



City of Slidell

Dept. of Cultural & Public Affairs • Press Release for Immediate Release

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Artists asked to go out of their element

The City of Slidell is encouraging artists to “think outside the box” for the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs’ upcoming juried exhibition, *Out of Our Element*. Artists are being asked to create new work using one or more media which they have not previously utilized.

“So many of the artists in our area have very distinctive and recognizable styles,” said Kim Bergeron, director of the city’s Department of Cultural & Public Affairs. “We decided to see if we could shake things up a bit, and challenge artists to explore new horizons. Our ultimate goal is to have people walk into the gallery and not recognize a single artist’s work.”

Bergeron says that the concept has generated a lot of enthusiasm amongst area artists and notes that they are equally excited about the juror for the show, George Dunbar. Dunbar is a renowned visual artist who has exhibited his work around the world. He has been an integral part of the New Orleans art scene for the past five decades and he lives, works and creates art right here in Slidell.

Artists who wish to accept the city’s challenge need to fill out the *Out of Our Element* prospectus, which will be available for download at the city’s website (www.slidell.la.us) on Monday, Sept. 15. Artists may also pick up a prospectus at the Department of Cultural and Public Affairs’ office, located at 1330 Bayou Lane, Trailer 118, in the Slidell Municipal Trailer Complex.

There is no entry fee for participation and each artist can enter up to three pieces. All submitted work must be wired to hang securely, and the back of each piece should be labeled with the artist’s name, telephone number and title of the work.

Artists should bring their completed prospectus and art work to the Olde Towne Art Center on Monday, October 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Tuesday, October 14, from 2 to 6 p.m. The Olde Towne Art Center is located at 300 Robert Street in Olde Towne Slidell.

Out of Our Element will open on Friday, October 17, with an opening reception and awards presentation from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Olde Towne Art Center. The show will remain open through November 21. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Out of Our Element will be the city's first exhibit at the Olde Town Art Center and the first show of the 2008 -2009 cultural season. Other exhibits planned for the cultural season include the annual *Mixed Media* exhibit in January and the popular *Salad Days* children's juried exhibition in April.

Out of Our Element is presented by the City of Slidell's Department of Cultural & Public Affairs, its Commission on the Arts and the 2008 – 2009 Cultural Season sponsors, including Northshore Regional Medical Center; Whitney Bank; Living Magazine; CLECO Power, LLC; Baker Sales, Inc.; Mary & Dr. Dale MacCurdy; Creative Picture Framing Inc. & Art Gallery; Ronnie Kole Foundation; Silver Slipper Casino; Sizeler Architects; Walden Media Productions, LLC; Bargains Plus / Mr. Map; Baskin Robbins / Coy and Donna Fauchaux; David Carollo, Attorney-at-Law; Cross Gates Athletic Club; Katherine and Company's A Touch of Italy Café; Chris & Dr. Ed Massett and Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien.

For more information about *Out of Our Element*, please call the Department of Cultural & Public Affairs at (985) 646-4375 or visit www.slidell.la.us and blog.nola.com/slidell.

