

## Busy Year Ahead for Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery

Colors rivaling the brilliance of recent fireworks shows shine from the new exhibit on display as the Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery kicks off the New Year with a bang. The Guild artists have been busy – the art in the Gallery is new, fresh and beautiful.

Are you curious about how these artists create such incredible works of art? Come into the Gallery on the last Friday of each month and see. Guild artists will be creating their art in a demonstration setting, giving the public the opportunity to enjoy their creativity and engage in discussion.

The Guild will continue the monthly Guest Artist program, a project that promotes fine art in the community by showcasing talented artists from throughout the area who are not members of the Guild. A number of well-known artists are slated to participate in 2009, including Catherine Morrison Calabria, Mary Louise Porter, and Jerry Sharplin, just to name a few.

January Guest Artist, Catherine Morrison Calabria, will be honored during an Open House on Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Gallery. The Guild invites local and visiting art lovers to the celebration of Catherine's creativity during this Carnival Season Kickoff for Mardi Gras festivities.

On Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to "Meet the Artist" Mary Louise Porter in the Gallery from noon to 3 p.m. What a perfect way to celebrate Valentine's Day with that special loved one, and celebrate the Carnival Season at the same time.

Guild member artists have several special showings planned for the year as well. Char White will be Featured Artist at the Gallery during March and April. A special Open House to honor Char will be announced for March. Other artists who will be honored through the year are Peggy Scherbaum, Charlie Viers, Eddy Robertson, Jo O'Quinn and Lucretia Glorioso.

The annual spring event *Art Along the Bricks* is scheduled for Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Presented in conjunction and partnership with the City of Natchitoches' *Bloomin' on the Bricks*, this day-long, family-oriented, outdoor activity is always a fun and refreshing kickoff to the spring season in beautiful downtown Natchitoches.

Partnering with the City of Natchitoches' Main Street Program is a major aspect of the Natchitoches Art Guild's community service efforts. Several fun art activities are planned for the year: and outdoor activity in April is in the planning stages; and the Guild is bringing back the famous and well-loved *Picasso Paintout* on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The second annual *Downtown Art Walk* is planned for October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Another valued partnership the Guild has is with the Boys and Girls Club of Natchitoches. There will be a special program and display featuring the Boys and Girls Club during the summer and early fall of 2009.

The Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery proudly sponsors at least one Children's Art Camp each summer. The date(s) will be widely publicized when plans are finalized. And don't forget the ever popular adult art workshops that the Guild sponsors each year. There are several in the planning stages, and the dates will be communicated as they are finalized.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Natchitoches Art Guild Juried Competition and Exhibition will be bigger and better than ever in 2009. This spectacular event that happens in August each year has continued to grow, attracting fine artists from throughout the state and southern region. The importance of the partnership between the Guild and our Sponsors, Patrons, and Friends cannot be overstated. These businesses and individuals who have supported this Competition through the past 15 years are the foundation upon which the Natchitoches art community is built. Thanks to those who make the competition possible, Natchitoches has developed into a 'destination' for art connoisseurs.

A busy year is ahead . . . what a great way to CELEBRATE ART !!