



## **RealArt DeRidder**

Arts Cooperative

108 West First St.  
DeRidder, LA 70634  
realartderidder.org

...a RADical Summer...

### **“Des Amis de Natchitoches: Downs et DeFee”**

July 10-31, 2010 Closing reception: Saturday July 31, 6-8pm

### **“Midsummer Nights @ RAD”**

July 31, 2010 8pm–midnight and August 1, 8am

### **“The Kingdom of God: Solo Exhibition by Sharon Harris”**

August 3-31, 2010 Opening reception: Saturday August 7, 6-8pm

### **“Sheri Bennett: Musical Performance”**

August 8, 2010 3-5pm

### **“Des Amis de Natchitoches: Downs et DeFee”**

(Our Friends From Natchitoches: Clyde Downs and Brooks DeFee)

July 10-31, 2010 Closing reception honoring the artists: Saturday, July 31 6-8pm



Currently on display at RAD through July, is the 2 person show: ‘Des Amis de Natchitoches: Downs et DeFee’ ( Our Friends from Natchitoches: Clyde Downs and Brooks DeFee ) Clyde and Brooks are both art professors at Northwestern in Natchitoches.

As Bill Iles was a leader at McNeese's Art Department for over 30 years, Clyde Downs (a former student of Bill Iles) is a creative force at NSU. He coordinates the painting, printmaking and graduate studies in the art department. His personal work usually reflects the subject matter of landscape. He brings a unique (and even more importantly: a constantly changing ) perspective to the form of the landscape. All the best of artists throughout art history have changed their means and styles of expression. Change is a sign of growth, a sign of exploration. Clyde Downs is a living example of that aesthetic.

Brooks DeFee is a master draftsman and the watercolor guru at Northwestern. Being a student of Bill Bryant, former NSU Art Department head and nationally known watercolorist, Brooks continues to pass that perspective on to his students. In this RAD show, he goes beyond that history to express his vision in photographic form. 'Des Amis de Natchitoches' includes 5 large scale photographic works in black and white. In Brooks DeFee's own words:

" I was lucky enough to grow up with an extensive stretch of woodlands for a playground. Not a day would pass without an adventure far out in that famous dappled light, trusty dog at my side. Available forest space has grown much smaller now (my dog is smaller too), but we are still roaming out there almost every day. The quality of light filtered through the canopy, the astounding variety of life on the forest floor, are a never-ending source of inspiration to me. Every time I raise the camera to my eye, I feel as though I am on the receiving end of a wonderfully rich lesson in design work."

### **Midsummer's Night @ RAD**

Saturday, July 31, 8pm-midnight

RAD celebrates the summer and a rejuvenated downtown DeRidder with our first annual all-night event on Saturday night, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 8-midnight. RAD will host an all night art film marathon, featuring the full ART21 art series. The ART21 series documents the work and the lives of the leading 21<sup>st</sup> century visual artists on our spinning rock. No dead, famous artists here ...just our contemporaries making a living following their passions

RAD will also host a communal sign/graffiti participation event for the public that night, as we decorate our new "Art Garage" sign. Food, drink and music will all be available. Those who help us hang the finished sign at midnight will get some lagniappe: a free breakfast at DeRidder's Ryan's Restaurant the next morning.

## **The Kingdom of God: Sharon Hollingsworth Harris**

August 3-31, 2010 Opening reception: Saturday, August 7, 6-8pm, featuring the music of Sheri Bennett



Artist Bio: Sharon Harris grew up at Singer, Louisiana. She attended school at McNeese, Northwestern, and Oklahoma State University. She married John M. Harris and has two sons. She worked as an art educator at the Career Development Center in Avoyelles Parish and volunteered as art director for little theater. The Harris family moved to Rapides Parish where Sharon taught in public schools and as an adjunct professor of art at LSU-A. She then taught art at the Beauregard Parish Alternative School and as an instructor at the Beauregard Adult Education Center. She retired in 2005 and joined the RealArt DeRidder Arts Cooperative in 2009.

Sharon says of her show:

“Though it sounds grandiose, the name of my solo exhibit is ‘The Kingdom of God’. When you get to retirement age, you begin to reflect upon your life. You ask yourself, ‘Have I made a difference?’ I can honestly say that, as an educator and a believer, I have touched many lives; but others have touched mine as well. Early in my life, people began to speak into me the things that are important. My dad taught me the love of a father, and my mother taught me worship and prayer. Then, Sunday School teachers and pastors added their influence. In Singer, those same people were my teachers at school---fine, honest, simple servants who loved God and showed me the way.

As I thought about what to paint for my exhibit, I decided to honor those people who have shown me glimpses of my Heavenly Father. The Kingdom of God is more than the five-fold ministry and an audience of church goers; the work of the Kingdom is about more than attending service. This truth is the concept of my show.

In all things, I try to glorify God. I hope that people will come to the show and leave with a deeper understanding of what it is to be a Christian. I hope they are challenged to speak into the lives of others the love and hope that only a life lived in relationship with Christ can give.”

“I hope friends and former students will come to the gallery to see the paintings. Some of them will find themselves lovingly celebrated as living examples of Jesus Christ---family members of the Kingdom of God.”

### **Sheri Bennett: Musical Performance**

Sunday, August 8, 3-5pm

Sheri Bennett of LeCompte, Louisiana will play some of her music. Her selections will be inspired by the paintings in Sharon Harris’s exhibit at RAD. Sheri is a wonderful visual artist herself, having painted murals and designed websites as a career; but she is also a gifted musician.

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...high res pics of the work (with self-descriptive filenames) are attached to this message

For more information:

#### **RAD, RAD Press Releases, “Midsummers Night @ RAD”**

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#### **“Des Amis de Natchitoches: Downs et DeFee” Clyde Downs and Brooks DeFee**

Clyde Downs [cd233@aol.com](mailto:cd233@aol.com)

Brooks DeFee [defee@nsula.edu](mailto:defee@nsula.edu)

#### **“The Kingdom of God” Sharon Harris**

Sharon Harris [sharris2005@yahoo.com](mailto:sharris2005@yahoo.com)

#### **Sheri Bennett: Musical Performance**

Sheri Bennett [sheriartz@yahoo.com](mailto:sheriartz@yahoo.com)

6 files attached, more available if needed:

artist name, medium and date listed in filename

a\_RADical\_summer.doc    a\_RADical\_Summer.pdf    sharon\_harris\_pastel\_2010.jpg  
clyde\_downs\_oil\_1\_2010.jpg    brooks\_defee\_photo\_1\_2009.jpg  
sharon\_harris\_oil\_2010.jpg