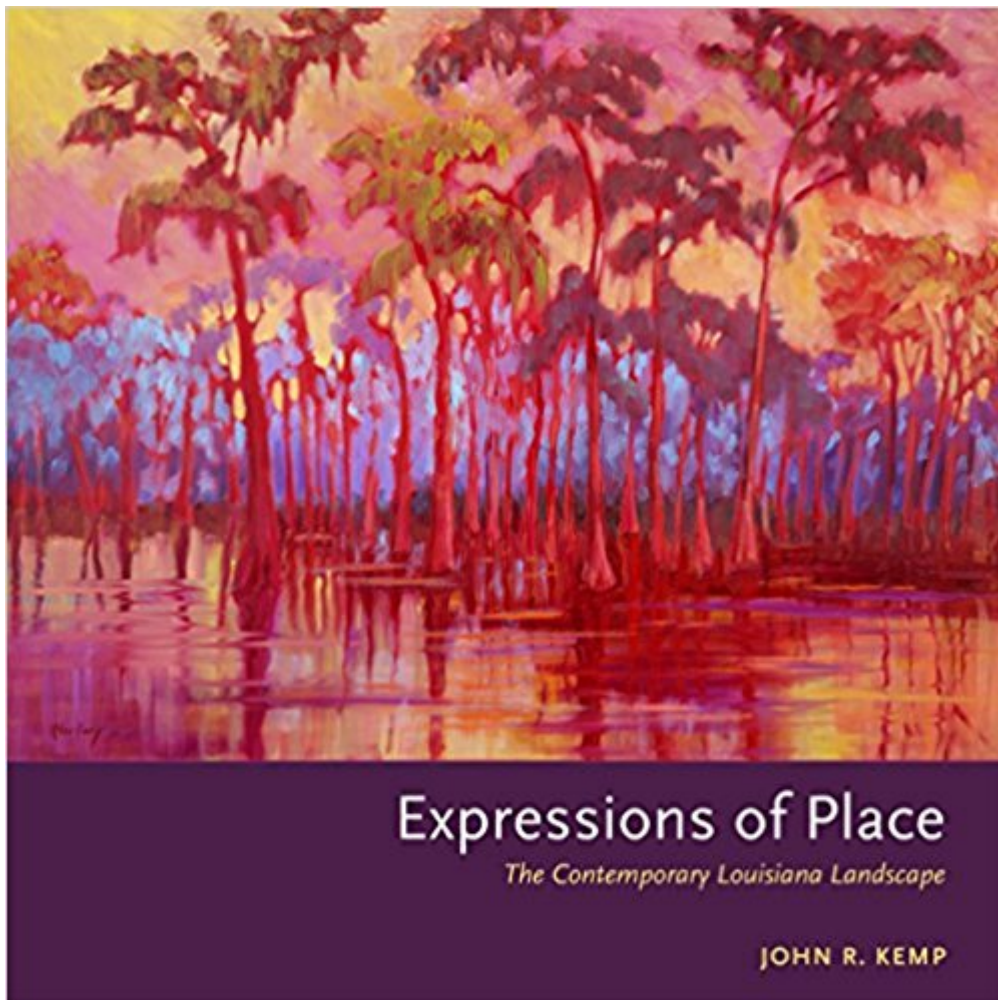




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# Expressions Of Place: The Contemporary Louisiana Landscape



## Synopsis

Expressions of Place embarks on a journey across the rural and urban landscapes of Louisiana via the talents of thirty-seven artists located all around the state. Many are acclaimed professionals whose paintings are included in major private and public collections regionally and nationally. Others have found their followings closer to home. All, however, strive to express impressions of the land with artistic styles that range from traditional to the symbolic and almost totally abstract. Such a variety of interpretation becomes possible in a landscape that changes from dark cypress-shrouded bayous, trembling earth, grassy prairies, the gritty streets of inner city New Orleans to vast wind-swept coastal marshes and the piney hills of north and central Louisiana. Rather than stand as an encyclopedia, catalog, or history of the visual arts in Louisiana, Kemp's book is instead a celebration of the state's evocative landscape in the work of accomplished contemporary artists. It includes an introductory essay, which places these creators and their works in historical context. Expressions of Place provides readers with individual essays and biographical sketches in which the artists, in their own words, give insight as to what they paint, how they paint, where they paint, and why they are drawn to the Louisiana landscape. Particularly inspiring, the artists discuss their interpretations of that landscape directly with the viewing audience. Expressions of Place remains as much about the landscape of the artists' imaginations as it is about the land itself. With each painting, they have created visual poetry of a land and environment that has become a defining part of their lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Among Louisiana’s many unique aspects is its flat, humid landscape of bayous, marshes, and swamps and an extraordinary group of artists who have depicted it for more than a century and a half. No one is more knowledgeable about contemporary art in Louisiana than John Kemp, and he has now written a wonderful book on the best landscape painters working today. His rich and varied selection offers many surprises. For while there are artists here both familiar and famous, there are many who are new and fresh. Together they present a visually compelling and complex view of the Louisiana landscape.”

—E. John Bullard, director emeritus, New Orleans Museum of Art

“John Kemp presents us with a timely and much-needed survey of thirty-seven currently active Louisiana landscape painters—a welcome endeavor in this cyber-hyped age. Kemp presents serious working artists who still work from life, or “plein air” as it is called. Following an incisive and informative first course, we are treated to a banquet of visual delights, ranging from the “symbolic” to the “ideal,” as varied interpretations of our unique natural inheritance. Included are biographical sketches along with individual artists’ aesthetic exegeses.”

—Auseklis Ozols, founder and director of the New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts

“There is no more qualified author to examine the state of contemporary Louisiana landscape painting than John Kemp. He has spent a lifetime chronicling Louisiana art through the eyes of a journalist, a museum professional, an author, a consultant, and, most of all, an admirer of the deep tradition of the visual arts in Louisiana. Looking through this lens of a lifetime, Kemp has chosen to focus on thirty-seven contemporary Louisiana landscape painters to examine their work not only through his expert eyes but through their own words as well. This book is far more than a survey but rather an attempt to mine the souls of these artists to bring the reader inside them for a greater understanding of their work and the sense of place, Louisiana, that each brings to all of us through their painting. This is an important and enjoyable book whose time has come.”

—Roger H. Ogden, New Orleans art collector and founder of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art

John R. Kemp, Diamondhead, Mississippi, writes about southern artists for numerous regional, national, and international magazines and covers the New Orleans art scene for the New Orleans public television show *Steppin’ Out*. The New Orleans native and former deputy director of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities has written and contributed to more than a dozen books about Louisiana artists and history, including *A Unique Slant of Light: The Bicentennial History of Art in Louisiana*, available from University Press of Mississippi.

I really like this particular book because it doesn't just have one style or type of painting...It IS a coffee table book, but one that I often pick up and look at...

The writings of the artists' backgrounds and process in creating art are fascinating, and worthy of careful reading and make this far more than just another coffee table book.

I am a transplant to Louisiana and find the landscapes lovely. Love the nature and feel it deserves preservation. Hope this book will help.

Love all the art esp Mary Louise Porter

A beautiful and highly informative celebration of the rich artistic diversity and talents inspired by the varied landscapes and scenery in Louisiana. This book is an absolute delight and should be shared with all who love art as well as those who love Louisiana. Kemp is a gifted writer, obviously passionate about creative expression, and he has provided a sumptuous experience to be enjoyed over and over again through this book. I will be purchasing additional copies as Christmas presents!

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