

*Adrian Deckbar looks to the land
with great results*

NATURE'S CALL

Co-Op opening

D'Alley Inc., the Dutch Alley Artist Co-Op's new non-profit gallery, opens with a reception from 5 to 9 on Saturday, featuring works by 20 New Orleans artists, including **Rod Broussard**, **Matthew Peck** and **Pamela Rosen**.

D'Alley is at 912 N. Peters St., near the corner of Decatur and Dumaine, beneath Bella Luna Restaurant. Call 412-9220.

Last-minute shopping

The **Bywater Art Market** takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 on Saturday at Markey Park (at the corner of Piety and Royal streets), offering handmade sculpture, jewelry, textiles, furniture and fine art by 100 New Orleans and national artists.

For information, call 944-7900 or go online at www.bywaterartmarket.com.

Infernal art

Studio Inferno, the venerable Bywater art glass institution, opens its doors to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 today, 10 a.m. to 5 on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 on Monday and Tuesday, with glass-blowing demonstrations, open studios by artists including **Mitchell Gaudet**, **James Vella** and **Mark Morris** and holiday shopping.

Studio Inferno is at 3000 Royal St. Call 945-1878.

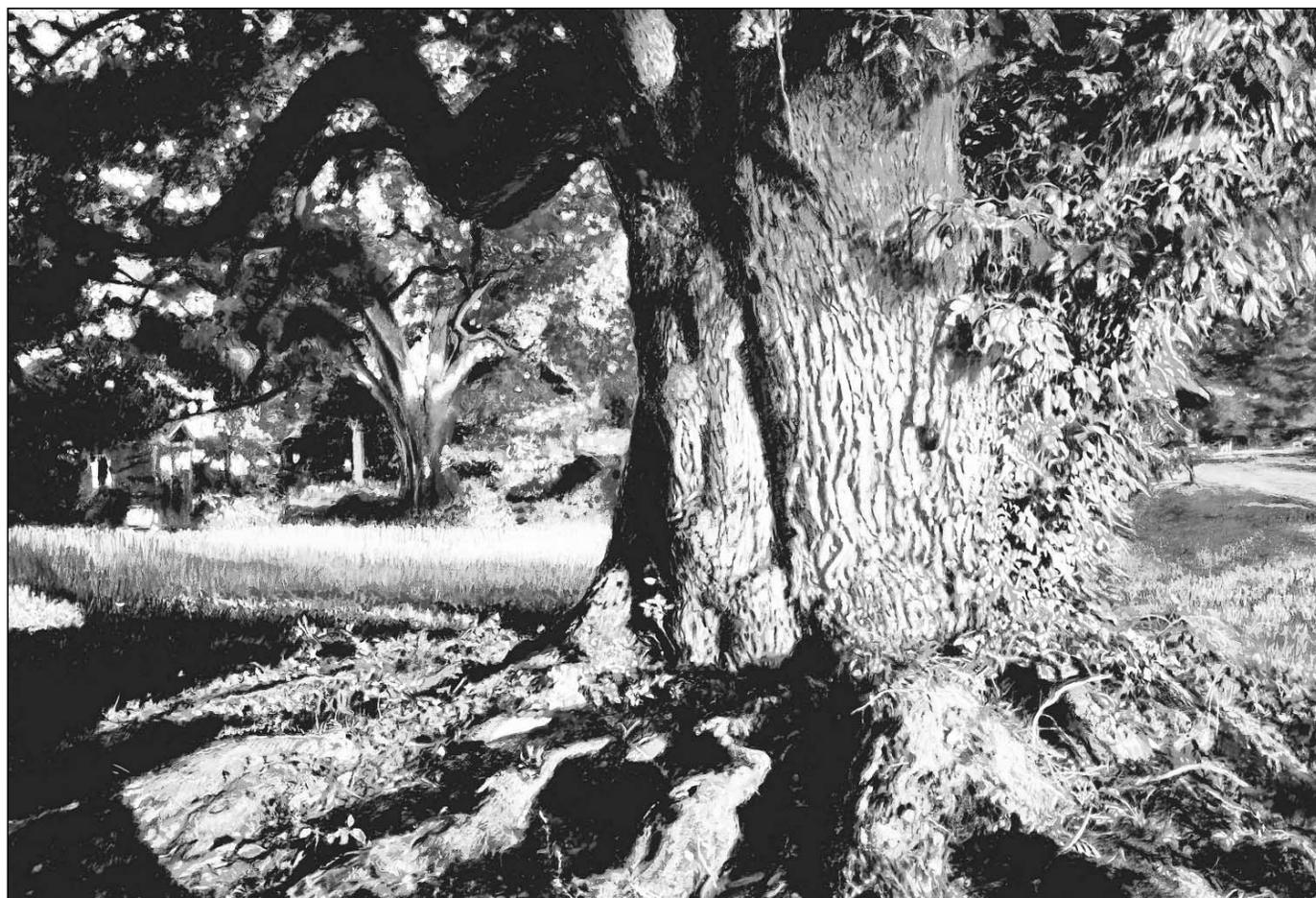
North shore art bazaar

The **Southeast Louisiana State University Visual Art Society** will host an art sale from 5 to 9 p.m. today at the Hammond Eastside Apartments, featuring handmade jewelry, sculpture, prints and Christmas cards ranging in price from \$1 to \$1,000.

The Hammond Eastside Apartments are at 107 South Orange St. in Hammond. Call (985) 543-0241 for more information.

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The hyper detail of Adrian Deckbar's large-scale pastel paintings, such as 'Louisiana Oak,' lends them an odd, buzzing appearance close-up.

By Doug MacCash

Art critic

REVIEW

SANCTUARIES

By Adrian Deckbar

What: Landscapes by the well-known photo-realist.

Where: Hanson Gallery, 229 Royal St., 524-8211.

When: Mon-Sat, 10 a.m. to 6; Sun 11 a.m. to 5, through Dec. 31.

Prices: From \$950 to \$8,875.

With her new exhibit "Sanctuaries," at Hanson Gallery, well-known New Orleans artist Adrian Deckbar has done a 180-degree turn. The glamorous, distracted women who occupied her past paintings and drawings are gone, their slender midriffs replaced by thick oak trunks, their silky hair by tangles of Spanish moss and their sophisticated urban environments by Arkansas hillsides and Louisiana swampland. Yes, Deckbar, the Crescent City's cool-as-ice photo-realist figure painter has gotten happily lost in the woods.

The shift began while she was visiting the Ozark mountains in June. "I was really enjoying sketching in

the woods," she recalled, "and I said to myself, 'Wouldn't it be nice to be a landscape artist?' But then I said, 'I can't, because I'm a figure painter.' Anyway, I'd seen so many schlocky French Quarter landscapes that I didn't really think it could be done well."

Despite her misgivings, the allure of the outdoors had already grabbed her. "I was enraptured by the little sketches I was doing. When I visited the swamp and looked at the scenery, I was flipped out by the moss and the atmosphere and the way the background blurs. The trick was not to be corny; to make the landscape beautiful in the true sense."

To be honest, Deckbar's first drawn-on-site landscapes are a bit tentative and murky. But when she began treating the landscape as grist for studio-made, large-scale, detailed, photo-based pastel drawings, she struck gold. Just look at the amazing magenta and orange shadows in "Louisiana Oak" and the hypnotic purple sub-sketching in "Swamp Moss." Pastel drawing just doesn't get any better.