

Paris on the Bayou: The French Artistic Presence on the Gulf Coast

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French-born and French-trained artists had a significant presence in cities and towns along the Gulf Coast throughout the antebellum period, bringing their European sophistication and professional educations to bear upon the region's cultural milieu. Thanks to the efforts of scholars Jessie Poesch and William Keyse Rudolph, among others, the work of French artists in New Orleans has been and continues to be well documented, but similar notice has not been paid to other coastal settlements, such as Biloxi and Mobile. This talk will provide an overview of French artists working throughout the region from the early 19th century until the Civil War, paying particular attention to artists who practiced in Mississippi and Alabama.