Local artist Richard Landry performs at Hilliard Museum, recalls career, journey

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Local musician Richard "Dickie" Landry performed at the Paul and Lulu Hilliard Art Museum Wednesday, Feb. 13.

The artist impressed the crowd of locals young and old with his free-form saxophone skills, receiving a standing ovation at the end of the show.

"I thought it was great. I felt trapped in a moment constantly," Ben Hickey, curator of exhibitions at the Hilliard, said.

There was no stage at the concert, instead Landry meandered around the room getting up close and personal with the audience. The wide-open structure of the Hilliard caused his music to echo, which was perfect for the trance-inducing sound Landry is known for.

"I thought the show was really cool, it blew me away," Bailey Harper, a music business major at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said. "The space is very reverberate and rich with sound. I found a lot of the time I was getting lost in the tones ... It was a very hypnotizing experience."

An original member of the Philip Glass Ensemble, Landry has worked with notable musicians, including performing a full two-and-a-half hour set with Bob Dylan. His swamp pop band, Lil' Band O' Gold, recorded two songs with famous Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant for a Fats Domino Tribute album titled "Goin' Home."

Landry also won a gold record for his work with Talking Heads vocalist David Byrne on the album "Speaking in Tongues (Slippery People)."

While music is Landry’s favorite occupation, he is also a painter, a photographer and a pecan farmer.

His farm is 80 acres in size and is taken care of primarily by himself, but with some help from his son-in-law. The 80-year-old Landry still enjoys working on the farm.

"Some people call it 'work,' but if I called it 'work,' I wouldn't be doing it," he said.

Landry says some of his major influences are John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Stravinsky, Mozart, Corelli and Gregorian chant.

According to his website, Landry was born in 1938 in Cecilia. He began studying music when he was 6 years old with the St. Joseph Catholic Church Choir. He sang Gregorian chant there seven days a week for six years.

Landry started playing saxophone when he was 10 years old. He attended UL Lafayette and majored in music education from 1956-1960 and a couple more years off and on. Afterward, he taught music for two years in Chataignier, a small rural community in the St. Landry Parish.

Landry later moved to New York

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