



desoto arts council

artbeat →

April 2016

## ART MATTERS

By: Edith Herring, DAC President

**Get ready, get set, here it comes...**

**Art Rocks 2016!** On Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 10 am – 2 pm visitors can “Chalk it UP!” to art in Historic Grand Cane, LA. Chalk art will be the art of the day with free activities for all, including: graffiti chalk boards, chalk sidewalk stencils, chalk footprints, hopscotch and more. **Rachel Abby** will create an approximate 14’x14’ chalk mural on the sidewalk, depicting “the Lion and the Lamb” as a symbol of Spring peace during the event. **Blake Bros. Bluegrass Band** will provide free music entertainment throughout the day. And, the “Artists of Tomorrow” youth and children’s art show will provide an exciting glimpse of the next generation of artists. Entry forms are available at libraries, schools and by calling 318-663-3080. The DAC Gallery will also host a special show by Feature Artist **Barry Wiley**, who is widely known for his collectible “folk art” pieces.

The winner of the DAC ART ROCKS 2016! Poster Contest is soon to be announced and the posters will be on sale for \$10 prior to and during the event. AND, there is much excitement to have the art vendor booths housed in the historic old vacant buildings (Cook & Douglas & Wilson Bldg.). Special thanks to the Village of Grand Cane Alderman, Mike Rives for helping to ready the buildings for this use. Visitors will be able to go inside a “preservation work in progress” to see how the old buildings were constructed and learn how they will gain new life as retail business space. Traditionally, we have had the disadvantage of dealing with bad weather and this solves the problem for vendors and visitors! Anyone interested in reserving art vendor booth space should contact **Lynn Hoell at 383-347-0366** for more information and entry forms! We welcome and appreciate all participating artists and high-end craft artisans!

**Nonnie’s Place** will be sponsoring the “Big Daddy Challenge Eating Contest” at 11:30 am. Contestants may pre-register by calling 318-858-3368 or register the day of the event. Registration fee is \$10 and includes all of the food plus a t-shirt. **Village Cuisine** will be open at 8:30 am, serving sausage biscuits and again at 11 am for great food and drink for lunch!

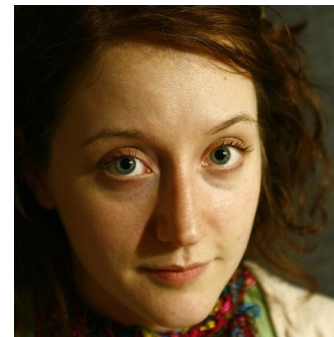
Visitors will be encouraged to attend a special drama performance in the popular BackAlley Theatre at 1 pm by the youth drama group, Dra-Maniacs under the direction of **Jody Gore**.

Immediately after, the DAC will present cash awards to the winners of the “Artists of Tomorrow” Art Show. Mark your calendars and plan to come and “chalk up” great art experiences in our unique Historic District Venus!

## CHURCHES OF DESOTO TO VISIT DESOTO LIBRARIES

Beginning with May, 2016, the “Churches of DeSoto” photograph display will visit the four DeSoto Parish Libraries (Mansfield, Pelican, Logansport and Stonewall). Thanks to a grant from Williams, LLC, the DAC has portable display panels that will be set up in each library, displaying photographs of churches in each area. It isn’t too late to submit or suggest a church, if you know of a church that you would like to see included. Contact **Rowena Anderson, 318-872-5589**, with information. Special thanks to **Bill Smith** with the DeSoto Parish Library for helping to coordinate this and to the new DeSoto Parish Librarian, **Delbert Terry**. Please plan to visit your local library and enjoy this unique collection of the “Churches of DeSoto.” DAC members working on this phase of this project are: **Cindy Williams, Rowena Anderson** and **Linda Brown**.

## Rachel Addy ART ROCKS 2016! Chalk Artist



The DeSoto Arts Council announces that artist **Rachel Addy** will create a chalk mural on the sidewalk in Historic Grand Cane, LA during the ART ROCKS 2016! Art Fest on April 30 from 10 am – 2 pm. Visitors will be able to watch Addy as she uses colored chalk to create a mural depicting “the Lion and the Lamb” scene, a symbol of peace as part of the Spring celebration.

Her approach will reference her own original drawing and the process will go through several phases before coming together.

Addy migrated from Texas, through Arkansas to Shreveport at the age of 15, where her artistic journey began at Captain Shreve High School, at which time her focus was pen and ink illustration, particularly those of childhood memories. During her senior year of high school, she expanded her artistic knowledge by enrolling in Caddo Career & Technology Center, pursuing computer art. As a result, Addy has spent the last several years working as a graphic designer at a locally owned printing company.

A turning point for Addy was in 2013, when she was approached to give art lessons for home-schooled children in the Shreveport/Bossier area. She was inspired by the students’ depictions of family portraits and everyday life, and decided to apply the same minimal approach to her work.

Rachel Addy’s work has been displayed at nightlife hot-spots such as Noble Savage and Bear’s on Fairfield and is currently available for viewing and purchase at the Agora Borealis in downtown Shreveport, LA.

## 'Art is the Answer....What was the Question'

*Exploring the positive influence of art on child development.*

Sarah Glenn Duncan, B.A. M.S. LPC

Of all the amazing things I have been fortunate to see in museums the world over--Ancient ceramics! Marble carvings! Ceiling frescoes! Medieval Tapestries! Restorations (both delightful and horrifying!)!--I must say the most astonishing thing was witnessing a troop of primary school children roaming freely inside a museum... and not only that but they were armed with crayons and pencils, markers and pastels, ink pens and other weapons! Where were their parents? Teachers? Armed Guards? InterPol? However, it gradually became clear that this was none of their first trips to this magnificent museum; they were so comfortable in the quiet, happy to stay within the no-touch rules of the house, not so much wandering as really looking at the "objets" and then each settling down in front of a favored piece and rendering their own drawings. What a brilliant practice!

Imagine my joy upon learning the R.W. Norton Art Gallery has instituted "Stroller Tours" on every third Wednesday at 10AM (excepting June, July, and August when other programs are ramped up).

That fantastic repository of beautiful things is doing what all great institutions with an eye toward luring the next generation into falling in love do: catching them young! These kids will never remember a time they did NOT know the inspiring halls of art, and a greater gift to a young mind than preparing them to appreciate the beauty of the earth and the talent of some fellow human beings to present and represent it, I cannot fathom.

If, however, Mr. Norton's house (<http://www.rwnaf.org/>) is too far, remember that EVERY day is open for strollers, oldsters, and youngsters alike at DeSoto Arts Council Gallery. So grab a tablet of paper and some art-making tools.....and make art!

### CONGRATULATIONS!

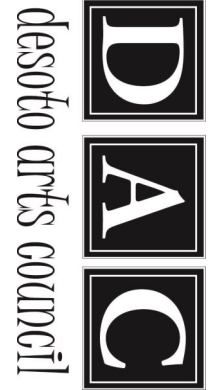
**Contina Pierson** (DAC Gallery Artist) will have a couple of her pieces in the upcoming "Signals" catalog. Many of us received this nationwide marketing catalog – watch for Contina's Antique Ebony Piano Key Pendant and Faceted Glass Prism Kaleidoscope Pendant. Many of her original "art jewelry" pieces are available in the DAC Gallery.



### Barry Wiley ART ROCKS 2016! Feature Artist

The DeSoto Arts Council has selected **Barry Wiley** as the Feature Artist for the ART ROCKS 2016! Art Fest in Historic Grand Cane, LA on Saturday, April 30, from 10 am – 2 pm. Wiley is a well known locally for his "folk art" renditions. His paintings on canvas, saw blades, iron skillet, barn boards, repurposed furniture define his approach to his art, which is obviously to be lived with and enjoyed. Wiley grew up in Hall Summit, LA and has lived in Mansfield, LA for the past 20 years. He began painting while in high school at the age of 18 and has not stopped since he first took a brush in hand. He has taken art courses from Margaret Jones and Robert Miller (now deceased) and his paintings are always full of color and action.

Wiley's painting, "Louisiana Good Times" won the ART ROCKS 2012! Poster contest and he recently received an award for his art showing at the "Portraits of our Past, Preserving our Prosperity" Black History Celebration at the Union Springs Church in Mansfield, LA. his Feature Artist Show, **Barry Wiley** will feature a wide variety of his interesting and collectible art pieces in the DAC Green Room Gallery. This event is co-sponsored by the DeSoto Arts Council, the Historic Grand Cane Association and the DeSoto Parish Tourist Bureau.



P.O.Box 352

Grand Cane, La 71032

318-734-1433