

## Acadiana Center for the Arts Celebrates the Lafayette Parish Bicentennial with a Main Gallery Exhibition Featuring 22 Local Artists



**LAFAYETTE, LA - JUNE 5, 2023** - In celebration of the Lafayette Parish Bicentennial, Acadiana Center for the Arts presents a group exhibition of Louisiana artists juried by French-Algerian artist & curator Camille Farrah Lenain.

Artists from our AcA community have been invited to submit work inspired by the motto of Lafayette Parish's namesake, the Marquis de Lafayette, "Cur Non."

Emblazoned on the Marquis' coat-of-arms, Cur Non is a Latin phrase meaning "Pourquoi Pas" or "Why Not?" The Marquis considered this a personal motto and way of life. This



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audacious approach to life led the Marquis to global renown through both the American and French Revolutionary Wars.

AcA has invited artists to respond to the theme of "Cur Non" in order to envision what may come in the next 200 years here in Lafayette Parish and the City of Lafayette. In this phrase AcA invites artists to expand their personal practices to be as audacious as the Marquis.

"Cur Non" will resonate as a statement of the artworks being made at this contemporary moment within the practices of artists in our community. With this prompt, AcA has invited artists to challenge themselves in their craft, to take chances within what they imagine for themselves, and to dwell on the intersection of the many cultures and histories that make up contemporary Lafayette.

The exhibition will open to the public in the AcA Main Gallery from June 10, 2023 and be on view through August 12, 2023.

**Curator:**

Camille Farrah Lenain

**Artists:**

Arthur McVicar, Bethany LeJeune, Camille Banuchi, Charlene Hinrichs, Christy Lush, Church Goin Mule, Denise Gallagher, Jessica Elizabeth Moore, Kelli Kaufman, Kelly Rick, Lex R. Thomas, Marie Palmer, Michael Eble, Mila Granger, Peter Klubek, Roz LeCompte, Sara Hardin, Sarah Amacker, Southerly Gold, Theresa Wasiloski, Tommy Hughes, & Trudie Wolking

**About the Artists:****Arthur McVicar**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Arthur McVicar began woodworking and woodturning beside his father as a very young man. He turned my first bowl as part of shop class in junior high school and spent his college years and many after that designing and building the scenery for the theatre, eventually working professionally in the theater. In 1987, Arthur came back to woodturning with a newly trained and developed eye for the aesthetic and a passion to create objects on the lathe - from practical bowl forms to art pieces that serve to express his artistic voice.

Arthur McVicar is a member of the American Association of Woodturners and the founding president of the Michigan/Ohio Woodturners. He is currently a member and past president of the Acadiana Woodturners and belongs to the Louisiana Crafts Guild and Lafayette Art Association.

[www.arthurmccicar.com](http://www.arthurmccicar.com)

**Bethany LeJeune**

Lafayette, Louisiana

My artistic practice is rooted in exploring sustainable modes of care through the investigation of my relationship to my conservative and religious upbringing, caring for my garden and learning about native horticulture, and through interacting with those in my community still carrying on Acadian traditions. My practice delves into ecofeminism as a way to start to consider our society's patriarchal estrangement from nature. In addition, in the pockets of people in my community still carrying on Cajun and Creole French traditions, I have discovered a male dominated historical culture that omits women's contributions to the land, music, and language here. As a way to rethink this history, I have reinvested in stereotypical feminine modes of making, like sewing and embroidery, as a way to rewrite patriarchal narratives

<https://www.bethanylejeune.com>



**Camille Banuchi**

Lafayette, Louisiana

<https://www.facebook.com/BanuchiArt>

**Charlene Hinrichs**

Broussard, Louisiana

Pour quoi pas! Exactly! Finally for words to express the reality of my life this past year. As a lifelong resident of New Orleans, it was a great “why not” moment and audacious leap to move and make Lafayette my new home. The move was an opportunity to reinvent and live the best life I've imagined. During the past year, I have made the conscious decision to be my most authentic self. My most current series of internal characters reflect on the different aspects that create oneself.

Over the years, my art has consisted of many mediums: Acrylic, house float flowers, mixed media collage are just a few. My expressive art is personally rewarding and can convey intense knotty messages.

**Christy Lush**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Christy Marie Lush is a working artist in Lafayette, Louisiana. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at UL Lafayette 2006. Christy is a multi-disciplined artist, with a focus on ceramics. An inveterate artist by nature, Christy's work explores and celebrates nature and a love for life in her fine art as well as pots and vessels for daily use. Her work is wheel thrown and hand-built. Christy also works early arts education in K-4 students public schools in the Lafayette Parish. Her work is available for purchase on commission.

[www.lushceramics.com](http://www.lushceramics.com)

**Church Goin Mule**

Sunset, Louisiana

Church Goin Mule is a southern outsider artist. This body of work reflects upon the complex and beautiful history and culture of Acadiana as the artist has witnessed it over their time in Cajun country. It is their hope that the future is not made up of flying cars and skyscrapers, but instead a continued vibrant celebration of the music, food, and landscape that has created a people that carry around sacred hearts in their breasts and value their communities above all else. This work is about a future that never forgot it's past, it's roots, it's soul. May we adapt like the swamp, may our houses stand forever, may we always be

loved, may we never forget the people we have come from, may his songs be sung forever.  
Amen.

[www.churchgoinmule.com](http://www.churchgoinmule.com)

**Denise Gallagher**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Denise Gallagher is a passionate author, illustrator and graphic designer. She has been recognized for these talents by such esteemed organizations as the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Print Magazine, Communication Arts Magazine, the Society of Illustrators Los Angeles and the Society of Illustrators New York. Denise's writing and illustration style is a unique blend of whimsy and sophistication and she considers herself lucky to have a job where she can be creative every day.

<https://www.denisegallagher.com/>

**Jessica Elizabeth Moore**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Jessica E. Moore received her BFA in Studio Art: Printmaking at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2011. In 2015 Jessica received her MFA in Studio Art: Printmaking, with a Secondary Emphasis in Drawing, at Texas Tech University. At Texas Tech, she worked as a graduate part-time Instructor and taught Figure Drawing and Printmaking classes. Jessica has exhibited in numerous national and international group shows and has donated her artwork to charity auctions. She has had several solo exhibitions as well as participated in over 50 invitational and juried exhibitions across the United States. Jessica visited Thailand, where she was invited to teach relief printmaking at Maharaja Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital. She was also invited to teach printmaking classes at the Charles Adams Studio Project in Lubbock, TX. Jessica is currently the curator at the Frame Shop Gallery 912 and is the owner and director of the fine art school, Achilles Print Studio in Lafayette, LA. Her work has appeared in a number of books, journals, and articles. Recently, Jessica was invited to exhibit her work at the Cornell Art Museum, Alexandria Museum of Art, Capital Park Museum, Acadiana Center for the Arts, and she won first place in Art Melt, the largest multimedia juried art exhibit in Louisiana.

[www.achillesprintstudio.com](http://www.achillesprintstudio.com)

**Kelli Kaufman**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Born and raised in New Iberia, Louisiana, Kelli Broussard Kaufman is a self-taught painter of southern coastal landscapes. The nostalgic, untamed scenery of the south, including vast colorful skies, wild meandering marshes, and moss-draped live oak trees are the primary sources of inspiration for her work. Line and shape come in and out of focus with the use of various media, primarily oil and cold wax, allowing a painterly expression of both the resilient strength and the moody mysteriousness of the southern landscape.

Kelli holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Tulane School of Social Work, and a Bachelor degree in Psychology from LSU. She worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for a decade before pursuing a professional career as an artist in 2010. She is represented by Degas Gallery in New Orleans and Dixon Smith in Baton Rouge, and has been in various group and solo exhibitions throughout the south and is in the private collections of clients and art collectors across the country.

[www.kellikaufmanstudio.com](http://www.kellikaufmanstudio.com)

**Kelly Rick**

Lafayette, Louisiana

As a transdisciplinary artist from South Louisiana, my creative process is a gumbo of styles and inspirations. My works explore concepts of hybridity and globalization in relation to the human experience and the commercialization of culture. The transformative power of science, technology, and the arts inspires and motivates me to keep learning more. Growing up during the digital revolution has led me to contemplate the meaning of freedom and access to information in the modern world. My submission, "Technicolor Dreams and the Intersectional Self," celebrates Lafayette Parish's cultural diversity through a combination of charcoal collage and technicolor projections. The artwork invites viewers to embrace their intersectional identities and creativity, exploring the infinite possibilities of self-discovery.

**Lex R. Thomas**

Kaplan, Louisiana

Lex R. Thomas (b. 1996) is a queer, non-binary artist with a focus on figurative work, and who currently works and lives in Lafayette, Louisiana. Raised in the rural outskirts of small-town Kaplan, Louisiana, Lex grew up surrounded by the natural world and all its creative energy.

Lex moved to Lafayette at age 19 (2015) to reinvent their identity, as both a person and an artist, by searching for meaning while studying music and art at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Ongoing issues with chronic pain and mental health spurred them to transition from the traditional structure of higher education to one of self-care and preservation. Lex then began to more frequently use artmaking as a form of personal catharsis, utilizing ink and strong linework. Their ink portraiture showcases figures suspended in sparse, geometric settings. Existentialism, derealization, and dissociation were reoccurring themes during this time.

At 24 (2020) Lex completed their education at Arizona State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. This formal education inspired themes of the varied natures of human existence to begin appearing in their art. The diversity of human experience and our interconnectedness with nature continue to play a central role in their personal work.

Lex currently uses a realistic expressionism style in their artmaking, embracing color through acrylic paints to capture human and animal figures in botanicals and other environmental phenomena. Lex's art has participated in public and juried exhibitions around Lafayette such as *The Eye of the Beholder*, *12x12 Art Spark Auction*, and various galleries for *Artwalk*.

<https://lexrthomas.art/>

### **Marie Palmer**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Marie Palmer's art is an intimate exploration of the complex experiences and emotions associated with motherhood, the timeless archetypes that shape our perceptions, and the interconnection between humanity and the natural world. Through her works, she creates a visual narrative that delves into the depth of maternal love, the dualities of nurturing and sacrifice, and the ways in which the natural world reflects and informs our inner landscapes.

Marie's pieces are often characterized by their intricate and delicate use of thread and needle, which imbue her works with a unique texture and dimension. The bold, expressive lines and vivid color, combined with the organic forms that evoke a sense of the primal and instinctual, create a powerful visual language that speaks to the universal human experiences and emotions that she explores. The archetypes she depicts, whether drawn from classical mythology or modern culture, serve as symbolic representations of these



universal experiences, and her compositions are carefully crafted to reflect the interconnectedness of all things.

Her art is a celebration of the beauty and power of motherhood and nature, as well as a contemplation of the challenges and complexities that come with both.

In essence, Marie Palmer's art is a visual meditation on the essence of motherhood, archetypes, and the natural world, using the medium of mixed media and the nuanced expressiveness of thread and needle.

<https://artemis-unravelled.com/>

### **Michael Eble**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Eble, produces paintings and works on paper in the form of abstracted topography. Much like an atlas, his collection of works record his responses to place and experiences, providing him with stimuli that informs these works. The linear striations, meanders, motifs, and repetition of form continue to refer to land, water and maritime cultures.

His creative practice is based on a process of exploration, play, and intuitiveness, where he often layers abstracted shapes, color, and line into multilayered abstractions. He often utilizes collaged elements into his painting practice. The immediacy of color in the form of painted paper, commercial cardstock, or found paper provides a less rigorous method to the hardedge painting process of previous works. Additionally stenciled imagery is layered upon paint and collaged material. The multiple layers emphasize a rich surface that is built up over time.

Much of his imagery is derived from invented shapes and biomorphic forms, but additionally, global positioning data, cartography, mid-century design, maritime design and travel continues to inform new directions in his work. These visual meditations conjure ideas of place and history, beauty and loss, time and transformation. It is through his artwork that he encourages viewers to become visually aware of their own environments and begin to contemplate their relationship within those environments.

[www.michaeleble.com](http://www.michaeleble.com)



**Mila Granger**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Mila Granger depicts classic themes with no modern subjects, using acrylic paint to tell her story. She preps her canvases from dark to light and begins on painted canvas, She is a fan of color. Mila Granger's work is mixed with a vivid approach of the celebration of different styles and is ignited with her extreme love of movement.

**Peter Klubek**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Peter Klubek is a Louisiana based artist and art research librarian at the University of Louisiana. He has written several articles and reviews for *RUSQ*, and *ARLIS/NA Multimedia and Technology reviews*. His artwork has been exhibited nationally and internationally. He was a featured artist at the Battery Park Outdoor Art festival in New York, NY, The Southern Illinois Artists Open Competition and Exhibition at Cedarhurst center for the Arts in Mt. Vernon, IL and has participated in the Iowa Sculpture and Fine Arts Festival in Newton, IA. He was awarded for his portraits of college athletes, and he completed two study abroad/artist residencies at Hospitalfield House in Arbroath, Scotland. More recently, he was a 2022 recipient of IVLA's Deborah Pratt Curtiss Artist Scholarship in Jyväskylä, Finland. He can often be found actively promoting art making and art place-making through the Nunu Art Collective in Arnaudville, LA

[www.peterklubek.com](http://www.peterklubek.com)**Roz LeCompte**

Broussard, Louisiana

As a self taught artist , Roz LeCompte uses the moment as her muse, creating solely from intuition. Painting has remained her favorite medium since childhood.

She founded the broken drum cymbal brand Secondline Jewels in 2012 and has publicly displayed her artworks at various galleries since the 1990's, including Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, Masur Museum of Art in Monroe, Louisiana, MVA Gallery in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Basin Arts in Lafayette. Her former position as a Pace Artist for the Acadiana Center For The Arts has been her favorite day job since her retirement from Massage Therapy. The artist lives with her family in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana.

[www.rozlecompte.com](http://www.rozlecompte.com)

**Sara Hardin**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Sara Hardin creates paintings that explore the connection between memory, thought, and imagination. She brings awareness of the space and the unique intricacies of the human experience; the ticks, the quirks, and the absurdity of everyday life. Her work plays with the unique characteristics and culture of southern Louisiana. Sara enjoys investigating new places and learning about the people that occupy that space. Her inspiration comes from her surroundings, and she captures the beauty in her everyday world as a crucial element of her art. Her paintings evoke the complexity, fluctuations, and enigmatic nature of lived experiences.

[hardincreative.com](http://hardincreative.com)**Sarah Amacker**

Zachary, Louisiana

Sarah Amacker's artwork is a mixture of autobiographical, observational, and emotional expression. Her scientific background in biology and psychology along with her work as a graphic designer has had a major influence on the content, imagery, and the way she creates work. Through both digital means and mixed media painting, she is able to merge scenes, objects, and environments to convey the complexity of thought and identity processes. Her art is an exploration of self featuring glimpses into her own inward journey through real and abstracted spaces and self portraits. Her mixed media artworks are based on her own personal female experience and challenges, observations of what it means to be female in society, and how various factors shape identity and perspective.

[www.sarahamacker.com](http://www.sarahamacker.com)**Southerly Gold (Aubrey Edwards, Elena Ricci, Ariya Aladjem Wolf)**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Formed in 2011, Southerly Gold is an ensemble comprised of photographers Aubrey Edwards, Ariya Martin, and Elena Ricci. Much of Southerly Gold's work explores the subtle stories and complicated histories of Louisiana through mixed media, predominated by photography and the landscape genre.

Their long-term project, God's Country, took them to the parishes that occupy the delineated corners of the state, following the trails of desire for Southern Utopia. The photographs are an investigation of the promises and resources that the farthest reaches of Louisiana have held for humankind. From agriculture to oil, from land to sea, our images



of the contemporary landscape—captured along routes of the past—bear witness to the residue of these promises.

From sweeping vistas to the minutia of found and discarded objects, God's Country visualizes such questions as: What promises did the land hold for people? What has the natural environment given to people, and what have people taken from that environment? How does the landscape reflect human history and modern day occurrences? How have people created space within these rich and oftentimes volatile landscapes?

<https://www.instagram.com/ariya.aladjem.wolf>

### **Theresa Wasiloski**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Theresa Wasiloski is an artist who has lived and worked in the Lafayette area for nearly twenty years. She works primarily in dance, but enjoys experimenting in and sometimes overlapping multiple disciplines.

### **Tommy Hughes**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Tommy has an architectural background with a passion for integrating nature and floral expression. He enjoys layering his imagery with multiple mediums and resin for the user to experience surrealistic moods. In an attempt to capture the viewer's attention, he unveils snippets of one medium by covering another. The layering techniques combined with multiple textures allude to a multi-dimensional experience.

[Resintop.com](http://Resintop.com)

### **Trudie Wolking**

Lafayette, Louisiana

Creating is my joy. It fills my soul and alters the lens, allowing me to see things in a different way. I touch, see, and imagine, then my soul wants to explore ways to express my response to the elements that move me. My work is all about process: the action of slowly adding thin layers of melted wax and pigment to cradled wood panels, slate, and tin. I love the physicality of the process and my creations are not as much "painted" as they are built. It is about the layers, the flow, and the strata of things substantive, imagined, physical, and implicit.



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I work by building layers of wax, mixed media, found objects, and color that make up the whole of a work. Fusing each layer with a butane torch, I then return to explore, excavate, expose, and obscure. The result is a non-literal visual form, a translation of that experience and process. My aim is to draw the viewer into my world and evoke a powerful emotional response.

I have an attachment to old, damaged, forgotten, and discarded items. I call them my "treasures." In my assemblages, these found objects are combined with encaustic and other elements to become a cohesive whole. The objects themselves serve different purposes. Sometimes it is the functionality, the shape, color, or texture that drives the composition. The assemblage process is a quest for me to find a way to bring these pieces together in a way that tells a new story.

[Trudiewolking.com](http://Trudiewolking.com)

**Curator:**

**Camille Farrah Lenain**

New Orleans, Louisiana

Camille Farrah Lenain is a French-Algerian documentary and portrait photographer from Paris, France; she studied Photography at l'ESA in Brussels, Belgium, and the International Center of Photography in New York, the world's leading Photography Museum and Photography School. Ferrah Lenain relocated to New Orleans in 2013, where she teaches at Tulane University and works on long-term projects with a focus on empathetic portraiture, exploring the notions of representation, collective memory and plural identities.



## Artist Statements and Artworks:

Arthur McVicar

WHY NOT a bowl that won't hold gumbo?

WHY NOT a vase of flowers that leans from the frame? WHY NOT a flower made from wood?

WHY NOT a bowl that is not round and symmetrical?

When I start with a piece of wood I have a pretty good idea of what I am going to make. But sometimes the wood surprises me and tells me to go in a different direction. In my many years of woodturning I have learned to listen, letting the project evolve. Almost always the final result is something that shows the wood's innate beauty and is so much better than that I would impose.



Arthur McVicar  
Cherry Bowl with Natural Edge  
16 x 14 x 4.5  
Wood

A three dimensional object, made of cherry wood. The tree that it came from was knocked down by Hurricane Delta, right here in Lafayette. It has bark inclusions, a crack, a knot, and flame. That is the area where two limbs come together and form a unique pattern in the wood.



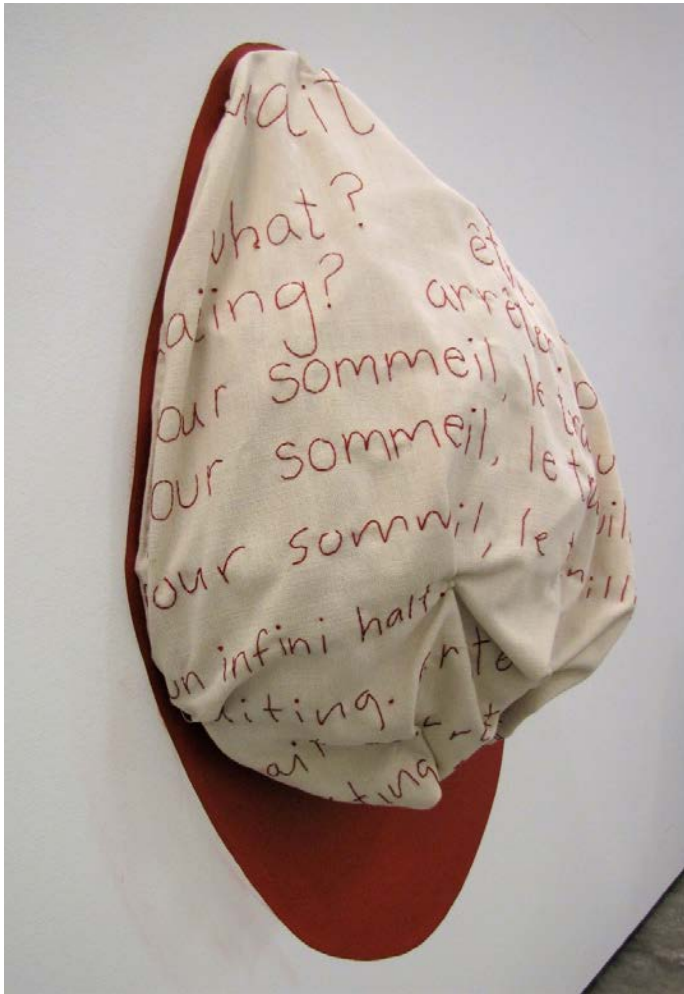
Arthur McVicar  
Cherry Bowl  
10 x 10 x 4.5  
Wood

A turned bowl, made of cherry wood. It is from an area of the tree where 2 limbs come together, producing a unique wood pattern. It has bark inclusions from those 2 limbs.



## Bethany Lejeune

My artistic practice is rooted in exploring sustainable modes of care through the investigation of my relationship to my conservative and religious upbringing, caring for my garden and learning about native horticulture, and through interacting with those in my community still carrying on Acadian traditions. My practice delves into ecofeminism as a way to start to consider our society's patriarchal estrangement from nature. In addition, in the pockets of people in my community still carrying on Cajun and Creole French traditions, I have discovered a male dominated historical culture that omits women's contributions to the land, music, and language here. As a way to rethink this history, I have reinvested in stereotypical feminine modes of making, like sewing and embroidery, as a way to rewrite patriarchal narratives



### Bethany Lejeune

en mémoire

36 x 27 x 13

Embroidered linen mounted on  
wire form with painted  
background

'en mémoire' features an embroidered poem in Louisiana French that has been gathered and stretched over a belly-like form. When installed, this work has a red painted shadow. If this work is accepted into the show, I can supply the paint for this and am willing to install it if needed. The belly form is extremely light and hangs from two points on a wire attached to the back.



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Camille Banuchi

I saw a velvet Elvis while visiting a museum. There was an orange 'For Sale' sign. In red text it read, "Give Them What They Never Knew They Wanted".

As an Artist, I attempt to show the world something they've never seen.

A reminder of the past.



Camille Banuchi

The Dove

21 x 23

Markers on Cabinet Door  
with Copper Leafing

Moving pictures simplified  
by shadows projected-  
maybe the first form.  
Ancient entertainment, that  
is simple, with complex  
gestures. An Art in itself.



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Charlene Hinrichs

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Charlene Hinrichs  
The Juggle  
18 x 24  
Acrylic on Canvas

Sometimes you're juggling  
all glass balls.





## Christy Lush

A spirit animal is a deeply personal symbol representing the core of a person. The animal you chose should resemble all aspects of your personality and perhaps resemble your greatest hopes and darkest fears. Ancient traditions that utilize this kind of symbolism can be considered but the animal must be an honest look at all your talents and flaws. In making this Jack rabbit, I considered the possibilities for the position of the head, the direction of her gaze; over the shoulder, down at the earth, forward to the path ahead. After a quiet moment of looking at the stars, I decided to make her permanently looking up at the heavens. Hares and rabbits do not look up this way. They are earth bound creatures, as prey, always looking forward, across or behind. I spoke out loud to her, "why not have her look up?" I am the fearful chimera hare, low to the ground from birth but cautiously daring to look beyond what I ever thought possible.



Christy Lush  
Stargazer  
9 x 7 x 10  
High Fired Ceramic

Glazed ceramic hare, white,  
black, gold, blue and brown



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Church Goin Mule

Still Loved

18 x 24

Acrylic, Pencil, and Pastel  
Painting on Paper

This is an acrylic, pencil and  
pastel painting on paper.



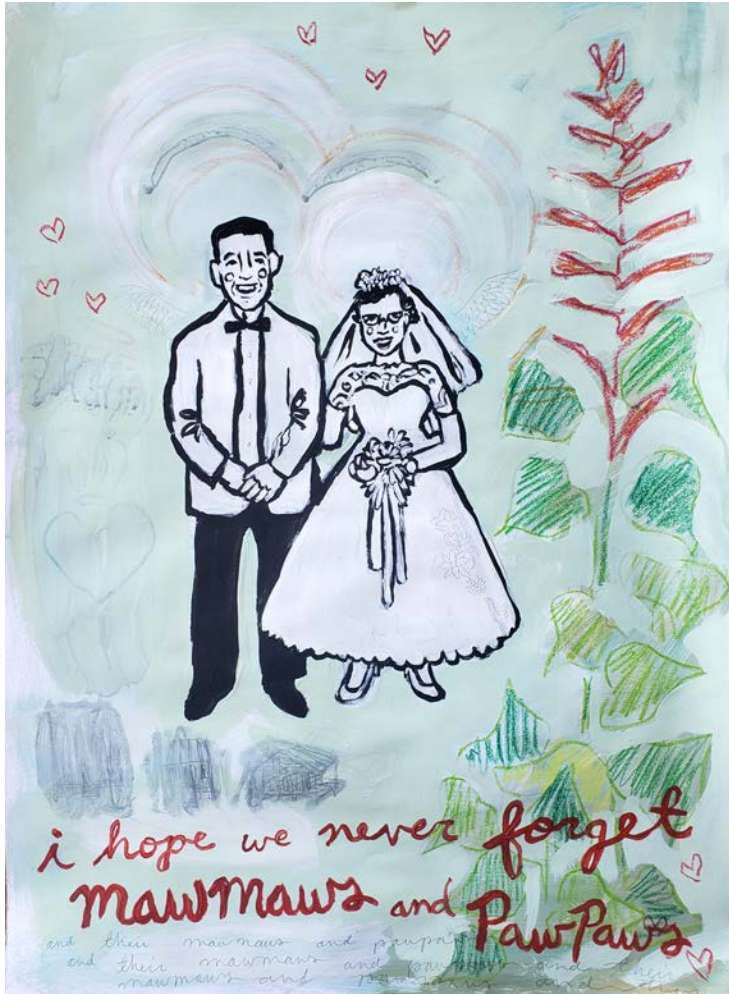
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Church Goin Mule

Mawmaws & Pawpaws (For the  
Songné Family)

18 x 24

Acrylic, Pencil, and Pastel Painting  
on Paper

Acrylic, pencil, and pastel on paper.



Denise Gallagher

As the years, the months, the moments pile up,  
I find myself increasingly uninhibited.

Why not?

Why not stop running, chasing, yearning, fighting? And those moments, those months,  
those years have taught me much.

Keep whirling, dancing, loving, caring. Keep burning audaciously.

Keep burning brightly, brightly.



Denise Gallagher

Why Not Burn Brightly,  
Brightly? Dancing.  
Whirling. Informed by  
Every Moment I Have  
Lived.

23 ½ x 29

Graphite and Digital

As the years, the  
months, the moments  
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Why not? Why not stop  
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Keep whirling, dancing,  
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Keep burning  
audaciously. Keep  
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brightly.



## Jessica Elizabeth Moore

In response to this year's theme, "Cur Non", this piece is inspired by animal motifs in Louisiana folklore and cultural history to recall past lessons in hope to better understand how our cultural identity may be shaped, evolved, or reimagined for our distant future in Lafayette. I explore the question of how we'll continue to acknowledge the cyclical nature of our trial and error. In this work, I use the perseverance of the rabbit as a symbol of wit to outmaneuver hardships while finding a way to progress forward. The contrast in color, lines, and abstract shapes mimic the resilience and essence of the equine figure in its surrounding landscape of floating irises and a fallen magnolia flower, depictions of native plant motifs used as metaphors of the magnolia veil. Perhaps building on self-awareness, empathy, and compassion for one another and ourselves, we may continue to learn from our past mistakes. Hopefully our collected whimsical tales will continue to be a source of lessons, and the wonder and imagination of folklore will still have a place in our cultural storytelling and heritage for the generations to come. By reflecting on our past through Louisiana folklore and storytelling, I invite the viewer to reimagine their own narrative of what the future may be for Lafayette, Louisiana. I attempt to use color, imbued with subtle marks of shadowy hidden figures, and whimsical play of bold plant and animal motifs, to evoke a sense of wonder and discovery in the work.



Jessica Elizabeth Moore  
Whimsical Tales Reimagined  
80 x 55  
Oil on Linen

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Kelli Kaufman

"I have been intrigued with live oak trees and the wild mystery in both their commanding presence, as well as their symbiotic ecosystem supporting delicate Spanish moss and flourishing resurrection fern. I approach these subjects as representational figures — entangled arms, limbs reaching out and hanging low. Paint drips representing swaying locks of long moss tendrils blowing in the wind set against bending elbows hanging high above gnarled knees and deep roots."

Born and raised in New Iberia, Louisiana, Kelli Broussard Kaufman is a self-taught painter of southern coastal landscapes. The nostalgic, untamed scenery of the south, including vast colorful skies, wild meandering marshes, and moss-draped live oak trees are the primary sources of inspiration for her work. Line and shape come in and out of focus with the use of various media, primarily oil and cold wax, allowing a painterly expression of both the resilient strength and the moody mysteriousness of the southern landscape.

Kelli holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Tulane School of Social Work, and a Bachelor degree in Psychology from LSU. She worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for a decade before pursuing a professional career as an artist in 2010. She is represented by Degas Gallery in New Orleans and Dixon Smith in Baton Rouge, and has been in various group and solo exhibitions throughout the south and is in the private collections of clients and art collectors across the country.



Kelli Kaufman

Out on a Limb

68 x 68

Oil and Cold Wax on Canvas

Oil and wax on canvas, floater  
frame.



## Kelly Rick

As a transdisciplinary artist from South Louisiana, my creative process is a gumbo of styles and inspirations. My works explore concepts of hybridity and globalization in relation to the human experience and the commercialization of culture. The transformative power of science, technology, and the arts inspires and motivates me to keep learning more. Growing up during the digital revolution has led me to contemplate the meaning of freedom and access to information in the modern world. My submission, "Technicolor Dreams and the Intersectional Self," celebrates Lafayette Parish's cultural diversity through a combination of charcoal collage and technicolor projections. The artwork invites viewers to embrace their intersectional identities and creativity, exploring the infinite possibilities of self-discovery.



## Kelly Rick

Technicolor Dreams and the Intersectional Self

64 x 33

Charcoal/New Media

"Technicolor Dreams and the Intersectional Self" is a dynamic mixed media artwork that celebrates Lafayette Parish's cultural diversity. It features a self-portrait at the center, inviting viewers on a journey of creative self-expression and intersectionality. Apollo's head adds a timeless symbol of self-discovery, while checkered and floral motifs evoke personal history and individuality.



## Lex R. Thomas

I investigate the stories of humanity via brushstrokes on canvas – but not the ones which we share with anyone outside our own minds. My portraits echo the emotions that we experience in solitude. By mixing one color at a time and layering them into human forms, creatures, and landscapes, I reveal moments of intimacy, reflection, tragedy, and grief – the human condition.



Lex R. Thomas  
The Space In-Between  
24 x 30  
Acrylic on Canvas

A double self-portrait of the artist Lex R. Thomas. One version of themselves is digging into the chest of their reflected self with their gaze averted, who stands naked with a confrontational glare at their clothed self. Both figures stand in an open field of grass with organic colorful swirls looming overhead. This piece is a part of a current body of work in progress titled "Internal Wilderness"

## Marie Palmer

Marie Palmer's art is an intimate exploration of the complex experiences and emotions associated with motherhood, the timeless archetypes that shape our perceptions, and the interconnection between humanity and the natural world. Through her works, she creates a visual narrative that delves into the depth of maternal love, the dualities of nurturing and sacrifice, and the ways in which the natural world reflects and informs our inner landscapes.

Marie's pieces are often characterized by their intricate and delicate use of thread and needle, which imbue her works with a unique texture and dimension. The bold, expressive lines and vivid color, combined with the organic forms that evoke a sense of the primal and





instinctual, create a powerful visual language that speaks to the universal human experiences and emotions that she explores. The archetypes she depicts, whether drawn from classical mythology or modern culture, serve as symbolic representations of these universal experiences, and her compositions are carefully crafted to reflect the interconnectedness of all things.

Her art is a celebration of the beauty and power of motherhood and nature, as well as a contemplation of the challenges and complexities that come with both.

In essence, Marie Palmer's art is a visual meditation on the essence of motherhood, archetypes, and the natural world, using the medium of mixed media and the nuanced expressiveness of thread and needle.



Marie Palmer

Queen of the Swamp

10 x 10

Hand Embroidery on Linen

"Queen of the Swamp" shows the palpable connection to the natural world while conveying a sense of strength and respect for the beautiful Louisiana swamplands. This piece brings attention to the importance of preserving our LA coastlines to ensure future generations can continue to appreciate their unique beauty and importance. The waterways of LA have been and continue to be of vital importance to our way of life.

### Michael Eble

Eble, produces paintings and works on paper in the form of abstracted topography. Much like an atlas, his collection of works record his responses to place and experiences, providing him with stimuli that informs these works. The linear striations, meanders, motifs, and repetition of form continue to refer to land, water and maritime cultures. His creative practice is based on a process of exploration, play, and intuitiveness, where he often layers abstracted shapes, color, and line into multilayered abstractions. He often utilizes collaged elements into his painting practice. The immediacy of color in the form of



painted paper, commercial cardstock, or found paper provides a less rigorous method to the hardedge painting process of previous works. Additionally stenciled imagery is layered upon paint and collaged material. The multiple layers emphasize a rich surface that is built up over time.

Much of his imagery is derived from invented shapes and biomorphic forms, but additionally, global positioning data, cartography, mid-century design, maritime design and travel continues to inform new directions in his work. These visual meditations conjure ideas of place and history, beauty and loss, time and transformation. It is through his artwork that he encourages viewers to become visually aware of their own environments and begin to contemplate their relationship within those environments.



Michael Eble  
Passages within the Greenery  
15 x 12  
Acrylic and Collaged Paper on Canvas



Michael Eble  
Romance and the Stone  
15 x 12  
Acrylic and Collaged Paper on Canvas



## Mila Granger

Using classic themes with no modern subjects, I use acrylic paint to tell my story. Prepping my canvases from dark to light and beginning on painted canvas, I am a fan of color. My work is mixed with a vivid approach of the celebration of different styles and is ignited with my extreme love of movement.



Mila Granger  
Drowning at a Wedding  
30 x 30  
Acrylic and Oil Pastel on Canvas

Acrylic and oil pastel on canvas



Mila Granger  
Trip with No Destination  
24 x 36  
Acrylic and Oil Pastel on Canvas

## Peter Klubek

This image looks forward by looking backward. The Marquis de Lafayette was many things to many people. Each with his/her own idea of what he was about. As an audacious figure in both the French and American Revolutionary wars, this painting incorporates layers of text from both the US Code, and the Louisiana Code, for which he was indirectly responsible in creating. The shattered portrait presents fragments of perspective from those who knew him and had their own vision for what he represented. This image also

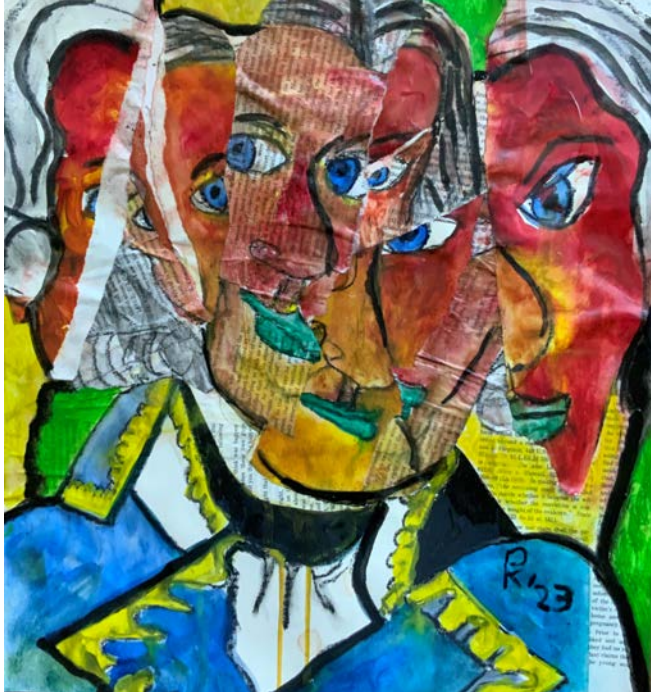


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challenges viewers to think about where we are presently as democracy, and asks if everything in which The Marquis believed is still relevant, or if it has been smashed beyond repair. The Latin Phrase "Cūr Nōn" or "Why Not?" is answered here as we, the citizens of Lafayette, contemplate and envision the next 200 years.



Peter Klubek  
Who is Gilbert?

14 x 15

Watercolor, Charcoal, and Oil on Mixed  
Paper

A fragmented portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette painted in layers of paper incorporating the US Code, and Louisiana Code with traditional watercolor paper.

Roz LeCompte

As a self taught artist , Roz LeCompte uses the moment as her muse, creating solely from intuition. Painting has remained her favorite medium since childhood.

She founded the broken drum cymbal brand Secondline Jewels in 2012 and has publicly displayed her artworks at various galleries since the 1990's, including Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, Masur Museum of Art in Monroe, Louisiana, MVA Gallery in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Basin Arts in Lafayette. Her former position as a Pace Artist for the Acadiana Center For The Arts has been her favorite day job since her retirement from Massage Therapy. The artist lives with her family in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana.



Roz LeCompte

REVOLVER

24 x 70

Recycled Sculpture

Marquis de Lafayette was a wealthy orphan at a young age and only nineteen years old when he took his own ship across the ocean to volunteer in the American Revolution. He was called 'The Kid' by the older officers in the war. Throughout his life he revolved between France and America, a rebel fighting for the people. The seats of the repurposed seesaw are covered in regal violet velvet to signify his rank and his warrior heart. This piece is a childlike trophy for the Hero of Two Worlds.

Sara Hardin

Sara Hardin creates paintings that explore the connection between memory, thought, and imagination. She brings awareness of the space and the unique intricacies of the human experience; the ticks, the quirks, and the absurdity of everyday life. Her work plays with the unique characteristics and culture of southern Louisiana. Sara enjoys investigating new places and learning about the people that occupy that space. Her inspiration comes from her surroundings, and she captures the beauty in her everyday world as a crucial element of her art. Her paintings evoke the complexity, fluctuations, and enigmatic nature of lived experiences.



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Sara Hardin  
Playground  
28 x 34  
Oil on Canvas

This work is an exploration of the child's imagination. This depicts the natural transformation from playground to the jungle.

Sarah Amacker

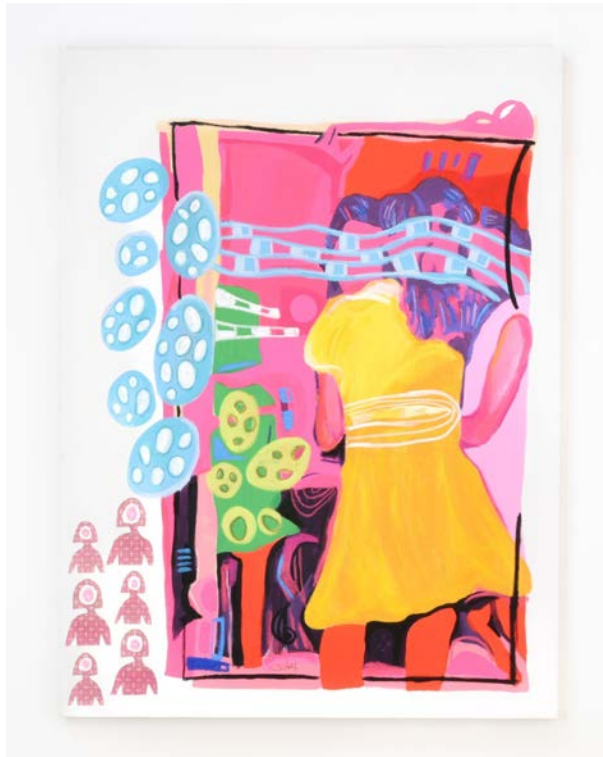
Sarah Amacker's artwork is a mixture of autobiographical, observational, and emotional expression. Her scientific background in biology and psychology along with her work as a graphic designer has had a major influence on the content, imagery, and the way she creates work. Through both digital means and mixed media painting, she is able to merge scenes, objects, and environments to convey the complexity of thought and identity processes. Her art is an exploration of self featuring glimpses into her own inward journey through real and abstracted spaces and self portraits. Her mixed media artworks are based on her own personal female experience and challenges, observations of what it means to be female in society, and how various factors shape identity and perspective.



Sarah Amacker  
Hope is in the Mirror (Self Portrait in a  
Blue Interior)  
36 x 48  
Mixed Media on Canvas



This work is about finding resilience in dark times. Moments of isolation can bring about moments of self reflection and real growth. This is a self portrait in a blue interior of myself facing my own personal challenges and looking within myself to have a new perspective and to persevere through faith and acceptance.



Sarah Amacker  
Synapse 112389  
30 x 40  
Mixed Media on Canvas

I'm interested in my genetic inheritance specifically from female ancestors and how that common thread runs through my own identity. This work illustrates my own genes and how they convene into my own sense of self. There is a pink line of female silhouetted ancestors illustrated along with abstracted forms. This scene is a synapse on my birth date 11-23-1989 showing ancestral information being passed down.

Sarah Amacker  
Broken Flowers, Cleared Vision (Self-Portrait in Abstracted Interior)  
36 x 48  
Mixed Media on Canvas

This is an abstract self portrait of me sitting on a stool thinking in an abstracted interior. The space represents an abstracted reality but also the interior of myself. This piece is about sitting in spaces of uncertainty and listening, slowly seeing a clear vision through re-growth and self acceptance.



Southerly Gold (Aubrey Edwards, Elena Ricci, Ariya Aladjem Wolf)

Formed in 2011, Southerly Gold is an ensemble comprised of photographers Aubrey Edwards, Ariya Martin, and Elena Ricci.

Much of Southerly Gold's work explores the subtle stories and complicated histories of Louisiana through mixed media, predominated by photography and the landscape genre. Their long-term project, God's Country, took them to the parishes that occupy the delineated corners of the state, following the trails of desire for Southern Utopia. The photographs are an investigation of the promises and resources that the farthest reaches of Louisiana have held for humankind. From agriculture to oil, from land to sea, our images of the contemporary landscape—captured along routes of the past—bear witness to the residue of these promises.

From sweeping vistas to the minutia of found and discarded objects, God's Country visualizes such questions as: What promises did the land hold for people? What has the natural environment given to people, and what have people taken from that environment? How does the landscape reflect human history and modern day occurrences? How have people created space within these rich and oftentimes volatile landscapes?



Ariya Aladjem Wolf

Flower Net

20 x 49

Archival Pigment Print

This work (part of a larger series) explores life in the 18th state - a state steeped in rich, complex, and brutal human history. We create informed vignettes of life - past and present.



While no people were photographed for the project, the viewer sees the human element and examines narratives embedded in the landscape.



Ariya Aladjem Wolf  
Marine Rope Poles  
20 x 49  
Archival Pigment Print

This work (part of a larger, long-term project) visually explores life in the 18th state- a state steeped in rich, complex, and brutal human history. We created informed vignettes of life-past and present. While no people were photographed for the project, the viewer sees the human element and examines narratives embedded in the landscape.



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Theresa Wasiloski

Theresa Wasiloski is an artist who has lived and worked in the Lafayette area for nearly twenty years. She works primarily in dance, but enjoys experimenting in and sometimes overlapping multiple disciplines.



Theresa Wasiloski  
Compass  
30 x 48  
Mixed Media Collage



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Tommy Hughes

Tommy has an architectural background with a passion for integrating nature and floral expression. He enjoys layering his imagery with multiple mediums and resin for the user to experience surrealistic moods. In an attempt to capture the viewer's attention, he unveils snippets of one medium by covering another. The layering techniques combined with multiple textures allude to a multi-dimensional experience.



Tommy Hughes  
Atchafalaya Living  
9 x 12  
Watercolor, Acrylic, and  
Marker on Paper

Tommy has an architectural background with a passion for integrating nature and floral expression. He enjoys layering his imagery with multiple mediums and resin for the user to experience surrealistic moods. In an attempt to capture the viewers attention, he unveils snippets of one medium by covering another. The layering techniques combined with multiple textures eludes to a multi-dimensional experience.



## Trudie Wolking

Creating is my joy. It fills my soul and alters the lens, allowing me to see things in a different way. I touch, see, and imagine, then my soul wants to explore ways to express my response to the elements that move me. My work is all about process: the action of slowly adding thin layers of melted wax and pigment to cradled wood panels, slate, and tin. I love the physicality of the process and my creations are not as much "painted" as they are built. It is about the layers, the flow, and the strata of things substantive, imagined, physical, and implicit.

I work by building layers of wax, mixed media, found objects, and color that make up the whole of a work. Fusing each layer with a butane torch, I then return to explore, excavate, expose, and obscure. The result is a non-literal visual form, a translation of that experience and process. My aim is to draw the viewer into my world and evoke a powerful emotional response.

I have an attachment to old, damaged, forgotten, and discarded items. I call them my "treasures." In my assemblages, these found objects are combined with encaustic and other elements to become a cohesive whole. The objects themselves serve different purposes. Sometimes it is the functionality, the shape, color, or texture that drives the composition. The assemblage process is a quest for me to find a way to bring these pieces together in a way that tells a new story.



## Trudie Wolking

Belle Ame

16 x 14 x 10

Encaustic and Mixed Media

Belle Ame means "beautiful soul" in French. The fringed cardboard represents each of the lives that expired because of this virus. "Belle Ame" was inspired not only to help the survivors grieve their loved ones, but also to know that they are not alone. Using fringed cardboard netting and cardboard packing dipped in encaustic paint, the sculpture is sewn together with encaustic dipped string and lightly fused with a butane torch. Rusted bolts, toile and feathers attached with copper and thread.



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