

# A SENSE OF PLACE

The main gallery debuts with a wide-ranging show that casts a bold new light on contemporary regional work.



ACA

ARTS CENTER OPENING

loan from the Artist and Bassetti Fine Art Photographs

*My work is inspired in the haunting beauty of Louisiana. I am inspired by the dark reflective waters and by the multi-layered visions that are created by these reflections. This complex imagery is a mirror of our world.*

**SHAWNE MAJOR** | b. 1968, New Iberia, Louisiana  
Bachelors of Fine Arts, University of Southwest Louisiana  
Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture  
Masters of Fine Arts, Rutgers University, New Jersey  
Currently lives in Opelousas, Louisiana

**TIDE POOL, 2001** | Mixed media | On loan from the Artist

*Within my art practices I use a bricoleur approach to create a magical and sacred space that is a celebration (and critique) of ideas, memories and fragments of experience associated with growing up in poverty in Southwest Louisiana... The process of sawing, weaving, binding, gluing, patching and crocheting, connect these disparate elements and are as integral as the objects themselves. They evoke labor, women's work and tradition and are slow, meditative, obsessive and addictive. Here they collectively refer to the veil of security that is continuously created and accepted by the individual in the form of belief systems - a kind of physical rosary that with every step solidifies one's faith in eventual understanding or enlightenment.*

**EUGENE J. MARTIN** | b. 1938, Washington, DC  
Corcoran School of Art  
Currently lives in Lafayette, Louisiana

**THE FLAGSHIP, 1982** | Ink and bamboo stick on paper | On loan from the Artist

**SCHIZOPHRENIA, 1982** | Ink and bamboo stick on paper | On loan from the Artist

**THE DIVER, 1984** | Color pencil and bamboo stick on paper | On loan from the Artist

**THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE, 1999** | Acrylic on canvas | On loan from the Artist

*If you seek just a little truth, as most, you should not ignore abstract forms, the basis from which all short-lived experiences we call reality springs.*

**WILLIAM MORELAND** | b. 1927, New Orleans, Louisiana

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Master of Fine Arts, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Currently lives in New Orleans and taught at University of Louisiana at Lafayette from 1955 to 1986.

**Scape I, circa 1969** | Acrylic on canvas | On loan from Mary Eggart

**Scape II, circa 1969** | Acrylic on canvas | On loan from Mary Eggart

*One can recognize in the work I was trying to do then a certain opening to life - my response to the exhilaration of being in dialogue with things at last - trees, sky, water. These things which filled my environment, when I found them paintable, somehow became iconic signs, symbols, metaphors - whatever, for a reality beyond the observable.*

**ELEMORE MORGAN, JR.** | b. 1931, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

C. F. A. Ruskins School of Drawing and Fine Arts

University of Oxford, Oxford England

Currently, Morgan lives in rural Vermilion Parish and taught at University of Louisiana at Lafayette from 1965 to 1998.

**VIEW OF THE PRAIRIE, 1988** | Acrylic on masonite | On loan from The Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Gift of the Roger H. Ogden Collection

**INDUSTRIAL FAÇADE, 1995** | Acrylic on masonite | On loan from the Artist and Arthur

## SPIRIT OF PLACE: ART FROM ACADIANA

It is fitting that the inaugural exhibition of the Acadiana Center for the Arts concentrates on the accomplishments of artists from the region. Since 1974 the Acadiana Arts Council has been active in education, grantmaking and grassroots community efforts. Programs such as Arts in Education and Louisiana Crossroads have greatly expanded the scope and reach of the organization. The opening of this facility advances the mission of the Acadiana Arts Council in its goal to create, facilitate, nurture and fund arts and cultural activities that enrich quality of life and place.

The poetic name of Acadiana and the region's historical link with the Cajun and Creole peoples immediately define the importance of a longstanding and distinct regional culture. The unique traditions of food, music and language have survived through periods of neglect, modernization and, most recently, commercialization. By the low geography, the presence of water and agriculture, as well as the above-

music and history. lives, transplants to the area and those artists who have lived in Acadiana and now the visual culture of a region the importance of a common experience and shared ect - people, places, objects and human activities - but also can be intangible on archetypal forms, materials and visual rhythms. The work in Spirit of Place: Art from ty within the context of this common ground rooted in the idea of place. The three ented in the exhibition share more than a common geography and culture. The eated by teacher/ student relationships, friendships and professional cross-pollination n unusually tight knit sense of community.

always captures a dynamic environment at a specific moment in time. The opening the Arts and the recently opened Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum at the ette signifies a moment of growth and expectation for the visual and performing arts exhibition is not a definitive fixed statement, but a snapshot-like cross-section of a dis- a moment of transition.

The Offering | Acrylic on canvas



Jeni Battaglia  
Mark Bercier  
Mary Beyl

Ralph Bourque  
Walter Burke  
David Butler

Debbie Fleming Caffery

Stephen Dugas  
Troy Dugas

Michael Eble

Terri Fensel

Lynda Frese

John Geldersma

Tina Girouard

Philip Gould

Bryan Guidry

John Hathorn

Allan L. Jones

Bryan Lafaye

John LeBlanc

Tom Laddousa

Mary Ellen Leger

William F. Lewis

Joyce Linde

Shawne Major

Eugene J. Martin

William Moreland

Elemore Morgan, Jr.

Stephanie Patton

Francis Pavy

Jesse Paimboeuf

George Rodrigue

Christina Shmigiel

Tom Secrest

Keith Sonnier

Dennis Paul Williams