

Natchitoches Art Guild Juried Competition and Exhibition Characterized as ‘Maybe the Best Ever’

The energy and power of the art on display swirls around the Gallery like an invisible current, drawing the viewer into the room. Colors dance from the canvases, while the images evoke memories, curiosity, despair and laughter. The symphony of color, imagery and light invites one to pause and ponder, then pause again.

Sixty-three art creations chosen from a total of 133 entries comprise the 16th Annual Juried Competition Exhibition at the Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery in downtown Natchitoches. The juror for the 2009 competition was M. Douglas Walton of Ruston, a noted and award-winning artist and juror.

Artists from as far away as Michigan and as close as Natchitoches competed for the cash prizes totaling more than \$3400. The winners in each category are as follows:

- **Best of Show:** Glenda Kinnison-Smith Swamp Fire II
- **Oil & Acrylic:** 1st place Joseph Calabria Dixieland
 2nd place Burton Wright Madame Gris Gris
 Honorable Mentions: Dr. David Holcome and Stephen Kimball
- **Watermedia:** 1st place Dr. Bill Bryant Bad Dream
 2nd place Dr. Bill Bryant Red Cow in the Morning
 Honorable Mentions: Dr. Bill Bryant and Judy Horne
- **2-D/Mixed:** 1st place Barry Shanklin Music Room
 2nd place Ernie Fournet Amida & Me
 Honorable Mentions: Rachul McClintik and Judy Horne
- **Photography:** 1st place Diana Manning Faux Fleurs II
 2nd place Bob Horne Madrone Bark
 Honorable Mentions: Linda Brennan and Jeremy Simmons
- **3-Dimensional:** 1st place Ron Koehler Metamorphic Tools
 2nd place Suzie Parker Grandma’s Playhouse
 Honorable Mentions: Ron Koehler and Charlie Viers

Natchitoches Art Guild Memorial Award: Ernie Fournet: The Bugler

Annie Laurie Hand Harris Memorial Award for Innovation and Creativity:

Suzie Parker: Alien Abduction

People’s Choice Award: Determined at the end of the Exhibit based on the number of votes cast by the public.

Sponsors, patrons and friends of the Natchitoches Art Guild very generously provide the award money the artists compete for each year. The importance of their support for the arts in the community cannot be overstated. Thank you to each of the sponsors, patrons and friends of the Guild who so generously support the Juried Competition and Exhibition as follows: First Federal Bank of Louisiana (Best of Show sponsor for 16 years), the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, CLECO Corporation,

AT&T, Natchitoches Arts Council, Dr. Greg & Kathy Bell, Edwina Ferrer-Westrop, CP-TEL, Mayor & Mrs. Wayne McCullen, Jerry & Sandy Sharplin, People's State Bank, Blanchard-St. Denis Funeral Home, Ryder River Ridge Farms, Bonnie Hand Chance, Mary Hand Pruitt, Senator Gerald Long, Evelyn Stratton, Francis Outland, Ursula Williams, and Waskom & Brown.

This special exhibition will be on display in the Natchitoches Art Gallery in downtown Natchitoches through August 29th. It's a 'not to miss' exhibit, and has been characterized as "maybe the best ever". **CELEBRATE ART!**