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Faces Light Up at STAA's 'Many Faces of Portraiture'

Posted by [Roberta Carrow-Jackson](#) August 22, 2008 8:00AM

Categories: [Exhibition](#)

Faces will light up at the St. Tammany Art Association during this month's Second Saturday Evening Stroll in downtown Covington when STAA hosts the opening reception for its new show, *Many Faces of Portraiture*.

Featuring portraits by the likes of Katherine Buchanan, Adrian Deckbar, Alan Flattmann, Amy Guidry, Peggy Hesse, Bernard Klichman, Isoko Onodera, Lyn Taylor, Alexander Stolin, Elise Toups, and more, a reception welcoming many of the exhibiting artists will be held Saturday, September 13 from 6-9 pm at the Art House, 320 N. Columbia Street.



image courtesy St. Tammany Art Association

COVINGTON, LA--Historically, the conventions of portraiture from the Renaissance through the 19th century were thoroughly determined by ideas about class and did not give people a very reliable idea of what they actually looked like. Generations of artists held that the finest portraits show not just an outward likeness but the subject's character as well. The portrait wasn't "a fact" but "only an opinion" and that for a portraitist; the surface is all one has to convey these opinions.

And yet the portrait beguiles us, tempts us to draw conclusions about the inner character of the subject. In a current world focused on immediate image making and celebrity, the process of rendering the "depths, interiors, and hidden truths" of

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the subject implies a process at odds with the contemporary fast-paced, quick-assessment, surface-valued judgment of our modern world.

With the rise of abstraction in the 20th Century, experimentation with line, shape, and color changed artistic presentations of sitters. Rather than representing a specific class of people, portrait artists began to address issues of culture and identity, a segment of the population traditionally underrepresented in fine art. Here, portraiture no longer solely fulfills a documentary function, but explores complex social and cultural issues.

The exhibition *Many Faces of Portraiture* features work from both established regional artists and a new generation of portrait artists, all of whom are using the portrait to ask questions about the modern world and to describe the faces of our time. Some of the artists included in this exhibition are **Katherine Buchanan, Adrian Deckbar, Alan Flattmann, Amy Guidry, Peggy Hesse, Bernard Klichman, Isoko Onodera, Lyn Taylor, Alexander Stolin, Elise Toups**, and many others.

This exhibit will run at the St. Tammany Art Association from Sept 1 - 30, 2008 with an opening reception on Saturday, Sept 13 from 6-9 pm. This exhibit is free and open to the public .

For more information, contact Art House Coordinator Meghan Garcia at 985-892-8650 or Meghan@sttammanyartassociation.org.

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