



Some local artists may soon be

EXPOSED

to the rest of the country

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The rest of the country may soon discover some of the depth of Acadiana's art community.

Five local artists are being featured in the first issue of *Studio Visit Magazine*, a new periodical that's shipped to thousands of museums, galleries, and private art collectors across the country.

It's published by the Open Studios Press, which is already known in the art world as the publisher of *New American Painters*. Published bimonthly, with six different regional editions, it's solely dedicated to showcasing the work of emerging painters. Each year, thousands of artists compete fiercely for a spot in the magazine.

But now, with *Studio Visit*, they've got something bigger underway.

"The publisher basically decided that there should be another venue that could serve more than 40 artists per book," explains Dana Wynne, who works for Open Studios Press.

This work by Amy Guidry will be featured in the new periodical *Studio Visit Magazine*. Submitted Photo.

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inside

The first edition of *Studio Visit* had to be published in two volumes to accommodate the nearly 300 artists featured. The competition for space was open to all artists — not just painters — from all across the country (and, Wynne adds, there are plans to eventually make it international).

And out of the roughly 700 entries that Wynne estimates the competition received, five of Acadiana's artists were selected — Amy Guidry, Troy Dugas, Shawne Major, Stephanie Patton and Brian Guidry. Amy Guidry and Brian Guidry were recently featured in *The Times*, detailing their exhibitions in the Acadiana Center for the Arts' Side Gallery Series. Dugas and Patton both have upcoming shows in the same series later this year. Shawne Major has a show called *Sacred Space* currently hanging at the Opelousas Museum of Art.

The artists weren't selected for



the sake of geographic diversity — *Studio Visit's* competition is "a blind jury process," according to Wynne, meaning the jurors who judge the competition receive images of the artists' work but aren't told any information about the artists themselves, not even

their names. The juror for this edition was Michael Lash, who served for nine years as director of public art for the City of Chicago.

All five of the artists will have their art seen by "almost every major museum and institution," says Wynne, across the United

Brian Guidry and Stephanie Patton prepare the Acadiana Arts Council gallery for the Willie Birch show, *Celebrating Freedom*. Advertiser file photo by John Rowland.

States. The Web site for the magazine boasts that it ships to 2,000 curators and galleries, plus private collectors.

According to Amy Guidry, appearing in the magazine is a boon not just for her and the other featured artists, but for the whole Acadiana art community.

"It proves you do not have to be a 'New York artist' to gain recognition," she says. "We have phenomenal artists right here in our area, and a national publication sees this. And now the entire country will see it, too." ☺