



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAVE THE DATE! LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL RETURNS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
Festival Artwork Created by Louisianan Nonney Oddlokken

BATON ROUGE, La. – The Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana is excited to announce the return of the live, in-person Louisiana Book Festival on Saturday, October 29, 2022. The FREE festival will be held in downtown Baton Rouge, at the Louisiana State Capitol, State Library of Louisiana, Capitol Park Museum, Capitol Park Event Center, and surrounding area. WordShops, writing workshops with major authors as instructors, will be held on the Friday before the festival, October 28.

“We are all anxious for the return of the festival in Baton Rouge this Fall,” says Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. “Knowing how attendees appreciate the intimate atmosphere that the festival provides between authors and audience, it is great that the festival is coming back as the live, in-person event that we have come to expect, and, as always, it’s free.”

The Louisiana Writer Award ceremony to honor the 23rd recipient will be a kick-off event, and One Book One Festival returns to celebrate the 75th anniversary of what is actually a play, Tennessee Williams’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*, with perennial crowd pleaser Dr. Gary Richards again leading the discussion. Other surprises celebrating significant anniversaries will be announced. Student winners of Louisiana Writes contest, of which the Center is a partner, will be recognized at its awards ceremony. Cooking demonstrations return, as do exhibitor booths and tables and sponsor tents, and featured books will be available for purchase and signing, made possible by Cavalier House Books of Denham Springs.

“An abundance of excellent Louisiana authors and books set in or about Louisiana will be featured at this eighteenth festival for readers of all ages,” says State Librarian Rebecca Hamilton, “as well as exceptional writers known nationally and internationally.” This year will feature the author of a National Book Award winner and four Pulitzer Prize recipients, as well as a Canadian author as part of Louisiana’s cultural initiative with New Brunswick and the author exchange with the Frye Festival, Moncton, NB.

Each year the Louisiana Book Festival engages with a Louisiana artist to provide the artwork for the festival. This year, Nonney Oddlokken of St. Rose created “Magic in the Bayou Atheneum” especially for the festival. In it, the Alligator Queen stands atop a stack of books in the iris-filled bayou with two white alligators, the “unicorns of the swamps” (a recurring image in her *Tiny, Little Fables* series). She holds open a book that contains all the magic, beauty, knowledge, and dreams that literacy and books can bring into our lives - represented by the white egrets, black chin hummingbird, and blue heron. The cycle of cotton represents life itself.

Oddlokken describes her work as always using symbolic, allegorical fables and combining the indigenous flora and fauna of Southern Louisiana, as well as physical elements such as above ground cemeteries and tombs. She also pushes and pulls on Cajun and Voodoo folktale characters such as Feu Follet, Loup Garou, and Voodoo Queens. Her *Tiny, Little Fables* work together as a whole, but also stand alone.

She says, "My entire childhood was filled with my aunt's daily magical creations, such as baby birds leaving Juicy Fruit gum at the windowsill and a child named Toots who lived in the huge pear tree just outside our screen door. Life was filled with magic and wonder. It is with a mixture of my own childhood memories, Catholic references, Cajun folklore, and a sprinkle of New Orleans Voodoo that I've created my series *Tiny, Little Fables*."

Oddlokken has created her own genre which is comprised of stitched thread on paper. "The backgrounds are handmade, stitched paper substrates with stitched imagery and collage elements, then embellished with yards of hand stitched gold thread - the symbol of the life line that ties us all together. The encircled eyes symbolize the enchanted creatures and people that live among us."

For more information about the 2022 festival, see www.LouisianaBookFestival.org

The [Louisiana Center for the Book](#), established in the State Library of Louisiana in 1994 for the purpose of stimulating public interest in reading, books, literacy, and libraries and celebrating Louisiana's rich literary heritage, is the state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Please follow us on [Facebook](#).



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