THE New Orleans Art Association enters its 18th year, with a rapidly growing membership and an ambitious schedule of events.

Professional artists, Sunday painters, housewives, students and businessmen are among the association's 400 active members—enabling the group to take an ever-widening and vital role in the city's art activities.

The organization presents a program of exhibitions, lectures, demonstrations, art films and workshops, including an intensive week-long painting workshop directed by Barkley Sheaks. For the second year, the association has acquired exclusive use of the Lowe Gallery on S. Carrollton Avenue to exhibit the works of members and invited artists.

The association is acquiring a collection of paintings by outstanding local and national artists, and they will be available for loan to public schools and buildings in the community, and intended as an eventual gift to the people of New Orleans. Also, the association sponsors an Annual Art Scholarship Contest, awarding a study grant to the winning student, and a number of $50 art supply certificates to runnersup.

BUSINESS OFFICE ADDRESS: 3652 River Oaks Drive.
PHONE: 367-7333.
MEMBERSHIP: Open.
PRICE OF MEMBERSHIP: $6 per year.

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Jimmie Crone.

1979-80 NEW ORLEANS ART ASSOCIATION PROGRAM: Sept. 6 Champagne opening for an exhibition of drawings and paintings by Emmett Thomas of Gulfport, Miss. The show will hang at the Lowe Gallery, 1126 S. Carrollton Ave., through Sept. 23.

Sept. 17-Overture to the Elegant Season Dinner and Art Exhibit at the International House. Francesco Alessandini will choose works by members for the exhibit, which will continue through Sept. 27.

Sept. 18-General membership meeting and tea at the Delgado Museum. The meeting will feature the awarding of scholarships for 1979, and a talk by the museum's director, James Byrnes.

Oct. 12 through Oct. 16-Painting workshop with Barkley Sheaks, nationally known artist, teacher and lecturer.

Nov. 8-Artist's reception for painting exhibition by Paul Arthur Dufour of the LSU (Baton Rouge) Art Dept. Exhibition through Dec. 4.

Nov. 13-Art Appreciation Program No. 11: John Smith, of the LSU Art Dept. will give a lecture on "What a Judge Looks for in a Painting." A tea will follow.

Nov. 22-New Orleans Art Association Non-juried Member's Exhibition at the Steeple Gallery, 2335 Gen. Meyer Ave. The exhibition will continue through Dec. 19.

Dec. 6-Reception at the Lowe Gallery for an exhibition of paintings by Richard L. Cook, head of the Nichols State University Art Dept. The show will continue through Jan. 1.

Dec. 11-Christmas party for new members at the home of Mrs. Jewel L. Bates, Jr.

Jan. 3-Reception at the Lowe Gallery for a two-man show by association members Mary Moate and Jean Williams. The exhibition will continue through Feb. 5.

Jan. 11-Juried exhibition of paintings by male members of the association, in the International Gallery of the International City Bank.

Jan. (exact date not yet established)-Demonstration and workshop by Edgar A. Whitney, nationally known artist and teacher.

Feb. 7-Juried exhibition by members of the Art Association; at the Lowe Gallery through Mar. 12.

March 7-Greater New Orleans National Exhibition, judged by artist-teacher Ralph Fabri, editor of "Today's Art" magazine. The exhibit will be on display at the Oakwood Shopping Center through Mar. 17.

March 14-Exhibition of paintings by graduate students of New Orleans colleges and universities, at the Lowe Gallery through April 2.

April 1-Juried exhibit by members of the Art Association, at the Lowe Gallery through April 30.

May 2-Annual Member's Show, juried by Charles Reinecke, Lowe Gallery through June 4.

May 21-Annual meeting and election of officers, with tea to follow.

June 6-New Orleans Art Association Open Sculpture Exhibit, juried by Mr. and Mrs. Juan Jose Calandria. The show will remain on view through July 9.

July 11-Reception at the Lowe Gallery for a two-man show by association members Paye Palao and Dennis Piato, exhibition through July 31.

Date to be announced-Juried exhibition by members of the New Orleans Art Association at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre.

Paintings by Art Association members, above, were lent to five Orleans Parish Schools last year. Ray Pittman, right, was recipient of an art scholarship.