles of partial sketches, and examined the stack of frames I had rescued from thrift shops.

I discovered a few completed works that looked reasonably respectable once they were matted and framed. I found one project that needed freshening, and another that needed finishing. Feeling a bit better, I was even inspired to begin one new project.

By the end of the week, I was ready to solicit the Coordinator's opinion on potential submissions. The caveats in the Showcase guidelines weighed heavily --- we were a "classy" Guild, and it was a "privilege" to participate in the Showcase. I did not want to embarrass myself; but, more importantly, I did not want to embarrass the Guild.

The "happy-ever-after" ending of my week of distress, neurotic self-doubt, and existential angst? I submitted four pieces for competition and four pieces for display!

Finally, the evening of the Showcase Opening and Awards Reception arrived. Eagerly, I scanned the aged plaster and brick walls of the French Quarter restaurant. When I located my eight contributions, hung among the incredible array of accomplished works of the talented members of SCAG, strong emotions surged through me. I was excited and gratified, proud yet humbled.

As I stood there, sporting a silly grin, I realized that all the gnashing of teeth and rending of garments that lead me to this moment were totally worth it. Then and there, I resolved to continue creating as an integral part of my messy and imperfect life!

\* \* \* \* \*

## LESSONS LEARNED

For other budding artists, here are **TEN TOP TIPS** to overcome the paralysis and procrastination induced by the blank canvas.

### **1. You don't need a studio.**

Don't wait until you have transformed your garage from a candidate for the Hoarders All-Stars Show into a fully equipped atelier bathed in natural light.

Just shove the books, magazines, receipts, unopened mail, dog bones, and coffee cups aside on your kitchen table. Turn on a light. Put on some music. And, get going.

By the way, a sip (or two) (or twenty-two) of a Margarita never hurts, either.

### **2. No need to start from scratch.**

See if you have a project you had already started in a class or in a workshop or in your spare time. Complete it, or let it become a springboard for another piece.

### **3. Keep it simple.**

It can be daunting to even think about pulling out those tubes of watercolor, acrylic or oil paint; finding those bottles of primers, glosses, and extenders; and, sorting those special pencils, pens and brushes --- all of which were accumulated for various workshops.

On the other hand, it's easy-peasy to grab a pen and a scrap of paper to do a quick sketch. Colored pencils or markers are no-fuss choices, also. And, watercolor pens with built-in brushes are another great option.

Once you have overcome your paralysis, you will be better equipped emotionally to branch out to fussier tools and supplies.

#### **4. Open your eyes.**

Identify beauty and creativity in the ordinary and mundane.

Look at product labels and tags. Do they reflect pleasing color combinations or eye-catching images?

Examine the cardboard inserts surrounding that new air fryer or lamp. Do they reveal a complex geometric design that might be an interesting template for a block print?

Recognize the intricate, lacy texture of the rusting metal rim of that old table in your backyard.

And, most importantly, revel in the infinite inspiration of the beauty in Nature.

#### **5. Create each day.**

Give yourself a kick in the old Rusty Dusty.

No need to complete a masterpiece each day. Just do something!

Turn those five-minute annoyances into opportunities. Zentangle on an envelope while on-hold with your internet provider. Doodle on the back of a receipt while waiting for your always-late friend. Snap a photo while growing older in the slow-moving, grocery check-out line.

Before you know it, creative expression will become second nature, as necessary to your well-being as breathing.

#### **6. Stockpile inspiration.**

Place those Zentangled envelopes and doodled receipts in an Idea Box, along with product tags and advertising brochures that exemplify interesting design. Add some postcards, magazine clippings, greeting cards, museum brochures and other ephemera. Toss in some small "found" objects. Often, a review of these items can jump-start your next project.

And don't forget to create a take-along, digital Idea Box that you can explore while idling in neutral at an intersection as a train inches past.

#### **7. Experiment and have fun.**

Learning need not be an arduous, anxiety-ridden experience. Engage in creative and imaginative play, even for fifteen-minute intervals when time is tight. Experiment and explore, freely and frequently.

If you tend to cherish your pricey supplies and worry about wasting them, pick up some inexpensive materials at a discount store or thrift shop. Better yet, break down those Amazon boxes and use the cardboard as a material to rip, bend, and twist into an intriguing shape, or as a surface to paint.

You can also cut down costly sheets of specialized paper into smaller segments. And, keep in mind that those expensive paints may actually be quite economical. Since they contain more intense pigments, a little goes a long way.

**8. Take a class or a workshop.**

While a six-week course may not be feasible, there are plenty of classes that are offered by community education programs, museums, and individual artists that can be completed in one morning or afternoon. You will leave brimming with new ideas and skills, feeling energized and motivated.

**9. Don't compare yourself to others.**

Viewing the works of more experienced members of the Guild may trigger insecurity and discouragement. Recognize those emotions; then, let them go.

Remind yourself that those artists are simply at a more advanced point on the path of learning. They were at your earlier stage of personal development at one time, also. Let their accomplishments inspire, rather than intimidate!

**10. Take a chance.**

Share your work with your others. If you are not comfortable entering a piece in the monthly competition, bring in a project for Show and Tell. It will spark discussion and feedback, which will build your confidence and accelerate your growth as an artist.

Don't forget to seek out more experienced members of the Guild for guidance, encouragement, and honest feedback. Knowing that you can rely on seasoned judgment as to what is an appropriate competition submission reduces anxiety and uncertainty.

\* \* \* \* \*

So, keep these TOP TEN TIPS handy.

Refer to them when you are struggling in the quagmire of procrastination and indecision.

Hopefully, they will prompt greater mindfulness, enrich your daily life, and help you to tap into your innate creative spirit.

And, more importantly, these tips may enable you to avoid the disgrace and ignominy of becoming a featured profile in TRUE CONFESSIONS magazine.

Respectfully submitted,

A Sadder, But Wiser, SCAG Member