

ART BEAT OF TEXOMA



LE SALON DES ARTISTES



François-Joseph Heim, "Charles V Distributing Awards to the Artists at the Close of the Salon of 1824", c.1827, height: 173 cm x width 256 cm, Louvre

Le Salon Juried Art Competition Coming to Downtown This Fall

Fall 2025 marks the inaugural Le Salon des Artistes hosted by the Denison Arts Council. The juried exhibition and competition are intended to draw on the history and mystique of the original Le Salon des Artistes, a series of prestigious exhibitions which began in Paris, France in 1667. The Denison Arts Council hopes to celebrate in the same grand fashion with its first-ever juried competition.

Clora Bryant Mural Dedication

On Saturday, May 31, Denison's newest public art piece was formally dedicated. The mural, featuring history-making Denison trumpet player Clora Bryant, is located at North on the side of Rae of Sunshine Boutique, 110 S. Rusk. Artist Jordan Davis created the image. Clora's sons, pictured right, spoke about their mother's music and experiences. See a full write-up on Clora's amazing achievements on our website!



DENISON ARTS COUNCIL

JUNE 2025 VOL 2: ISSUE 2



Explore the vibrant arts scene in Denison with our latest newsletter, featuring exciting updates on upcoming events, artist showcases, and community initiatives!



Visit Our Website!



DENISON ARTS COUNCIL: BEHIND THE SCENES

Volunteer organizations like the DAC thrive thanks to a diverse and dedicated group of individuals. Some contribute professional expertise through our Board of Directors and committees. Others bring vibrant creativity and fresh ideas, helping us weave art and culture into the fabric of our community. There are those who build essential social connections, amplifying our message through relationships and outreach. And then there are the heroes who offer their time and hands—setting up tables, serving food, guiding guests, and staying late to clean up after the crowd has gone.

While you may recognize familiar faces on television or at our events, many more work behind the scenes to ensure our continued success. In this issue, we'd like to shine a spotlight on one of those special contributors: our DAC intern, L Williams.

L (short for Elizabeth) grew up in Pottsboro, TX, with a lifelong passion for art. She began drawing and painting at a young age, encouraged by her parents and grandparents to pursue her creative interests. That support led her to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, graduating in 2023.

After returning home, L found herself missing the vibrant creative community of her college years. Eager to reconnect with the arts, she discovered 517 Gallery and submitted a piece to the Mysterious & Macabre exhibition. She not only participated in the show but also volunteered as a gallery greeter. It didn't take long for everyone to see the energy and value L brought to the team. By November 2024, she officially joined the Denison Arts Council as an intern.

What does a DAC intern do?

From maintaining the gallery to supporting programming, the intern role is hands-on and dynamic. L assists with hanging exhibitions, staffing festivals, and supporting downtown events. Some days she welcomes visitors, answers questions, and ensures the gallery space is inviting. Other days are filled with behind-the-scenes work like data entry, updating the website, creating social media content, and designing graphics for new shows.



When asked about the role of art in the community, L shares: *"I think art plays a big role in keeping Denison's community healthy... Art is unifying. Cultural events bring people together, and the work behind them requires organizers to collaborate and find common ground."*

She continues:

"I hope I can encourage other artists, especially emerging ones, to put themselves out there like I did. Finding the right people and spaces takes effort, but it's a game changer."

What Is The Biggest Surprise of the Internship So far?

"Definitely the people—arts council members, volunteers, artists, and visitors alike. People from all walks of life come into the gallery, and the intrigue and wonder that washes over them when they're seeing one of the shows for the first time is amazing to witness. A lot of them, even those who don't practice art, take a deep and genuine interest... It's great getting to see how impactful art can be, and it's even better knowing that I'm a small part of ensuring that fine art viewership and patronage is accessible for the locals. Before working with DAC, I had no idea there was a community like this in Denison."

So, what's next for L?

"The DAC project I'm most excited about right now is the Arts Council web show! I'm creating short videos to provide art education, cultural enrichment, and entertainment. Online videos are a fun, accessible way for people to engage with art and learn something new. I hope this content encourages a wider audience to create art and connect with artists in their community."

Thank you, L, for your dedication to the arts and for being such a valuable partner to the DAC. We can't wait to see what you create next!



QUESTION QUICK FIRE

Goals:

"To do meaningful work in the arts that utilizes my strengths. This could be either as an artist or as someone supporting the arts, but ideally, I would like to do both."

What Do You Create?

"My artwork is heavily influenced by contemporary sequential arts: video games, animation, comics, etc. I enjoy art projects that use fictional narratives to parallel real-world issues or events. The majority of my work has nautical, gothic, or horror themes, and I usually employ strong colors and simple shapes in my pieces."

Inspiration:

"Other artists- what they're doing, how it looks, and how they're doing it. There are countless artists out there, who possess immense skill and one-of-a-kind artistic visions. I keep up with artists through social media and by interacting with creatives I personally know."

Local Favorites:

Main Street! Public libraries, coffee shops, galleries, and breweries

Find L's Work At:

"octokoco" on social and [octokoco.carrd.co](https://www.octokoco.carrd.co).

Le Salon des Artistes

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The official call for entries for Le Salon des Artistes is open now through September 17 online at Zapplication.org.

This year's competition features numerous awards totaling \$2,000. The jurors for the competition will be Dallas metro gallerists Susan Roth Romans and Jordan Roth of Ro2 Art Gallery. Founded in 2010, Ro2 Art has been twice named 'Best Art Gallery' by the Dallas Observer and was honored with the Small Business Award from the North Texas Business Council for the Arts for its contribution to the arts in North Texas.

Both Susan and Jordan have focused on elevating the exceptional artistic talent within the North Texas region and beyond, and showcasing work that is bold, thought-provoking, and deserving of serious attention from collectors and institutions alike. The DAC is excited to partner with them for our first juried show.

Le Salon opens to the public the first weekend in October in conjunction with the annual Denison Fall Fest. A special "People's Choice" award voted on by gallery-goers during the Fall Fest Weekend will be posted on-line via DAC social media and showcased at the October 11 2nd Saturday reception.



Jean-André Rixens, Formally dressed patrons at the Salon in 1890. *Un Jour de vernissage au palais des Champs-Élysées*

517Gallery Boutique

Step into a vibe—our gallery boutique is where bold creativity meets curated cool. From small works by locals to funky handmade finds, unique gifts and DAC swag every corner pops with personality. Come get inspired, grab something one-of-a-kind, and support the art scene like never before!

Are you an artist or maker creating boutique-style works? We are always looking for fresh finds- use the QR to learn more.

Now!
Open!



Altered Realities Now Showing at 517Gallery

This open call show is all about the intersection of art and technology. Whether you love it or hate it, technology now plays a significant role in the creative process. Altered Realities explores how artist use technology, are influenced by technology, and create imagery related to technology throughout time.

Show Dates: June 26- September 23

2nd Saturday Receptions

(check our social for special features):

- July 12, 4-6 pm
- August 9, 4-6 pm
- Sept. 13, 4-6 pm

Bench Beasts Yarn-Bombing Downtown

Local art group "Knit Happens" affiliated with Quixotic Fibers created a full-scale yarn bombing of Downtown during the North Texas Arts Festival. The art installation was on view May 13-19 along Main Street.

What is yarn bombing?

Yarn bombing is a form of street art that uses knitted or crocheted yarn to decorate public spaces. Artists wrap objects like trees, benches, statues, lampposts, or bike racks in colorful yarn creations. Also called guerrilla knitting or yarn graffiti, it's a playful, non-permanent way to add unexpected art to urban environments.



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DENISON
ARTS
COUNCIL



UPCOMING EVENTS

Altered Realities | Opens June 26

2nd Saturday Receptions: July 12, 4-6 pm , August 9, 4-6 pm ,
and Sept. 13, 4-6 pm

Día de Los Muertos Festival | Oct 31- Nov 1

Events happening Friday evening & Saturday... Art, vendors,
performances & more! See our website for full details...

Le Salon des Artistes Juried Art Exhibition | Opens 10/03

Receptions: Open during Fall Fest, October 11, 4-6 pm, and November
8, 4-6 pm

Denison Fall Fest | Saturday October 3 - Opens @ 10 AM

BECOME A MEMBER!

The Denison Arts Council is dedicated to developing and promoting cultural art programs such as festivals, public art, grants to arts-related organizations, and performing arts events. Your membership supports programs like art scholarships, exhibitions, and music events. By investing in cultural arts programs like these, we can help grow our local economy and attract more arts-related tourism to the area.

VOLUNTEER

Join our vibrant community at the Denison Arts Council! We're looking for passionate individuals to help us with exciting art projects and events. Your support is vital to our mission of promoting arts in the community.

denisonartscouncil.org



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