

art

NEW ORLEANS

ART+
CULTURE+
ENTERTAINMENT

WINTER 2007 \$6.95

Food, Space
Tempt Tastebuds
7 on Fulton Brings Out
the Season's Best Flavors



Map & Directory
Navigate Your Way
Through the Arts District

Running After
What He Sees
Shapes, Color Unleash
Hidden Talent
for Diego Larguía

ART: New Orleans magazine is the official publication
of the New Orleans Arts District.

ARTS

ART

Running After What He Sees

Shapes, Color Unleash
a Hidden Talent

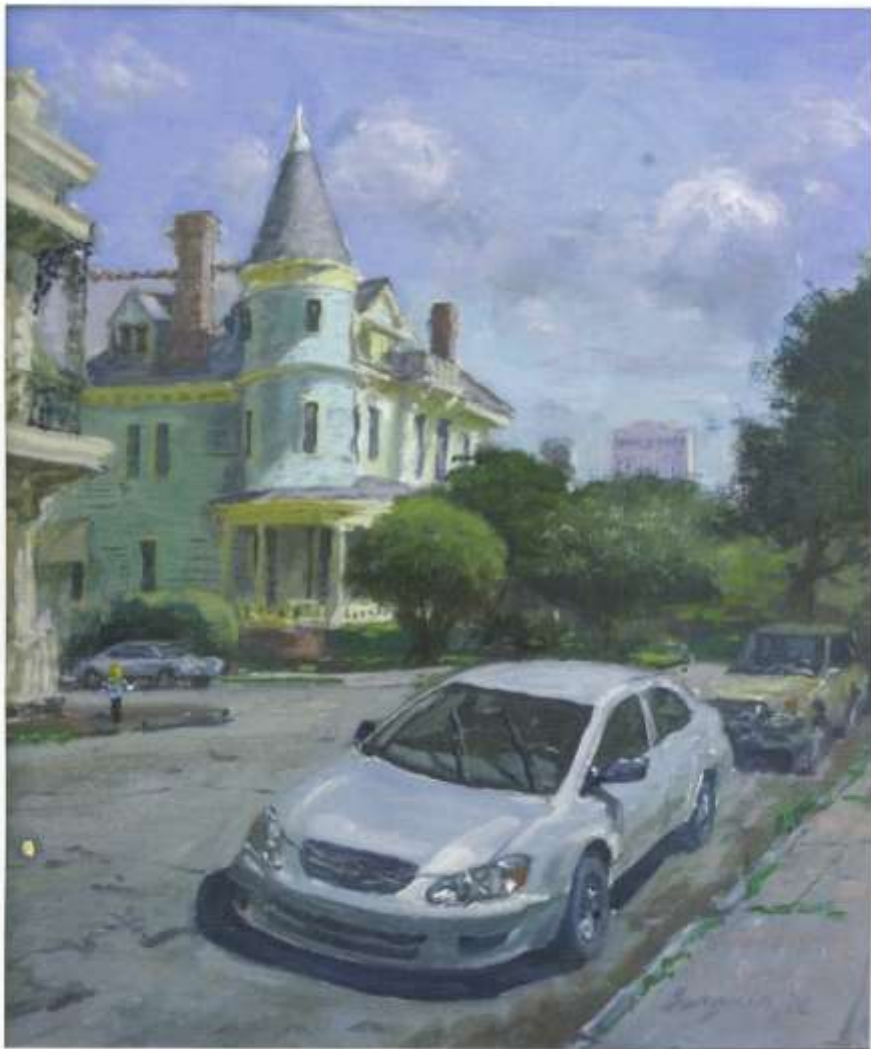
Story by Debra Kronowitz
Photos courtesy of Diego Larguía



The New Orleans art scene is back, and it's becoming one of the most vital and innovative in the nation. It is here that monthly art openings became public celebrations attracting thousands. It's a place where unique styles and trends have developed, reflecting the special ingredients that go into the art scene here. Sometimes called "swamp art," the art reflects the funky, diverse, romantic and authentic culture that reigns in the streets and in the neighborhoods of the city, as well as throughout the surrounding countryside.

↑ Two Shotgun Houses on Dante Street
Purple Fence in the Bywater

22 ART New Orleans



↑ Castle on Coliseum Square

ART New Orleans 21



↑ (top) Short and Willow
On Constance Street

The arts and New Orleans have a special relationship - a language of renewal, mutual sustenance and renewed sustainability. It's a place where artists come to be. Diego Larguía is one such artist. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Larguía moved to the New Orleans in 1995. He studied at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts, where he now teaches painting.

His painterly realist landscapes - which he has been doing for the past six years - are all done en plein air, which means right out in the open, on location. "I go out with the easel to paint, like an impressionist artist. It is the most pure source of information for me," Larguía said.

He began painting en plein air for romantic and nostalgic reasons, and then realized it was more challenging and rewarding work, often taking one or two sittings to complete a painting. "It brings urgency to the process of painting because the weather is constantly changing, requiring me to work fast to capture the image. In a sense, I'm running after what I'm seeing. It's not always successful; many times I have a high rate of failure," he explained.

22 ART New Orleans



↑ Constance at Phillip Street

Influenced by such diverse masters as Sorolla, Sargent and Monet, Larguía's work includes paintings done before and after Hurricane Katrina. "My objective is to capture that specific point in time and place, just as it presented itself to me, communicating my point of view," he explained.

Late Start

Larguía came into the art world later in life. With a degree in advertising, he worked at an ad agency in Argentina. He took an interest in the creative department, watching the graphic designers and art directors at work. "The shapes and colors grabbed me. I always liked visual things, but I never took the time to develop that interest," he said.

The passion sparked by his co-workers unveiled a hidden talent. He studied and painted "and the talent came together." His first break was 15 years ago, when he sold his first painting - a little landscape of a tombstone he painted from a photograph. With calculated moves, a drive to succeed, belief in his art and time, Larguía spent the next few



↑ *Station Wagon on Dante Street*

→ *Baronne at Milan Street*

years exhibiting and attracting the attention of many who relate to New Orleans and its landscape.

Painting in oil on canvas, Largula's favorite scenes are urban landscapes. "I enjoy painting buildings, street scenes, people and cars. Managing all that information in a truthful way and in a single image is a real challenge," he confessed.

His next challenge will be to expand into interiors. "I want to paint the interior of homes because it's an honest portrait of people. It represents who they are by showing what they surround themselves with," he said.

Largula is represented by d.o.c.s. Gallery. On Jan. 3, 2009, he will launch his solo exhibit, *New Works*. The show will feature 30 paintings comprised of local New Orleans landscapes. The show will run through February. ■

