

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 2008

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**ACADIANA ARTS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
OPENING OF SOUTHERN OPEN 2008**

Showing in AcA's Main Gallery, May 10 – July 26, 2008

Lafayette, La – The Acadiana Arts Council in Downtown Lafayette is excited to announce the opening of **Southern Open 2008**, a juried exhibition featuring artists from the 5 southern states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

Taking place in the Main Gallery, **Southern Open 2008** will feature artwork by seven artists from Alabama, three artists from Florida, eighty-three artists from Louisiana, four artists from Mississippi, and nine artists from Texas. The exhibit will showcase mixed media pieces, including paintings, drawings, pottery, photography, video, folk art, and more.

"I've long had a soft spot for southern Louisiana and environs, not least because it is such a rich place for artistic expression, and I wasn't disappointed this time 'round," says Peter Frank, Southern Open 2008 juror. "I was nearly overwhelmed by the exciting and unpredictable avalanche of images, but found many worthy artists to showcase. It pleases me that the Southern Open has so much room to show its participants; I've thus been able to include more art than I usually can when I judge a show, so I can share more of the fun and the astonishment with our audience. Now, on to the awards..."

The opening reception for this extraordinary exhibit will be held during ArtWalk on May 10 from 6–8pm. The artists awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be announced at 7 p.m. during ArtWalk. Free ArtWalk admission is sponsored by Fox 15 and My KLAf TV.

Along with the reception for Southern Open 2008, Lou Blackwell will open a new exhibit as part of the Side Gallery Series. Blackwell was the 1st place winner of Southern Open 2007. Louisiana Crafts Guild will also introduce works by Ange Riehl in the Vault, and Louisiana Folk Roots will hold **Jam des Amis**, a Cajun and Creole jam session hosted by one of our local professional musicians in the Art House.

Southern Open 2008 is generously sponsored by Dr. Daniel Frey. Our 2008 Side Gallery Series sponsor is Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission.

For more information, call (337) 233-7060 or visit AcadianaCenterfortheArts.org.

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