

Alexander's art flowers in the fleur de lis

By Rosalyn Spencer
Gazette Reporter

Gazette Photos by Rosalyn Spencer

Candice Alexander, a gifted and innovative artist, brings her unique vision to Acadiana with a mixed media approach that brings a new fresh perspective to an old favorite for Acadiana — the fleur de lis.

Alexander, a native of Hachaway, found her love of art at an early age.

One of her earliest memories during her 11th summer is "collecting fossils and creating assemblage boxes of rocks by color."

She can also remember attending trade shows at the Coliseum and drawing with Floyd Sonnier at an early age.

Alexander would continue her love of art through studies in Italy and LSUE, obtaining a bachelor of arts at McNeese University in 2002.

She would develop multiple technical skills in the arts including sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking, welding, photography, graphics pilot and renaissance bookbinding.

Many of these skills are used to create more than 100 individual designs, each incorporating the fleur de lis.

"I start with a drawing of a fleur de lis from an ancient Florentine gravesite and engrave it on a piece of copper. The renaissance printmaking was also on copper," Alexander said. "From this engraving I do a manual printing press and print each one — one by one — and then draw onto the print of the copper engraving to get the design."

Alexander uses this design as the basis for her work,

which she takes further by painting, drawing, photographing or using computer graphics to make one of her unique designs.

"I guess this is where the mixed media might come in," she said, "and I may make it bigger digitally, then paint or photograph it again. It could take up to nine different steps for one design."

As she describes her process, Alexander becomes animated and engrossed in recalling the enjoyment of each step in the creation of her fleur de lis series.

"Essentially I am taking the oldest technologies and mixing those with the technologies and everything in between," she said of her eclectic process.

Alexander hopes to continue with her work, going even further.

Delving deep into her works she finds herself becoming curious about "seeing what's inside, what's under the water, what's inside if I busted this piece up like it was the earth, what would it look like inside the whole world within?"

Alexander has received a warm reception from Acadiana, noting that "Lafayette has a huge culture and is very diverse."

"Lafayette and Acadiana have the best festivals," she added, laughing. "There is always a celebration, an excitement and something always happening or about to happen."

Alexander is looking forward to the Festival International, Festivals Acadiens et Creoles, the Junior League Tinsel and Treasures Holiday Shopping Mart and displaying her work at The Mall of Acadiana.

She will be giving a printmaking demonstration at the



Artist Candice Alexander presents a live demo. Alexander, who works with the beloved fleur de lis as the basis for many of her works, offers the demonstrations at festivals, shops and studios on request.

Baton Rouge Council of Arts Workshop from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24.

Her art, jewelry, and other products can be seen at Teche Drugs in Downtown Lafayette and Pieces of Eight in The Oil Center.

Her work will also be displayed at Barnes and Noble Booksellers Inc. in South Lafayette for the month of February.

For more information about her artwork go to www.candicealexander.com, where information on upcoming shows, demonstrations and store locations are posted.



'Texas'



'Pelican Sunset'



'Safari 2'



'In Memory of ... BEST'



'Fat Tuesday with Diamonds'



'Fleur de Lis'



'Louisiana'



'Christ in the Lily'



'Mary of the Seas'



'Full Circle'