The crossroads is an area rich with activity. We have a diverse culture all its own, rich in heritage and history. We are proud of our past as well as all the new things we have to look forward to in the future. Below are a couple of things happening in the arts community.

The Alexandria Museum of Art opened its new high-tech museum in March of 1998. The new museum houses a Children's Gallery, a Louisiana artist exhibit, as well as cultural art from around the world. The museum's interactive hands-on exhibits are for adults and children alike. Stroll through its 21,000 square foot museum and visit its Community Gallery which rotates art from local artists each month. Local as well as out of town visitors are impressed to see how much talent exists in our local area.

River Oaks Arts Center will open the doors to its new building on Saturday, April 10, 1999. Visitors can browse through the over fifty artist studios, watch artists at work, and even take home a finished work of art. Over fifty-five artists from across the State will participate in the "Landscape of Louisiana Artists" which can be viewed throughout the month of April. A second exhibit, entitled "Family of Man: Diversity and Unity", will also be featured in the Bolton House. It is the finished product of twelve area schools and will also be on display through the end of April.

Convention Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<td>March 1 - 4</td>
<td>La. Health Information Managers Association</td>
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<td>March 3 - 6</td>
<td>School Board Association of Louisiana</td>
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<td>La. Teenage Library Association</td>
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<td>March 5 - 6</td>
<td>Church of God Prophecy</td>
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<td>March 7 - 9</td>
<td>Louisiana Urban Forestry Council</td>
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<td>March 11 - 12</td>
<td>Gov. Office Work Force Deve. (Lifelong Learning) School to Work Program</td>
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<td>March 12 - 12</td>
<td>Title One, Dept. of Education Parent Congress</td>
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<td>March 20 - 20</td>
<td>Square Dance, La. Assoc. of Square Dance Annual Convention</td>
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<td>March 24 - 26</td>
<td>La. Medical Group Management Assoc. Annual Convention</td>
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<td>April 8 - 10</td>
<td>Gold Wing Road Riders Assoc. Annual Convention</td>
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<td>April 23 - 25</td>
<td>Lions Annual Convention</td>
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<td>April 29 - May 2</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus Annual Convention</td>
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<td>April 29 - May 1</td>
<td>High School Athletic Assoc. LHSAA Girls' State Softball</td>
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Upcoming Exhibitions and Programs

Recent Acquisitions: Collection of the Alexandria Museum of Art

This exhibition will highlight some of the recent acquisitions and gifts to the Museum's permanent collection of works by artists from Louisiana and the American South. The exhibition includes works by Steve Kline, Randy Aphridites, Clyde Connell and Clementine Hunter among others. Supported by a grant from the McCormick Smith Fund of Central Louisiana.

Date(s): March 6 - May 29, 1999

March Madness - Spring Swing

The first anniversary celebration of the new Alexandria Museum of Art. The dance and party will be held at the England Airpark Community Center and features New Orleans Swing King Guitar Vic and the Slick Tones. Cost is $15.00 per person. Table reservations available upon request.

March 13, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.


A comprehensive exhibition featuring works by the recipients of the Louisiana Division of the Arts Fellowships from 1981 through 1998. Supported by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts.

June 12 - August 14, 1999

What I Did Last Summer

Exhibition of works by area children which were created in various art programs during summer of 1998.

Shaver-Ferriss Community Gallery, July 17 - August 21, 1999

17th Annual September Competition

The annual international competition hosted by the Alexandria Museum of Art. A wonderful opportunity to see "what's going on" in artist studios around the world. The exhibition is juried by Beth Handler, Assistant Curator in the Department of Painting and Drawing at the Museum of Modern Art, NY.

Rapides Foundation Gallery, August 28 - October 24, 1999

Contemporary Artist Guild Juried Exhibition

The third annual exhibition of works by members of the Contemporary Artist Guild. Shaver-Ferriss Community Gallery, August 28 - October 24, 1999

SPECTRUM 1999

The annual gala fundraiser of the Alexandria Museum of Art Saturday, November 6, 1999 beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Selections from the Permanent Collection

In March, April and May of 1999, the Alexandria Museum of Art will present to the community a comprehensive survey of the Museum's permanent collection including the first four color publications related to the collection. This project has been in development for over two years through the efforts of the Museum's Director/Curator and the Registrar/Collections Manager. The exhibition will highlight some of the additions to the collection made over the past four years. While selections from the collection are exhibited in one gallery throughout the year, only 7% of the collection is ever shown at one time. Additionally, there has never been a publication based on the Museum and its collection efforts.

A primary objective of this exhibition is to educate our community concerning the Museum's collections and conservation efforts, and mission to "establish permanent treasury of our region's creative heritage."

At present, the collection consists of 734 paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, photographs and folk crafts. Twenty-two additional works of art were accessioned into the collection over the past two years as part of the museum's "Jewel on the Red" capital campaign. These new objects include three large outdoor sculptures by contemporary Louisiana artists. These works grace the entrance and plaza areas of the new Museum property. These objects were acquired through a "new art for a new museum" program initiated by the director. The collection supports the AMoA's purpose in its emphasis on contemporary art. The collection is maintained for educational purposes through: 1) rotating exhibitions in the Coughlin-Sanders Gallery; 2) smaller shows arranged for outreach audiences, and 3) preservation of works of art for future generations. Despite its small size, the collection is a resource for this area of the state.

Major categories within the collection are:

a. Contemporary paintings, sculpture, photography and works on paper:
   A developing collection that includes major works by Louisiana artists Lynda Benglis, Ida Kohlmeyer, Clyde Connell, Robert Gordy, Steve Rucker, Malaika Favorite, and Southern "outsider" artists David Butler, Clementine Hunter, James "Son" Thomas, George Williams, Mary T. Smith, Mose Tolliver and the Reverend Howard Finister...178

b. North Louisiana Folk Crafts: A significant collection of Acadian, African-American and Native-American folk crafts acquired in 1981 through an NEA Folk Art grant. The collection contains baskets, walking canes, bead necklaces, furniture, toys, tools and quilts...206

c. Contemporary American and British works on paper and artist books:
The collection contains works by Romare Bearden, Alice Neel, Andy Warhol, Ed Paschke, Beverly Pepper, William Stanley Hayter, Peter Phillips, Richard Tuttle and John Cage, among others...250

In order to develop a permanent collection with significance to its present audience with a distinction capable of attracting and educating an even larger audience, the AMoA has chosen to actively acquire important works of art by leading contemporary Louisiana artists, with particular emphasis on artists active since 1945, as its primary emphasis. The AMoA's collection of North Louisiana Folk Art is a source of community and state pride. It preserves the creative traditions of this region's past, which are rapidly disappearing, while acknowledging the merit of its present artistic talent.

Since the establishment of the Museum in 1977, the collection has developed slowly, but earnestly, within the constraints of space and funds.