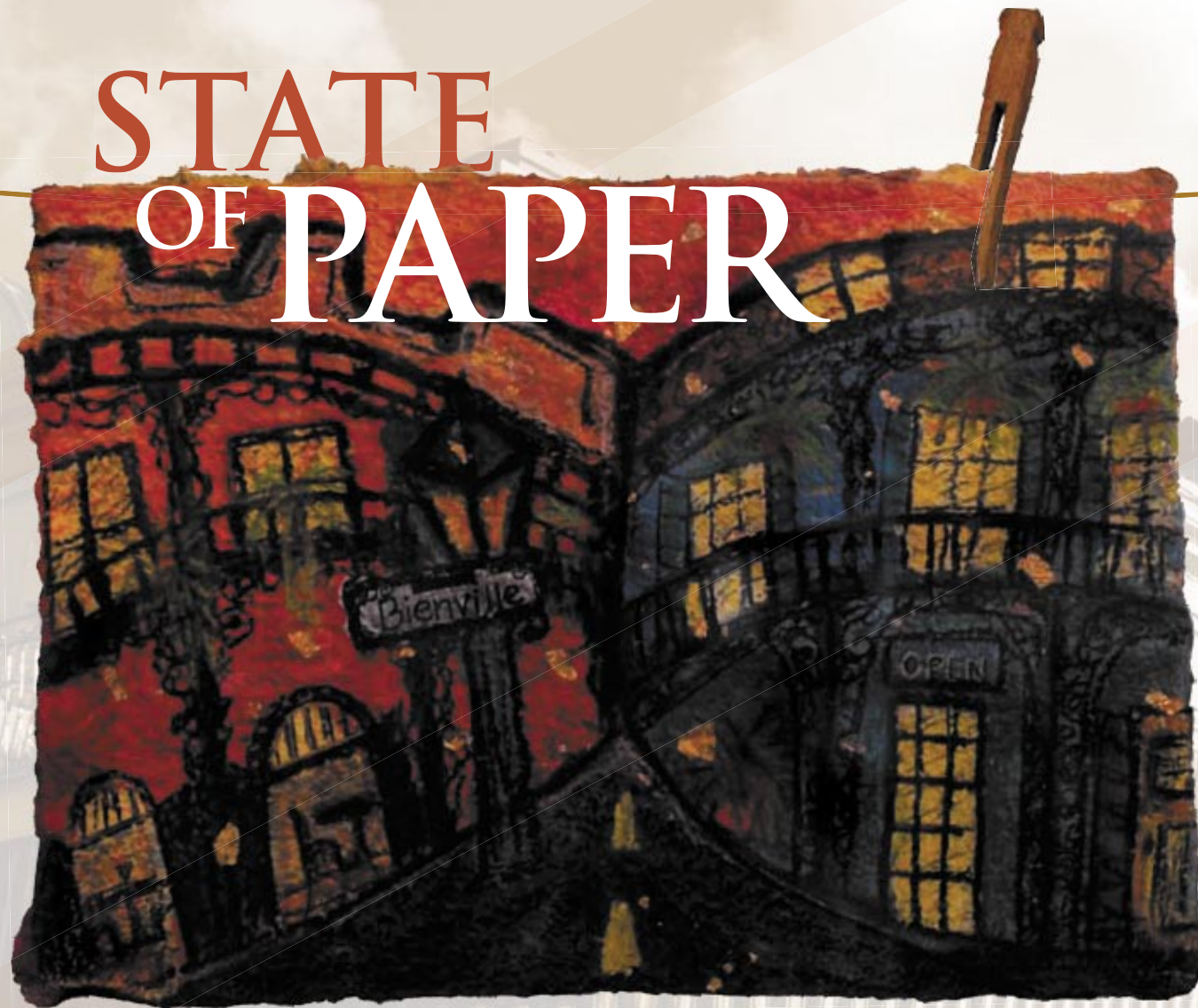


STATE OF PAPER



ARTIST ELLEN MCCORD FUSES HER LOVE FOR LOUISIANA AND PAPERMAKING INTO INCREDIBLE WORKS OF ART.

by **Christa Ward**

Ellen McCord, like many freshmen, began her college career at Nicholls State University without a specific major in mind and scheduled the usual required courses, nothing too extravagant. When prompted to choose an elective, having always considered herself to be a creative person, she chose art. A single printmaking class was all it took to steer Ellen in the direction of a degree in art.

She had soon mastered the techniques of papermaking, ceramic sculptures and her favorite, pulp paper painting. Pulp paper painting is a technique in which shredded and recycled paper is saturated in a water solution, dyed and arranged to capture an artistic interpretation.

McCord says she finds inspiration for her art in old homes, camps or a walk down Bourbon Street. She incorporates picture research, visual images and her

personal interpretation to fuel her creativity, adding a quick sketch and voila, a masterpiece.

While taking a break from her work as director for the South Louisiana Center for the Arts, she began teaching art techniques to the children of Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes in 2001. Eager to unleash her creative energy, she created a small collection of paper pulp paintings. Houma's Art

After Dark exhibitions provided McCord with the opportunity to display her collection. Her painting of redfish, speckled trout and a New Orleans lamppost were sold in record time.

On the heels of the success of her Art After Dark exhibition, Ellen embarked on a new collection. The second collection consisted of 36 framed works. Ellen's latest exhibit, entitled

"Louisiana: The Beaten Path Continued," was on display at Southdown Plantation House/Terrebonne Museum last month. She aspires to exhibit her work in larger galleries around the state in the near future. Many of her pieces can be viewed online at www.dropshots.com/emccord. [POV](#)



Ellen McCord