



ARTIST

MS. SAYERS



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GEORGE RODRIGUE

George Rodrigue (March 13, 1944 – December 14, 2013) was an American artist who was born in New Iberia, Louisiana. In the late 1960s Rodrigue began painting Louisiana landscapes, followed soon after by outdoor family gatherings and southwest Louisiana 19th century and early 20th century genre scenes. His paintings often include moss-clad oak trees, common to an area of French Louisiana known as Acadiana. In the mid-1990s Rodrigue's Blue Dog paintings, based on a Cajun legend called loup-garou, catapulted him to worldwide fame. Rodrigue attended the Brothers of the Chris-

tian Schools all-male high school called St. Peter's College, (now Catholic High School) which was located near St. Peter's Church, and near the banks of the Bayou Teche running through New Iberia. He studied art formally at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (then named the University of Southwestern Louisiana) and the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. He returned to Louisiana in the late 1960s, and became well known for his interpretations of Cajun subjects and landscapes, inspired by his roots.

Rodrigue's early notable works include *The Aioli Dinner*, which divides its time between the New Orleans Museum of Art and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and *The Class of Marie Courrege*, which won an Honorable Mention from Le Salon in Paris France, 1975, prompting the French newspaper, *Le Figaro*, to dub Rodrigue "America's Rousseau." His most famous works include the Acadian heroine, *Evangeline*, portrayed in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem, *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie* (1847)[1] and the Cajun modern-day *Evangeline*, *Jolie Blonde*. [2] He also designed three posters for the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, which feature portraits of Louis Armstrong, Pete Fountain and Al Hirt. Between 1985 and 1989, Rodrigue painted the *Saga of the Acadians*, a series of fifteen paintings chronicling the Acadian journey from France to Nova Scotia to Louisiana and ending with the official return visit to Grand Pré. [3]

More recently and worldwide he is known for his creation of the Blue Dog series of paintings, featuring a blue-hued dog. He used the shape and stance of his deceased dog named Tiffany and was primarily influenced by the loup-garou legend—the first painting in the series bears the title *Watch Dog*, painted for *Bayou*, a book of Louisiana ghost stories. The Blue Dog was made popular by Absolut Vodka in 1992, when Rodrigue was honored as an Absolut Vodka artist, joining famous artists such as Andy Warhol and glass artist Hans Godo Frabel. The Blue Dog was used by both Absolut

"The yellow eyes are really the soul of the dog. He has this piercing stare. People say the dog keeps talking to them with the eyes, always saying something different. People who have seen a Blue Dog painting always remember it. They are really about life, about mankind searching for answers. The dog never changes position. He just stares at you. And you're looking at him, looking for some answers, 'Why are we here?,' and he's just looking back at you, wondering the same. The dog doesn't know. You can see this longing in his eyes, this longing for love, answers."
— Rodrigue on the Blue Dog [4]

Vodka and the Xerox Corporation through national ad campaigns. The blue-hued, ghostly spaniel/terrier is often featured with a white nose and yellow eyes.

Rodrigue has galleries in Carmel, California; Lafayette, Louisiana; and New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2007, the Dixon Galleries and Gardens hosted a 40-year Rodrigue retrospective exhibition, which traveled in 2008 to the New Orleans Museum of Art. He was awarded an honorary doctorate at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on May 17, 2009. In 2011 the Boy Scouts of America honored Rodrigue with the Distinguished Eagle Award. In 2013 he received the Opus Award from the Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

Death[edit]

In October 2013, George and his wife, Wendy Rodrigue, told the New Orleans Magazine that Rodrigue had been diagnosed in 2012 with Stage 4 lung cancer and that tumors had spread throughout his body.[5] Rodrigue believed it could be linked to his spraying canvases with a toxic varnish inside an unventilated studio in his early career. On December 14, 2013, Rodrigue died at the age of 69.[5] A mass was held on December 19 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. Interment followed at Holy Family Cemetery in New Iberia. The surviving Rodrigue sons are Jacques of New Orleans and Andre of Lafayette.[6]

Response to Hurricane Katrina[edit]

Forced to relocate, Rodrigue temporarily moved his base of operations to Lafayette, Louisiana. Days after the disaster, he created *We Will Rise Again*, depicting the American flag covered with water, to benefit the Red Cross in response to Hurricane Katrina and the flooding of New Orleans. "The Blue Dog is partly submerged, and its eyes, normally yellow, are red with a broken heart," Rodrigue wrote in September 2005. "Like a ship's S.O.S., the red cross on the dog's chest calls out for help."

"*We Will Rise Again*" was the first of five works that the acclaimed artist created for his new initiative, *Blue Dog Relief: George Rodrigue Art Campaign for Recovery*. To directly benefit the New Orleans Museum of Art, which was closed for six months due to flood damage, he also painted *Throw Me Something FEMA* and *You Can't Drown the Blues*.

Following those releases, Rodrigue launched a campaign for New Orleans levee protection. He sent prints of *To Stay Alive We Need Levee 5* to every member of the U.S. Congress. Sales proceeds from silkscreen prints and related campaign materials — including T-shirts, lapel pins, bumper stickers and buttons — are donated to NOMA.

Rodrigue donated his Cut Through the Red Tape image to the United Way for use in promoting the Louisiana 2-1-1 phone system. Louisiana 2-1-1 (an easy to remember Information & Referral phone number) seeks to eliminate the red tape of reaching human-service agencies — particularly in the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

As of September 2006, the donation tally to Blue Dog Relief beneficiaries was \$700,000 — including a check for \$100,000 that Rodrigue presented to NOMA on March 3, 2006, to help kick off its grand re-opening: "The HeART of New Orleans," a three-day weekend celebration of the arts.

George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts[edit]

In 2009, Rodrigue formed the George Rodrigue Foundation of the Arts (GRFA), a non-profit organization which advocates the importance of the visual arts in the development of our youth. GRFA encourages the use of art within all curricula and supports a variety of art educational programs.[7] The cognitive style of his creative work was extensively reviewed by Subrata Dasgupta. [8]



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ROBERT INDIANA

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ANDY WARHOL

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Wyland's signature on a mural at the Long Beach Arena

ROBERT WYLAND

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Robert Wyland (born 1956), known simply as Wyland, is an American artist best known for his 100 Whaling Walls, large outdoor murals featuring images of life-size whales, and other sea life.[1]

A native of Madison Heights, Michigan, Wyland began painting as a child and at

A native of Madison Heights, Michigan, Wyland began painting as a child and attended Detroit's Center for Creative Studies in the 1970s.[2] Wyland's connection with whales began when he was 14 on a visit with his family to Laguna Beach, California where he saw the ocean for the first time and witnessed several gray whales migrating down the California coast towards Mexico. In 1977 he moved to Laguna Beach and in 1981 painted the first of his 100 Whaling Walls at a Laguna Beach parking lot.



Wyland painting a mural on a former military barracks now part of the [Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge](#)

cover the wonder of the ocean through art" (according to Steve Creech, the foundation's Executive Director)[7] and to finance his Whaling Wall murals.[8] Wyland's 100th and final Whaling Wall was painted in Beijing in 2008.[9] His foundation has since expanded its work to include other environmental initiatives such as sponsorship of the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation.[10]

By 1997, his commercial work (sold through 35 Wyland galleries) and licensed merchandise sold at zoos and other outlets had become a multi-million dollar business.[3][4] His artwork has been used on specialty license plates in California and Florida and for a series of four United Nations stamps issued in 2010 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.[5][6]

In 1993, he founded the non-profit Wyland Foundation "to help children redis-

Wyland on CBS





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2015 Wyland National “Water is Life” Art Challenge.

1. Explore the science & history of water.

Start by researching the many ways water shapes our lives. A good place to start is the [American Museum of Natural History](#) or the [U.S Geological Survey](#).

2. Research Examples of Visual Art with Environmental Messages.

There are many different ways to create art with a message that has an impact. Research different environmental artists and their work. “Environmental Art is a term that relates to similar art styles: earth art, eco-art, ecological art, ‘ecoventions’, art & nature, earthworks, land art, and some more common terms.” Source: A Profusion of Terms by Sam Bower.



Search Words:

earth art, eco-art, ecological art, ecoventions, art & nature, earthworks, land art, “list of local artists”, sustainable art, ocean, water cycle, water pollution, sustainability, hydrology.

Website Examples:

arts and activites
green museum
eco-art space
city arts
sustainable practice
naaee
art educators

Develop the Theme/Make a Plan

After researching the topic, set the subject matter. Now develop a theme for the mural and how to communicate the message.

Here are some questions to keep in mind:

- What message do you want to communicate?
- What types of images should be used?
- How can the theme be stated in a simple title or sentence?
- What behavior are you trying to affect (change = start doing or stop doing)?
- What section(s) of the mural will be used to direct the viewers eye?

Movie 2 Wyland's Return 2011





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WAYNE THEIBAUD

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VINCENT VAN GOGH

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PABLO PICASSO

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M. C. ESCHER

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HENRI ROUSSEAU

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GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

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