



The glass sculptures of Marlene Rose are displayed in a show that opened in October at the Angela King Gallery, in the French Quarter.

Travels with Marilyn— Celebrating Art in New Orleans

By Evelina Emmi Rector

Locust Valley interior designer, Marilyn Rose, has shared her work/play adventures through the pages of *House* magazine for years. On the road once again, Marilyn searches for art and accessories in a city where it's virtually mandatory to mix business with pleasure, making it a perfect place for more "Travels with Marilyn"...

Arriving at Louis Armstrong International Airport feels like walking into a party: one of the longest running parties in the world, formally known as New Orleans. Satchmo and other honored members of the Jazz Greats mural welcome arriving guests as music - New Orleans style - fills the air.

Aptly referred to as "the

most unique city in America", New Orleans has been bestowed with many nicknames, only some of which are: The Big Easy, Crescent City, The City That Care Forgot, Birthplace of Jazz, The Queen of the Mississippi, Paris of the Americas, Mardi Gras City, and for brevity's sake, NOLA (New Orleans, Louisiana).

The city of New Orleans



Troy introduces Marilyn Rose to Brennan's famous crowing rooster.

growing number of transitional projects at hand. (However, with a distinguished knowledge of antiques, Marilyn found it impossible to visit the French Quarter without venturing into some of its lovely antique shops, too.)

Marilyn toured various galleries in the French Quarter, and then attended the Art for Art's Sake festival, which was the purpose of her trip. While there are gallery openings on the first Saturday of each month, Art for Art's Sake is a major annual event that celebrates the city's thriving art community and heralds the beginning of its art season.

Lively and elegant, the city-wide festival takes place on the first Saturday of October. Attendees sip wine and listen to music provided by various bands as they gallery hop on Julia Street, Magazine Street, and in the New Orleans Arts District (originally the Warehouse District, once the industrial shipping area for the Port of New Orleans). Just as

the city's many museums make original art accessible, the galleries provide the opportunity to own original art by offering affordable pieces, as well as more expensive ones. This is an important factor for a designer, as well as for clients. Marilyn thoroughly enjoyed the event, commenting, "It was so much fun that I forgot I was working."

In terms of mixing business with pleasure, the highlight of Marilyn's trip was being able to visit with her daughter Marlene's family, in town for the opening of a show of Marlene's work at the Angela King Gallery, on Royal Street in the French Quarter. Marlene Rose creates stunning glass sculptures which often evoke the past, allowing the viewer to experience different cultural elements that have traveled across time, thanks to her artistic skill and sensibility.

Another pleasure for Marilyn was being able to walk through the streets of the French

Quarter again, soaking up the atmosphere of the Paris of the Americas. And walk she did, partly to get places, and partly to work off the ever beckoning culinary fare for which the city is known.

At restaurants treasured by locals, and those well known to tourists, New Orleans offers a glorious kaleidoscope of food. Marilyn and her family had the benefit of both experiences. Thanks to friends, Angela and Julie, who live in the city, Marilyn got to enjoy local favorites. Then there were visits to the Café du Monde for beignets, and the ultimate indulgence, Breakfast at Brennan's. Tossing guilt aside, Marilyn participated in the elegantly decadent breakfast ritual that features eye opening spirits, sumptuous appetizers and entrées, and scandalously, dessert.

If you love history, architecture, music, art...if you love a party atmosphere with creative libations and wonderful food,

is part patrician elegance and part honky-tonk, a patchwork of multicultural riches, fascinating history and beautiful architecture. By observing many treasured and varied traditions, New Orleans celebrates life in all of its dimensions, from the spiritual to the intellectual to the sensual. It exudes an attitude about life that encourages the visitor to slow down and savor the myriad experiences the city has to offer.

Much more than a living museum of past cultures and traditions, New Orleans is a city that continually renews itself by creating new traditions, while it faithfully honors the old.

The people of The Big Easy have survived difficult times in both the distant and recent past, and they have come away from dark days with an enduring passion for life. They exhibit a *joie de vivre* that causes them to celebrate simply because they've survived. Even when mourning death, the classic New Orleans jazz funeral celebrates life. The ongoing celebration embraces family, friends, and strangers. Ever constant in the tradition are food, drink, and music. The City that Care Forgot has a unique battle cry against sadness and hard times: "Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez" - "Let the good times roll!"

While parts of the city have a distinctly European feel, New Orleans has a multi-cultural impact that is very much American in nature. Called the Birthplace of Jazz, it took people coming together from different cultures and continents, including Europe and Africa, to create a form of music that is uniquely American. Whether it's hot or cool or Dixieland, New Orleans loves its jazz.

Although Mardi Gras in New Orleans is dazzling, it's like visiting New York's Time Square on New Year's Eve - one misses nuances of the city's character. A



Deceptively lacy and delicate, Spanish style wrought iron balconies are characteristic of the romantic architecture of the French Quarter.

visit outside the Mardi Gras period is a more intimate experience, and one can still get a sense of the celebration because touches of it are evident year round in Mardi Gras City. Shops carry beautiful masks and other customary accessories, as well as beads and doubloons, which are thrown to the crowd from passing parade floats. To fully savor Mardi Gras out of season, there are museums dedicated to the celebration, or for a glimpse into the heart of the tradition, there's a Mardi Gras museum at Arnaud's, one of the *grande dames* of dining establishments in the French Quarter.

Whenever one visits, there's always something special happening in New Orleans. Whether it's the Art for Art's Sake festival or Jazz Fest or the Literary Festival, the Film Fest, Spring

Fiesta or one of many ethnic or religious celebrations, there is always much to see and do (and eat) in the Crescent City.

Despite the allure of other parts of the city, on her most recent trip to New Orleans, Marilyn Rose focused her attention on the French Quarter and the Art District, with the goal of finding more art sources for her design clients, and for her shop in Locust Valley. In a career that has spanned more than thirty years, Marilyn has consistently worked in traditional and contemporary formats, but in recent years many of her clients have gravitated to transitional design, which encompasses elements of both. Always responsive to her clients' needs, as well as being ready to inspire and guide them, Ms. Rose set out to acquire pieces and sources of art to meet the

particularly Creole and Cajun cuisine...get thee hence to New Orleans. As a matter of fact, if you've not personally acquainted with Shrimp Creole, Gumbo, Etouffee, Jambalaya, Red Beans and Rice, Grillades and Grits, Hoppin' John, Dirty Rice, Beignets, Muffuletta, Po-Boys, crawfish, and oysters prepared so exquisitely they could cause one to weep - you should probably book a trip today.

If you can't get away to visit The Queen of the Mississippi in the near future, you might want to stop by Marilyn's shop. She'd be happy to show you the treasures she collected, and happier still to regale you with details of her trip. Just don't mention the word "diet". It's a sensitive subject for people who've just returned from New Orleans. ■



New Orleans

Angela King Gallery

241 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
70130
(504) 524-8211
Fine Art

Kell's Antiques

325 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
70130
(504) 522-4552
Antiques

Martin Lawrence Galleries

433 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
70130
(504) 299-9055
(800) 675-3932
Fine Art

Moss Antiques

411 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-522-3981
Antiques



Shortly before an auction at Martin Lawrence Galleries (above), Sergio shows Marilyn Rose one of the paintings about to go on the block. At Moss Antiques (bottom), Kyle shows Ms. Rose a rare find, a late Nineteenth Century black and gold chinoiserie grandmother clock.