



## *Celebrating Pride: Loud and Proud*

This year marks 100 years of the Longue Vue story. We are taking advantage of this benchmark to reflect on the complex phenomenon of shared histories, including consideration of *who* claims authority over historical narratives, according to which social and cultural priorities and values, and through what voices and forums. The present Playhouse exhibit is one such reflection.

Celebrating Pride coincides with the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Longue Vue Family Equality Day, an event designed to further Edith and Edgar Stern's inclusive definitions of "family." It features six local LGBTQ+ identified and allied visual artists specializing in various mediums, from pottery to photography to watercolor paintings. The diversity of the artwork displayed here mirrors the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community: Far from monolithic, this community embraces a wide range of identities, philosophies, aesthetic priorities, and personal styles.

The present exhibit invites us to assess where we are in the recent history of the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights and true equality – a recent history that saw early articulation around the time Edith and Edgar Stern were first establishing their family home here at Longue Vue, in 1921. In 1924, Henry Gerber, a German immigrant in Chicago, founded the first documented gay rights organization in the United States – the Society for Human Rights – and published a few issues of the newsletter "Friendship and Freedom" before police raids caused the group to disband in 1925. It would be many decades before such public efforts on behalf of the gay community would become widely embraced. As of the 1950s, homosexuality and sodomy were illegal in 49 states, and members of the gay community were subject to both legal and social violence, harassment, and discrimination.

The gay rights movement saw progress in the 1960s. In 1961, Illinois became the first state to do away with anti-sodomy laws, effectively decriminalizing homosexuality, and a local TV station in California aired an early documentary about homosexuality, called *The Rejected*. In 1965, Dr. John Oliven, in his book *Sexual Hygiene and Pathology*, coined the term "transgender" to describe someone who was born in a body that did not match their gender.

Despite this progress, LGBTQ+ individuals lived in a kind of urban subculture and were routinely subjected to harassment and persecution. In one example, New York City passed liquor laws that deemed the gathering of homosexuals to be “disorderly.” In fear of being shut down by authorities, bartenders would deny drinks to patrons suspected of being gay or kick them out altogether; others would serve them drinks but force them to sit facing away from other customers to prevent them from socializing. In 1966, members of the Mattachine Society in New York City staged a “sip-in.” They visited taverns, declared themselves gay, and waited to be turned away so they could sue. The resulting publicity led to a quick reversal of the anti-gay liquor laws.

A few years later, in 1969, a now-famous event catalyzed the gay rights movement: *the Stonewall Riots*. The clandestine gay club Stonewall Inn was an institution in Greenwich Village because it was large and cheap, allowed dancing, and welcomed drag queens and homeless youth. In the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn. Fed up with years of police harassment, patrons and neighborhood residents began throwing objects at police as they loaded the arrested into police vans. The scene eventually exploded into a full-blown riot, with subsequent protests that lasted for five days.

The Stonewall Riots sparked the formation of the Gay Liberation Front, the first group to publicly advocate for equal rights, marking the beginning of the modern-day gay rights movement. On the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, June 28, 1970, the Gay Liberation Front organized the first Gay Pride parade.



*Photo by Fred W. McDarrah/Getty Images*

*After the Stonewall Riots, a message was painted on the outside of the boarded-up bar. This sign was written by the Mattachine Society, an early organization dedicated to fighting for gay rights*

Today, Pride parades are still held on the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots throughout the United States and even throughout the world. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Orleans Pride was a weekend-long celebration in the French Quarter including an annual June parade. Longue Vue’s annual Family Equality Day was the

first New Orleans Pride event designed specifically for families and children. Family Equality Day takes place each summer as a day of free admission and inclusive celebration of families at Longue Vue.

The gay rights movement in the United States has seen huge progress in the last century, especially the last several decades. Laws prohibiting homosexual activity have been struck down; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals finally serve openly in the military; same-sex couples are legally getting married and adopting children in all 50 states. But it has been a long and bumpy road for gay rights proponents, who are still fighting for equal rights and treatment in employment, housing, public safety, and more. We honor this ongoing struggle in the present exhibit and pledge Longue Vue's ongoing partnership with and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

#### Featured Artists

***Maegen Babb | Robert "Dale" McElwee | Keith Motes | Virginia Schaeffer | Carole Turner | Regena Washington***

#### CURATOR'S STATEMENT:

This exhibition was curated by Ilyanette M. Bernabel, a self-proclaimed Afro-Taino, multihyphenated performing artist, creative producer, independent curator and published poet and scholar with a passion for healing through creative self-expression as well as producing and prioritizing culturally relevant content specific to historically marginalized communities. Ilyanette is thrilled to have curated this exhibit in conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Family Equality Day at Longue Vue. Family Equality Day, a Longue Vue Pride event, is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of all families especially those families with LGBTQ+ identified folks and allies who support the global gay rights movement. My goal in curating Celebrating Pride: Loud and Proud is to highlight and celebrate the progression of the gay rights movement in the United States and to support local LGBTQ+ identified and allied artists since this is a key aspect to Longue Vue's mission to be a leader in the advancement of innovative thought, creative expression, and lifelong learning. We hope you enjoy this exhibit and consider supporting both our local artists and our mission by purchasing artwork currently for sale.



## **Virginia Schaeffer**

@mudhead\_pottery

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MudheadPotteryStudio>

I came to visit New Orleans in the summer of 2008. I instantly broke into a sweat, fell in love with the city and never left. Just like New Orleans, pottery is the one medium where physical interaction, creative process and self-expression come together. My work is a combination of wheel thrown and hand building techniques. Working with clay I can materialize a functional object of my reality and imagination. Each piece created in its own uniqueness with love.

**CASE #1**



## Keith Motes

@art.by.keith.nola

[www.facebook.com/art.by.keith.nola.com](http://www.facebook.com/art.by.keith.nola.com)

Keith developed a love for photography as a young adult. He shot primarily black and white 35mm film and developed it in his home darkroom. However, the requirements of career and family superseded his interest in photography, which then lay dormant for over three decades.

In the wake of the financial crisis of 2008 and following a corporate lay-off of thousands from Sprint in a single day, Keith began looking for work income based on different skill sets. His husband's work relocation from Kansas City to New Orleans in 2016 further added to his desire to find a new way to earn a living where the job opportunities from his previous career were non-existent.

In 2018, following a devastating one-car accident, Keith once again picked up a camera and began shooting photos of the diverse beautiful and unique culture which can only be found in New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana. Transferring the skill sets he learned from his years in the corporate work-world, Keith explored digitally enhancing his photography. His unique ability to capture a story, combined with his highly developed use of digital enhancement, has resulted in unique photographic art that is highly prized and respected. His desired outcome for his work is not just "the story" but to present it in a way which leaves the observer wondering at first whether this is an actual painting of some sort or, indeed, an enhanced photographic piece.

Keith and his husband Ray live in the Upper Ninth Ward with their two canine babies, Achilles, and Bagel. They enjoy camping, making new friends, and discovering all that New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana have to offer.



## Robert “Dale” McElwee

@rosedale2504

[www.dalemcelweewatercolors.com](http://www.dalemcelweewatercolors.com)

After my early years as an artist in high school, I was determined to continue my education in fine art as LSU–Shreveport where I spent 4 ½ years studying drawing and painting mostly in watercolor. Something about the lightness and transparency of the medium always drew me in. I have continued to enjoy watercolor attending many specialized classes in technique and greater use of the medium. I do my best to get to at least one or two classes every year.

After relocating to New Orleans in 1992, I became very interested in our artists here and their unique way of approaching many of the things that we take for granted, including the flora and fauna that we are so lucky to have here – sometimes in our own backyard. Many of my subjects include plants, leaves, flowers, wildlife, architecture, and people of the area. I have been lucky enough to be included in the French Quarter Fest’s Pirate’s Alley Art Show for many years, Art for Art’s Sake, NOAA City Park, and The ArtGarden on Frenchmen St. to name a few. Also, my art is always featured in the Ami Ard Hair Studio on Dublin St., in the Riverbend.

I believe that each of us view our surroundings with different eyes and attitudes. I just want to create art that may help the viewer see things a bit differently. And to, hopefully, put a smile on your face!

**CASE #3**



## **Maegen Babb**

@\_maebart

[www.maebart.bigcartel.com](http://www.maebart.bigcartel.com)

Maegen Babb is an artist based in the New Orleans area. Her style has been described as "creepy cute". Materials of choice are canvas/wood and acrylic, but she dabbles in watercolor, illustration, and sculpture. On the weekends she spends her time selling art at local markets, volunteering, or spending time with her wife and fur babies. She is always open for commissions (especially pet portraits)!

**CASE #4**



## **Regena Washington**

@\_hunidew

[www.hunidewartgallery.bigcartel.com](http://www.hunidewartgallery.bigcartel.com)

My name is Regena; my art is known as HUNIDEW. Although I was not born in New Orleans, I was raised here since the age of 9. Being a military child, I was able to experience a different culture other than New Orleans. Once my parents were able to make it back to their home, we planted our feet. I have gathered multiple lessons along the way that impacts my art today. Since a child, art has always found its way into my path. I am thankful to be able to do what I love in this portion of my world.

**CASE #5**



## **Carole Turner**

@carolesmithturnerart

[www.carolesmithturner.com](http://www.carolesmithturner.com)

My main form of painting is Gestural Expressionism. I drip, pour, rub, scrape, splash, etc. I feel my art is a manifestation of what's inside. My favorite artist is Banksy, whose style is nothing like mine.

**CASE #6**



Considering the Covid-19 Pandemic, New Orleans would not and could not be held down. After our Mardi Gras parades were cancelled to keep everyone safe, our citizens rose from the ashes once again.

2021 brought a new tradition to New Orleans, The Krewe of House Floats.

New Orleanians and ex-pats around the nation celebrated Mardi Gras by decorating their houses like Carnival Floats.

New Orleans Carnival Float Flowers have now made the transition from beloved Mardi Gras Floats directly into our homes. Quite literally, onto our homes.

Each **FlowerPowerNOLA** carnival flower is hand crafted with love by local artists Ré Howse & Bill Tucker and is made from the same materials as traditional float flowers.

Ré Howse normally known for her brightly colored graffiti and SeaGemStudios ceramics, has now tapped into her Polynesian heritage and love for flora and fauna by forming FlowerPowerNOLA with her neighbor and friend.

Bill Tucker, a semi-retired chef, beekeeper, and professional ice sculptor, has now added his artistic talents to the team. You can find his delicious treats and honey at the Bounyful Farmers market on Algiers Point as Bill's Cakes & Confections and at the Faubourg Market in Algiers Point.

FlowerPowerNOLA create and ship their creations year-round and for all occasions. This year they added the Disco Collection to celebrate the LBGTQ community.

Weather resistant, these beauties make a glorious addition to any home. For Exterior or Interior use.

Made from paper, wire, paint, and a bit of magic...with proper care they will last for years to come.

Keep them from direct exposure to Rain or Snow. If they do a bit of extra moisture, leave them somewhere to dry. Try not to move the petals too much until all the moisture has evaporated or they may tear.

Flowers up to 36" easily hang on cup hooks, pushpins/nails or suction cup hooks.



**LONGUE VUE**  
YOUR HOUSE, YOUR GARDENS

*Celebrating Pride: Loud and Proud Exhibit Featured Artists*

**Case #1**

Virginia Schaeffer, *Pottery Sculptor*

Medium: Porcelain

1. Louisiana Pride Plate: \$87
2. Louisiana Pride Bowl: \$87
3. Pride Magnet (Purple): \$37
4. Pride Mug: \$87
5. Pride Magnet (Green): \$37
6. Pride Platter: \$57
7. Wash Your Hands: \$127

**Case #3**

Robert "Dale" McElwee, *Painter* Medium:

Watercolor

1. Orange Poppies, 16 x 20" \$245
2. Peonies (wood), 8 x 10" \$50
3. Rex (black leaves), 11 x 14" \$85
4. Teal Betta, 5 x 7" \$40
5. Blue Elephants, 18 x 36" \$325
6. Promise of Spring, 16 x 20" \$245
7. Elephant, 16 x 20" \$200
8. Cherub (silver), 11 x 14" \$85

**Case #2**

Keith Motes, *Photography*

Medium: Print, Archival Canvas Paper

1. Leather 'n Lace, 8 x 10" \$95
2. Parade Girls, 8 x 10" \$95
3. Show Girls, 10 x 13" \$260
4. Lost in Thought, 8 x 10" \$220
5. The Road Less Travelled, 8 x 10" \$95
6. Sun Umbrella, 8 x 12" \$175
7. Coy Fan, 8 x 10" \$45
8. I am Xandra, 8 x 10" \$45
9. The Sisters, 8 x 10" \$45
10. The Sentinel, 5 x 7" \$75
11. Cruella Handler, 8 x 10" \$45
12. Muffalotta Girls, 8 x 10" \$45
13. Ebony Mistress, 8 x 10" \$45
14. Mer-man, 8 x 10" \$75
15. Orange Crush, 8 x 10" \$220
16. Princess Butterfly, 8 x 10" \$95



**LONGUE VUE**  
YOUR HOUSE, YOUR GARDENS

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**Case #4**

Maegen Babb, *Acrylic Painter*  
Medium: Acrylic paint on wood

1. <b>Stop Hate: \$85</b>
2. <b>Hella Gay Crystal Ball: \$35</b>
3. <b>Small Babbster: \$50</b>
4. <b>Gay AF: \$85</b>
5. <b>Long Leggedz</b> <b>\$75 each; 2 for \$145; 3 for \$210</b>
6. <b>Homo-hexual: \$70</b>
7. <b>Moon: \$50</b>

**Case #6**

Carole Turner, *Acrylic Painter*  
Medium: Acrylic paint/glitter on canvas

1. <b>Shit Got Crazy, 18 x 24" \$300</b>
2. <b>Tulip, 11 x 14" \$120</b>
3. <b>Dance Again, 24 x 36" \$500</b>
4. <b>One &amp; Two, 11 x 14"</b> <b>\$120 each; \$200 for set</b>
5. <b>Stingray, 11 x 14" \$120</b>
6. <b>Blue Water, 11 x 14" \$120</b>

**Case #5**

Regena Washington, *Sculptor*  
Medium: Clay and Acrylic paint  
"The Trippy Traveler" Series

1. <b>"Pretty Dysfunctional" framed prints</b> <b>\$30 each</b>
2. <b>"Pretty Dysfunctional Mini" chair</b> <b>\$150</b>
3. <b>"I'm Spiraling," sofa with table \$100</b>
4. <b>"My How you've Grown," planters</b> <b>\$50</b>
5. <b>"Pretty Comfortable," chair with</b> <b>throw pillow \$100</b>
6. <b>"You are Here" \$80</b>