



desoto arts council
 ————— artbeat —>

Jan 2016

ART MATTERS

By: Edith Herring, DAC President

Welcome New Year: a fresh start, a chance to do better by the old and to begin something new. The DeSoto Arts Council is excited to consider all of the successful projects from 2015 and to continue many of them into 2016. And, the New Year offers our organization wonderful opportunities to attempt new and different projects that will enhance “Art Experiences” for everyone!

The awesome (and I don’t use that word often) “**Churches of DeSoto**” photograph exhibit will continue to be on display at the DAC Gallery through February. In the meantime, DAC will be working to coordinate a “traveling exhibit” to each of the DeSoto Parish Libraries: Mansfield, Pelican, Logansport and Stonewall, highlighting the churches in those areas. Again, we are grateful to our own DAC Gallery Artist, **Cindy Williams** for securing funding for this project through her employer, Williams, LLC. Special appreciation also goes to the committee members that put this great exhibit together:

Melanie Glenn, Cindy Williams, Linda Brown and Rowena Anderson!

We are asking that our supporters be aware that very soon our **Red Envelopes** will be going out in the mail to kick off our annual fund raiser. These funds are used to pay our monthly lease, insurance, operation supplies, printing and funding for special events. Last year, the generosity of our supporters was amazing and we have used these funds to promote ART, offer more art experiences and give more support to our local and area artists. We hope that you will give financial support to make 2016 an even more successful year for the DeSoto Arts Council.

DAC is also preparing now for the Annual **ART ROCKS 2016!** Art Fest, held in downtown Historic Grand Cane, LA. The booths in this event feature works by artists and high end crafts. This is their time to “shine.” We urge you to mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 30, 2016 and plan to come and see what they will create for you! The event will also showcase a Student Art Show, interactive art activities, entertainment and the shops and restaurants will be open. If you are interested in a booth, please contact **Lynn Hoell at 318-347-0366**. DAC co-sponsors this event with the Historic Grand Cane Association, in cooperation with the Village of Grand Cane.

To borrow a few thoughts from **Neil Johnson’s** (*Neil Johnson Photography*, based in Shreveport-Bossier City, LA) recent *Shreveport Times* article:

“Everyone has the ability to engage in the Arts. Artists are everywhere because all human beings have a spark of creativity inside them. I believe this to be true even though a large percentage of humanity cannot or chooses to not fan the spark into a flame...Yet deep in us all it exists.” Question: Do we even take time to look for the spark? I challenge you to look for your “spark of creativity” in 2016!

HURRY, HURRY!

Hurry before it is too late to check out the beautiful, original, handmade jewelry by our DAC Gallery Feature Artist, **Contina Pierson!** Her successful show will continue through January 17, 2016!

DAC GALLERY HOURS: Thursday – Saturday, 10 am – 1:30 pm, call 318-663-3080 for information. The DAC Gallery is maintained solely by volunteers and we are deeply grateful for their commitment and dedication to making sure that our Gallery is open for business!



JOE HARTLEY WOODCARVING CLASS

Nationally recognized woodcarver, Joe Hartley is offering a 3-session, 2-hour, evening class on January 25, 26 & 28. Class fee is \$60. Call Joe at [318-218-6446](tel:318-218-6446) for class details and registration. Don't miss this opportunity to learn a new art or increase your wood carving skills.

RETAIL SPACE AVAILABLE IN HISTORIC GRAND CANE

The Hicks & Richardson Bldg., in the Grand Cane Historic District has space available for a small retail business. The space has housed successful shops over the past few years, including a bookstore and an “art boutique”. There are three other businesses in the building: DeSoto Arts Council Gallery, Little Brick Studio, and Miracle’s Floral.

Persons interested in more details should contact the Village of Grand Cane Clerk, Ann-Marie Eaves at 318-858-3251.



Visit the DAC Room for ALL Seasons Gift Shop. Open during regular DAC Gallery hours: Thur-Sat, 10 am - 1:30 pm

'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

Every once in a while all of us are stopped by an object of art. It might be a soaring statue in a harbor with a symbolism understood around the world or a crayon rendered drawing with a message only you could love. A mural wrapping around the room that is at once a mourning and a political warning or the simplest of wall-art, cave drawings from pre-Columbian times. Its fancy name is the Stendhal Syndrome, and although most of us don't pass out cold from viewing, it still stops us. The experience was first documented in Italy among the tombs of the Medici and the marbles of Michelangelo, but I got that tingle at home in Louisiana, albeit on vacation in New Orleans in the gallery of one James Michalopoulos.

Even if you have not been down to the Big Easy lately, you may be familiar with his pieces. They are filled with light and color and a sense of space and a vivacious embrace that drew us in like you could step over the sill of the frame and be in a good place. That's the kind of art that I like, but really that's the kind of art that we all like, the kind that speak to our hearts: bookshelf sculptures, war memorials, peaceful watercolors, patchwork quilts of amazing intricacy. When you find that object or that artist's work,

stop and listen to it. Walk around it, get close enough to smell the linseed oil, touch it (if legal) and feel if it is warm with the heat of something living.

Entry into Michalopoulos Gallery is free, so are a handful of postcards. The book is slightly more expensive, then of course posters, prints, Giclées, and original paintings...but what I got from that space was better. It was inspiration, and as the New Year dawns around us it was inspiration that I vow to use this year. James Michalopoulos doesn't give advice or instruction for his thick paint, pushed with passion onto his canvases, but what he tells us is worth carrying home: *follow the light*. Happy 2016 to all!

Student Art Wall

Melanie Glenn

North DeSoto High School's art department fills the Student Art Wall with a wide variety of mediums. Everything is included - from photography to pencil drawings, from manipulated media to paint. Ryan Wilson's art classes and the new Art Club have sent pieces to the gallery for a real visual treat.



DAC GALLERY ART CHANGE OUT TIME

The DAC Gallery Artists change out their art pieces several times a year. The upcoming Change Out Date is January 17, 2016. After the Artists complete their art change out, the DAC Gallery is an entirely new art space.

Regular visitors will appreciate the variety of works that our artists produce, as they continually strive to bring new perspectives to their works. The DAC Gallery is pleased to be able to offer original fine art pieces, original jewelry, original word carvings, unique scroll saw art, prints, cards, rotating student art – all in all, an inspiring experience in the middle of DeSoto Parish.

Currently, our DAC Artists are: **Lenora DeLude, Joe Hartley, Ron Kidwell, Charles Lizyness, Jeb Lord, Diana Manning, Eugenia Manning, Mary Martinez, Mickie McComic, Azzie Mitchell, Gloria Peters, Contina Pierson, Mark Poole, Wanda Prothro, Lisa Reddick, Hannah Roark, Wayne Roberts, Sophie Tolliver, Cindy Williams and Vicky Williamson.** Please make time to check things out!



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