

PAUL SCHEXNAYDER

Tootle Time Publishing Company and Paul Schexnayder seem to be the kind of almost-too-good-to-be-true collaboration. With their shared Louisiana roots and their appreciation for the excitement with which a child greets the day, they have created a family of characters that seem to dance off the pages.

Paul Schexnayder was born in New Iberia, Louisiana, and much of his imagery is firmly rooted in the Acadiana (now known as Cajun) folklore of his early years.

His style is both sophisticated and childlike, blending reality and dreams into colorful lyrical paintings. Schexnayder's metaphors find their sources in the universal language of nature, architecture, food and music that move in and around each painting.

It was not until Paul went to college that he discovered his passion for drawing and painting and he continues to follow the mantra of his favorite professor: to draw every day.

After college and a stint as a teacher in New England, he traveled to Guatemala and Mexico and was strongly influenced by the cultural expressions and the landscapes of the two countries. His work of the period reflects this exploration.

Returning to Louisiana where he has lived and worked since 1993, he continues to be inspired by the stories of his native state.

Schexnayder's artist statement gives a glimpse into how he approaches the creative process. "Beginning a new work, the composition is sketched out first, while the concept or narrative has already been mapped out in my head. I like to have the idea first and then let the painting develop like film. With the stage drawn, color and interesting characters are put in to keep the action moving."

Schexnayder received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Louisiana State University in 1988. He has shown in numerous group juried and solo shows in Paris, Boston, Houston and New Orleans. He is represented in galleries in New Iberia, Louisiana, and Galveston, Texas.