

**From the President:**

Congratulations to all of the award winners in the fall '99 show. I deeply appreciate all of the hard work that Lynda, Sharon, Shirley, and Jerry did in order for the show and reception to be such a success. Although it was a bit sparse, I personally felt that it was one of the most beautiful and professional shows exhibited in the Mobile area last year, even though it did not receive coverage by the local paper.

Congratulations are also in order to Lee Hoffman for being featured in an article in the national Watercolor 2000 magazine. It featured Lee's photo and one of his waterfront paintings. I hope everyone was able to visit the Edward Hopper watercolor exhibit in Montgomery. It was fabulous and inspiring.

I look forward to the upcoming spring, nonjuried show. I hope everyone will enter and come out for the reception. It has been an honor to serve as your president for the '99-2000 year.

Allan



**Congratulations to *Our* "Best of Mobile"**

Ann Calagaz	Marie Nickerson
Len Dickey	Missy Patrick
John Fay	Jo Patten
Carolyn Greene	Mary Rodning
Kaye Hoffman	Sylvia Russell
Lee Hoffman	Maurine Shorkey
Shirley Jenkins	Bobbie Smith
Sharon Lyn Jones	Wanda Sullivan
Emilee Lyons	Lynda Smith Touart
Lutie Mumford	Suzanne Wright

Jean Louise Adams - 3rd Place Award

Jack Sanders – R. Hempsted Memorial Award

**Mobile Register Supplement:**

On 5 November 1999, the MMA's "FINELines" publication was included as a supplement in the Mobile Register. The MMA asked us to contribute a "brief" article about our organization in connection with the announcement for our fall show

at the downtown gallery. Below is that article, slightly edited by the museum, in case anyone missed it. This was an outstanding opportunity for us to gain some publicity since this supplement was sent to nearly ten times the number of readers to which the MMA sends!

### **“Watercolor and Graphic Arts Society Plan Exhibition**

The Fall Show of the Watercolor and Graphic Arts Society of Mobile will be held at the MMA downtown gallery from December 4, 1999, through January 2, 2000. This year Jere Allen will serve as juror for the show. Mr. Allen is an internationally known artist, and professor of painting and drawing at the University of Mississippi.

This year marks the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Society, probably the oldest arts organization in Mobile. The Society was an outgrowth of the Bayou Painters group. It began on June 5, 1948, as simply the “Watercolor Society of Mobile”, and was then open to Alabama artists only. There were originally 22 members including Genevieve Southerland, Edmond deCelle, and Bea Tucker, who is the sole surviving charter member. William Bush served as the first president. Many well-known and well-respected artists have been members since then. Records indicate that “and Graphic Arts” was added in 1954. Today there are 90 members, and the current president is Allan Butt.

It is not easy to become a member in the Society. Two active members must nominate possible members in writing at the fall meeting. Then the nominees are formally invited to join and asked to submit a résumé. The prospective members must each show two or three (depending on space) pieces in the Society’s Spring Show. A secret committee of current members, appointed by the president, then chooses the new members. Those who are not chosen are welcome to reapply the next year.”

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# WGAS Newsletter

## Spring 2000

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Please inform the Secretary of any changes to the Membership Address List, which will be reprinted for the fall meeting, and especially of any additions of email addresses. *In writing, please.*

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### **Award Winners in the Fall Juried Show:**

- **Best of Show/MMA Gift Award:** Missy Patrick, "Lagoon"
- **Members Award:** Maurine Shorkey, "First Night"
- **AmSouth Bank Award:** Jack Sanders, "Transocean Diamante"
- **Francis Palmer Ward Award:** Lynda Smith Touart, "Girl in the Grass"
- **Alabama Art Supply Merchandise Award:** Mona Vivar, "Outside the Studio"
- **Audubon Society Award:** Allan Butt, "Flower of the Sun"
- **Bea Tucker Watercolor Award:** Madeline Ann Busby, "Near Washington Square"
- **Bea Tucker Graphics Award:** Anita Westerberg, "The Two of Us"
- **Dick Blick Honorable Mention Merchandise Award:** Allan Butt, "Purple Cows of Kansas"

There were 57 entries in the show, but only 21 were chosen by the juror, making for an elegant, if somewhat sparse, presentation. Equally sparse (coincidentally?) was the turnout for the opening reception! Only about 20 individuals attended. We welcome suggestions to improve this

situation.

### **Spring Meeting:**

The spring meeting will be held on 9 April 2000, at 3 p.m., in room 115 of the Visual Arts building of the University of South Alabama. Please plan to attend. Among other business, we will elect new officers for the next year, and discuss the upcoming spring show.

### **Fall Show Notes**

If you like to plan ahead, mark your calendar for the fall show, at the University of Mobile. Tentative dates are: Bring in work on 2 November & opening reception on 4 November. The show will close just before Thanksgiving. Details will follow at the fall meeting.

### **Spring Show**

The Spring Show will be held at the Eastern Shore Art Association Gallery in Fairhope. Each member may exhibit one piece in this non-juried show. Work should be brought to the gallery between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., on 1 May 2000. After show pick-up will be on 31 May, during the same hours. The show will be hung on 4 May, and the opening reception will be on Sunday, 7 May, from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

As always, mats must be white or off-white. The fee for this exhibition is \$15.00, and *your dues must be paid-up to enter*. Remember that the prize money will be taken entirely from the entry fees, so the more entries we have, the better the prize money will be!

The judge for this show will be William Nolen-Schmidt, a well-respected artist and teacher for over 28 years. He attended the Art Students' League in New York City and is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant. Also, he has studied in San Miguel Allende, a well-known artists' colony in Mexico. He has been a lecturer and judge for many art shows, and his work is internationally collected.

**Secretary's Request:** Please don't send checks for dues or other fees to me or to the President. Instead please send them to Jerry Roldan, the Treasurer whose address is:

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