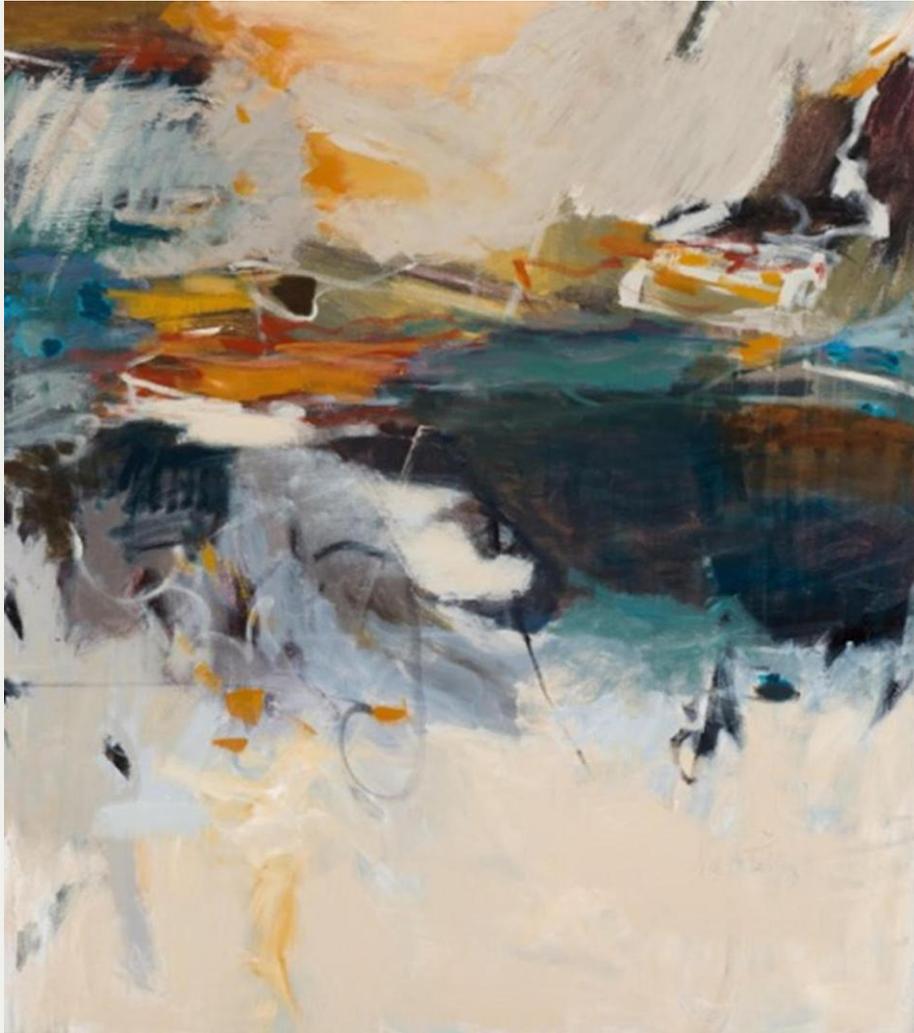


Atrium Gallery to feature paintings by New Orleans artist Nell C. Tilton

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The abstract painting, "Unpredictable," by New Orleans artist Nell C. Tilton will be part of her show "Transformations" at The Atrium Gallery at Christwood. The exhibition opens May 13 with a reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Nell C. Tilton)

By [Sarah Bonnette](#)

New Orleans artist Nell C. Tilton's latest solo exhibition is dedicated to the memory of her late mother, Frances Collens Curtis. She died in 2015 just before her 96th birthday.

The show debuted at the Carol Robinson Gallery in June 2016, but North Shore art lovers soon will get a chance to see a continuation of it at The Atrium Gallery at Christwood. Entitled "Transformations," it will open May 13 during a reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

"Transformations" was Tilton's third solo exhibition at the Carol Robinson Gallery, which has represented the 70-year-old artist since 2004. The show's statement included a quote from Twyla Tharp that says: "Art is the only way to run away without leaving home." It points to "the notion of holding on to past experiences while moving on to whatever is to come, Tilton said.



The previous two exhibitions - "Deconstructed: An Impression of Vanishing Treasures" in 2009 and "Blueprints: Reflections of Modern Design" in 2011 - focused on "structures, architecture and modern images, inspired by my late architect father," Nathaniel Curtis, Tilton said.

Curtis and the late Arthur Davis established the architectural practice of Curtis and Davis Architects and Engineers in New Orleans with a commitment to modernist aesthetics. The firm was responsible for the design of almost 400 buildings on four continents until it was dissolved in 1978. Most notably locally are the Superdome and the Rivergate convention center, which was demolished in 1995 to make way for Harrah's Casino.

Tilton, who has been painting for most of the past 50 years, said she believes and hopes "that I got that artistic gene from my dad."

"As the daughter of an architect, I was surrounded by contemporary forms and images," she said in a statement about her 2011 exhibition at the Carol Robinson Gallery. "My father believed simple, strong design should reflect the interior space of a structure. I was inspired to show my interpretation of some of these shapes in my paintings. Blue prints, floor plans, and architectural images are revealed in these abstract works as my impressions and appreciation of architecture and modern structures. This exhibit is my reflection of modern design and a tribute to modernist architecture."

Since those first two exhibitions, Tilton said: "with the loss of my mother and the selling of our beloved family home, which was designed by my father, a shift, or transformation in my art work has occurred. I feel that these latest works are the culmination - the third chapter in a trilogy - of the previous work and is signaling a sense of moving forward with an acknowledgment and appreciation of the past."

The Christwood show will feature more than 10 large-scale paintings averaging 50 square inches. Tilton works in acrylic and mixed media on canvas, as well as on panel and paper.

"I often work from memories, but sometimes with a visual reference to inspire me. Most of the work emerges with an architectural (or grid-like) feel whether I intend that or not," she said. "Sometimes I'll have a subject matter or motif in mind, as I did in these last shows, and I begin intuitively covering the canvas, putting down color, shapes and marks.

"Other times, I work purely in an intuitive manner, with no one thing in mind, and see what emerges from that mark-making. This will dictate what the next step will be, and continues until something is eventually revealed. To resolve and make the painting satisfying to me, I consider the elements in the painting - line, shapes, color, value - while working to establish a good and strong composition," Tilton added. "I seem to convey 'movement' and 'space' in my paintings. But the most important aspect for me is to say with paint what can't be expressed in words, to communicate what is personal and meaningful for me."

Tilton's interest in art began in high school. During the summers between her high school years, she took courses at the John McCrady Art School in the French Quarter.

"I didn't know at the time how revered John McCrady was in the art community. I was completely clueless about art, but just knew that I wanted to pursue that field," she said. "I majored in art in college, and it was ironic because abstract art was in vogue at the time (the '60s). But I didn't have any interest or understanding of that style of art then."

Tilton studied after college with local, national and international artists, but didn't get an understanding of a classical and traditional approach to the arts until her classes at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts.

"I began to get a real understanding. I continued in that mode of studying watercolor, life drawing, and photography for many years before becoming interested in exploring in a more abstract mode. I started to learn and appreciate work in that style, but even when I decided to take my work in that direction, all that I had learned in representational art tremendously informed and continues to serve the non-objective work," she said. She has taught an abstract class at the Academy since 2002 and had a solo show at its Magazine Street gallery in 2004.

"Transformations" will be on display until June 23 at The Atrium Gallery at Christwood, 100 Christwood Boulevard, Covington. Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.christwoodrc.com.

Mother's Day Mandeville home tour

For mothers who happen to be art lovers, the Old Mandeville Historic Association's 2017 Mother's Day Home Tour will have more places to buy original artwork and prints. The self-guided tour of private residences through old Mandeville will take place May 14 from 2 to 5

p.m. The theme of the eighth annual event is "Turning the Corner: Early 20th Century Cottages."

In addition to artists displaying their work at the private homes on the tour, this year a group of artists will have a show at the Lang House Museum, the tour's headquarters, and in the adjoining park, the Kierr Family Garden. Both are located on Carroll Street. The group show will run from noon to 5 p.m. and include pieces in several different mediums. In the event of rain, it will move to the Mandeville Trailhead near the Mandeville Trailhead Cultural Interpretive Depot Museum at 675 Lafitte St.

Participating artists are Abby Sands, who will show photography; Rebecca Richey, who will have custom artwork, architectural paintings, and natural creations; Blaire Brown, who will display acrylic paintings; Lin Gehring, who creates stylized architectural and landscape photography; Ferris Hotard, who is known for his oil paintings; and Tracey Ferguson-Kimball of Patina Belle, a decorative consulting and faux finishings company.

Artists exhibiting at the tour stops include Jan Dicks, who is known for her watercolor paintings, prints, note cards, and gift tags of naturalist subjects such birds, bunnies and foliage.

Valree Eberle will display primitive art, and Tessa Chauvin will have her pen and ink drawings, watercolors, and lino block prints. Kathy Kirkland will feature her nature, landscape, wildlife, and architecture photographs, while watercolor flowers and landscapes by Bridget Jarvis will be shown. Also on display will be oil paintings by Robert Santopadre, acrylic paintings by Chuck Wright and pottery by Martin Lill.

Additionally, artists will be exhibiting at a variety of galleries and businesses in Old Mandeville. Renee Colomb will have original Louisiana art on antique architectural finds at Just Imagine Gifts and Plant Gallery, 620 Girod St. MaryAnn Bonura-Smith's divinely inspired oil paintings will be on display at MBonura Fine Art Studio and Gallery, 2012 Jefferson St., and across the street, at 2013 Jefferson St., Elayne Kuehler will show realistic landscape, still life, and portrait paintings at Antiques & Decor. Mother and daughter, Kathy Levine and Kelly Levine Musser, will show their impressionistic acrylics, watercolor paintings, illustrations, and portrait photography at KLM Studio+Gallery, 235 Girod St.

Proceeds from the Mother's Day home tour will go toward the continued rehabilitation of the Jean Baptiste Lang House. Additionally, they will be used to recognize historic churches in Old Mandeville and will allow OMHA to offer them free historic site plaques. Site plaque research will result in the third Street Strolls publication: "Churches in Old Mandeville" for OMHA, a non-profit founded to preserve and promote the history and cultural heritage of Old Mandeville for future generations.

Tickets for "Turning the Corner: Early 20th Century Cottages" go on sale May 14 at noon at the Lang House Museum and Gift Shop, 605 Carroll St. Admission is \$20 per person for

adults, \$12 for students 12 to 18, and free for children 12 and under. For more information, visit oldmandevillehistoricassociation.org.

On the Horizon

* "Face to Face: An Introduction to Portrait Painting," an eight-week session, will start in May at Abbey Artworks. For more information, visit paintpaletteandbrush.com.

* Abbey Artworks will present "Sunlight & Reflections," its spring plein air event, for two Sunday afternoons in May. A third Sunday will include an exhibition and awards. For more information, visit paintpaletteandbrush.com.

* Congratulations to north shore artist Georgie Dussouy, who will exhibit her watercolor painting "Pigeon Forge Reflections," in the Louisiana Watercolor Society's 47th International Exhibition, on display until May 20 at Place St. Charles, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans. An awards reception will take place May 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.louisianawatercolorsociety.org.

* Hammond Art Guild artists will speak about the inspiration behind their award-winning pieces in the Hammond Art Guild's 55th annual Spring Open Judged Exhibition during the Let's Talk Art lecture May 10 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Hammond Regional Art Center, 217 E. Thomas St., Hammond. The exhibition features work ranging several different mediums, including paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, and mixed media, created by local artists in Hammond. It will remain on display through May 26. Gallery hours are Wednesdays to Fridays from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit hammondarts.org.

* The next meeting of the St. Tammany Photographic Society will be held May 11 at 7 p.m. at the St. Tammany Art Association's Art House, 320 N. Columbia St., Covington. For more information, visit stphotosociety.org.

* The Necessary Gentlemen will perform during the next Old Feed Store Music Series concert May 13 at noon at Marsolan Feed and Seed Store in downtown Covington.

* Feast your eyes on fresh new visual art during the Second Saturday Art Walk May 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at galleries throughout downtown Covington. Among those that will be open, the St. Tammany Art Association will feature a new Members' Gallery Exhibition, and The Rutland Street Gallery will celebrate its second anniversary. It also will be the last time The Rolland Golden Gallery will be open for a Second Saturday event as the gallery will close its doors May 27. For more information and a full list of open galleries, visit sttammanyartassociation.org.

* Bring your picnic baskets and blankets or chairs and come listen to the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra during the annual "Swing in the Pines" concert May 13 at 6 pm in Bogue Falaya Park in Covington. The free concert will take place May 14 in case of rain. For more information, visit covla.com.

* Two renowned New Orleans bands will perform live on stage May 13 at the Dew Drop Jazz Hall, 420 Lamarque St. in Old Mandeville. The musical duo of Phil deGruy & Emily Robertson will kick things off at 6 p.m., followed by Roamin' Jasmine. For more information, visit dewdropjazzhall.com.

* Kenny Neal will perform at the next Jazz'n the Vines May 13 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., with gates opening at 5 p.m. at Pontchartrain Vineyards, 81250 Old Military Road, Bush. Admission is \$10 for ages 17 and up at the gate. For more information, visit pontchartrainvineyards.com.

* There's still time to see SAL's latest exhibition, "ART & BLOOM on the Northshore." The show is on display until May 16 at the Slidell Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, 1120 Robert Blvd., Slidell.

* Calling all artists! The deadline to enter Forum 35's "Art Melt" is May 15. In its 14th year, Art Melt strives to promote professional artists throughout the state of Louisiana while providing an opportunity for the public to experience the best of local fine art, music, performing arts and culinary creation. The exhibition will be on display at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge, and winners will be announced at the Preview Party July 21. The juried exhibition is open to artists ages 18 or older residing in Louisiana. Submitted artwork must be original and produced within the past two years. No reproductions will be accepted. For more information, visit forum35.org/page/ArtMelt.

* Calling all artists! The deadline is approaching to enter "The 52nd Annual National Juried Exhibition," better known as the Summer Show. Open to artists from all over the United States, the St. Tammany Art Association's annual juried exhibition features only visual art completed within the past two years by artists 18 and up. A minimum of \$3,000 in cash awards will be presented, including the coveted \$1,000 Best of Show prize. Artists may submit up to three works for consideration, and the entry fee is \$35 for one, two or three pieces. For details and to enter, please go to <http://bit.ly/2mg8Jib>. If you do not have an account with Cafe.org, you will need to create one. The deadline to enter is May 19. Accepted artists chosen by juror William A. "Bill" Fagaly, Curator Emeritus for the New Orleans Museum of Art and NOMA's former Francoise Billion Richardson Curator of African Art (Retired), will be announced on or before May 29. The show will open July 8 with a reception and awards presentation and continue until Aug. 19. For more information, visit sttammanyartassociation.org.

* Tickets are on sale now for the STAA's "Seersucker and Sazeracs," a premier fundraiser for the non-profit's educational and cultural programming. The lively night will feature music by the Ben Redwine Trio, food by several local restaurants and a silent art auction. The event will take place May 20 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Southern Hotel, 428 E. Boston St., Covington. Tickets are \$75 per person. For more information, visit sttammanyartassociation.org. To purchase tickets, visit eventbrite.com/e/seersucker-sazeracs-tickets-33027801042?aff=erelexpmlt.

* Cajun musician Bruce Daigrepoint will perform at the next Third Sunday Concert May 21 at Christ Episcopal Church, 120 S. New Hampshire St., Covington. The program begins at 5 p.m., with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. Daigrepoint combines traditional standards with his original compositions. He is committed to writing songs in French only and his CD/DVDs have French names such as "Bienvenue Dans le Sud de la Louisiane," "Coeur des Cajuns," and "Jamais de la Vie." Unlike many Cajun bandleaders, Bruce sings and plays accordion simultaneously and treats the accordion like a rhythm instrument. The Third Sunday concert is free, open to the public, and followed by a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception where the audience may meet the performers.

* A new date for the Southern Hotel Polo Cup - recently canceled due to weather - has been set for June 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Summergrove Farms in Folsom. The event will benefit the Covington Public Art Fund. This fund develops resources to place art in the City of Covington that reflects its rich history and culture. Tickets are \$55 per person and include entry to the polo match, open bar, raffle and access to silent auction. Food will be available for purchase. For tickets, visit eventbrite.com/e/southern-hotel-polo-cup-benefiting-

covington-public-art-fund-june-4th-tickets-34246647645?aff=es2.

* Registration is underway and spots are filling up for STAA's Fingerprints summer art camps, as well as its popular Theater Camp and Young Artists' Studio, is now open. For a full listing of summer offerings and dates, and to register, visit stammanyartassociation.org.

* Tickets are available for "Forever Motown," the next Northlake Performing Arts Society concert, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. and June 11 at 3 p.m. at the Christ Episcopal School Theater, 80 Christwood Boulevard, Covington. Songs from The Temptations, The Supremes, The Jackson 5 and more will be featured. Tickets are available at Braswell's Drugstore on Highway 21 in Covington or online at npas.info.

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