# Louisiana trip inspires work in artist's exhibit

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### By Michele Marcotte

## Nature constantly

Nature constantly changes. "It keeps moving even if we don't notice it; and because of that moving effect it has life," New York artist Marlene Yu said. Yu, who is known for nature-inspired

for nature-inspired works transporting viewers inside the viewers inside the setting, seeks to cap-ture that movement in her paintings. A native of Taiwan, Yu's work integrates Chinese landscape painting and American Expression-ism, integrating the Chinese philosophy of art with modern appli-cation. cation

"I like to express the life and spirit of nature," she said. "I like to express my painting in the moment of action."

In the past, that moment has been il-lustrated in rainfor-Instrated in ranfor-ests, glaciers, coral reefs, volcances and other natural elements or phenomena. Her 70th solo exhibition, which opens Sept. 25 at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, rep-resents the swamps and coastline of Louisiana's landscape. "Purple Swamp & Nature Abstraction" is

Nature Abstraction" is the first show of the seven series exhibition "Lucky 7s" in cele-bration of Yu's 77th birthday. The exhibit is in-spired by a May trip Yu made to south Loui-siana with L1. Gov. Jay Dardenne. While tour-ing the Atchafalaya basin and Grand Isle, Yu learned of the dev-astation Louisiana's gulf coastline faces as gulf coastline faces as it erodes, and she saw cypress trees for the first time.

The largest piece in the exhibit is the 32the exhibit is the 32-foot long "Purple Swamp/Tiger Lily." It will be displayed with selections from other series, including "Am-ber Glow," "Cave Gar-den," "Cave Treasure" and "Blue Lagoon." The achibit runs and Bibe Lagoon. The exhibit runs through Oct. 31. Subsequent shows within the "Lucky 7s" — each with their own theme - will follow theme - will follow varying points throughout this year and next at venues including the Robinson Film Center, artspace,

including the Robinson Film Center, artspace, Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center, Bossi-er Arts Council, Mead-ows Museum of Art at Centenary College, and the Marlene Yu Museum under con-struction on Travis Street. Each exhibition includes selections from Yu's 4,000-paint-ing catalog. Themed shows include works imspired by rainforests and fire, some depict-ing natural disasters and the elements, as well as others from a period in which Yu illustrated a love story between the figurative female and her male counterpart, repre-sented by animalis rt, repre

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te Tseng Yu's Purple Swamp and Nature Abstraction will show at the Louisiana State Exhibit museum



### INA SHUDEL CONTUR TIMES

Artist Marlene Yu stands in front of her acrylic on canvas Black and White Cracked Ice" on display at The Mariene Yu Museum at 710 Travis in downtown Shreveport. The museu Museum at 710 Travis in down is scheduled to open Dec. 21.

museum.org/passport to be stamped at each of the seven locations. Passports with all sev-Passports with all sev-en stamps can be turned into the Marlen Yu Museum at the con-clusion of "Lucky 7s" for a collectible book. In 2001, Yu founded Rainforest Art Foun-dation to bring like-minded artists in-volved in the green

volved in the green arts movement togeth-er. The foundation purchased the former YWCA, which it's reno-vating into a contemporary art museum featuring Yu's work and to house its head-

quarters. The foundation and museum want to help

make Shreveport an international destina tion for nature-in-

### LUCKY 75

Purple Swamp and Nature Abstraction Sept. 25-Oct. 31 at Louisiana State Exhibit Museum. Exhibit features Yu's most recent paintings inspired by the swamps of south Louisiana. Meet Marlene Party, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 25.

Emeraid Forest Series Sept. 26-Nov. 29 at Robinson Film Center. Exhibit features works inspired by the rainforest, the movie "The Emeraid Forest" and humankind's relation to

Fire — Element of Life Nov. 15-Jan. 17 at Mainspace Cartspace. Exhibit features fire-inspired works from multiple series.

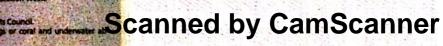
Forces of Nature Dec, 18-May 31 at Marlene Yu Museum, 710 Travis St. Exhibit features paintings from Yu's 50-year series relat-ing to natural disasters and the elements. Preview party for museum grand opening, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 18, and museum grand opening, 1:4 p.m. Dec. 21. Tickets for both evailable online at marleneyumuseum.org or by ng 717-9111.

b. 21-May 3 at Meadows Museum of Art at Centenary

liones Yu's uncharacteristically figurative works te year period depicting a love story between live female and her male counterpart repre-origing animate.

April 26 at Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center. It in line with Earth Day and Sci-Port will have mental aducation program in honor of Naducation program i al Education Week.

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spired arts, as well as an educational and cultural hub by cuitural nub by strengthening the downtown arts com-munity, attracting young talent to work, play and stay, and fur-thering the area's in-there are a the star. tergenerational family values.

Artist Marlene Yu