

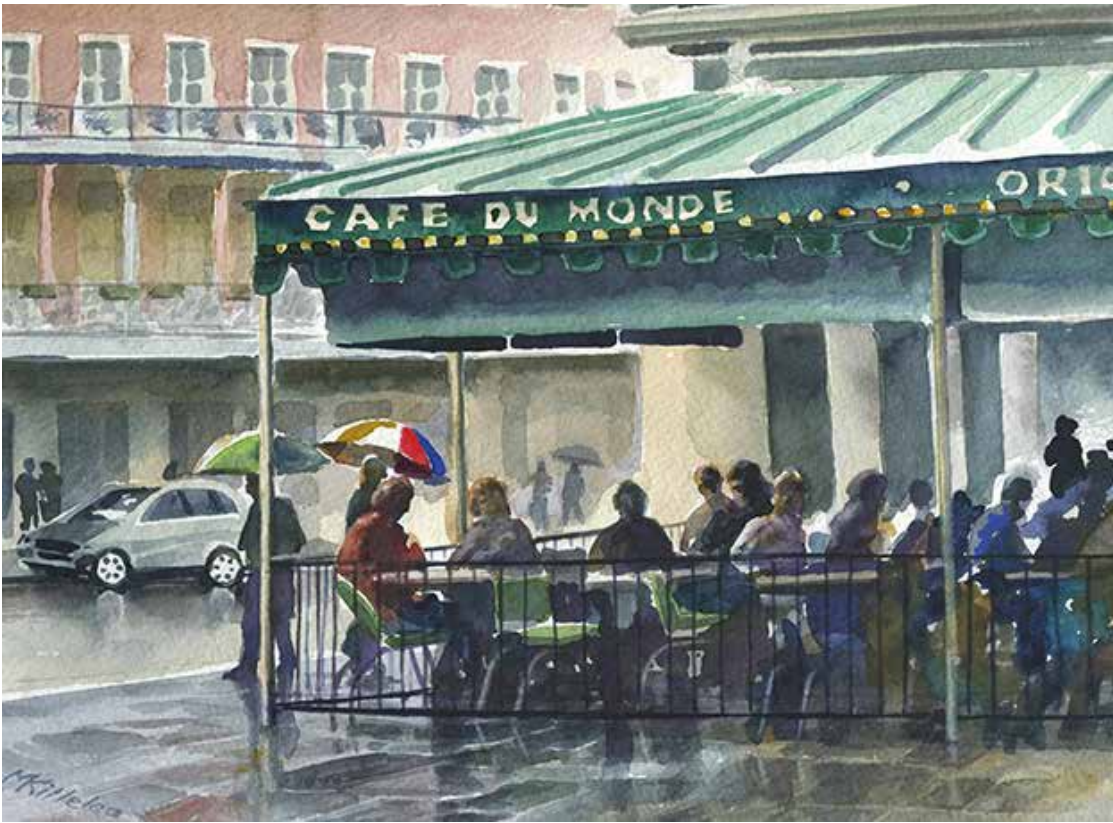
THE FRENCH QUARTER
in
New Orleans

*Letting the good times roll in the Big Easy,
where the party never ends
and people accommodate almost anything*



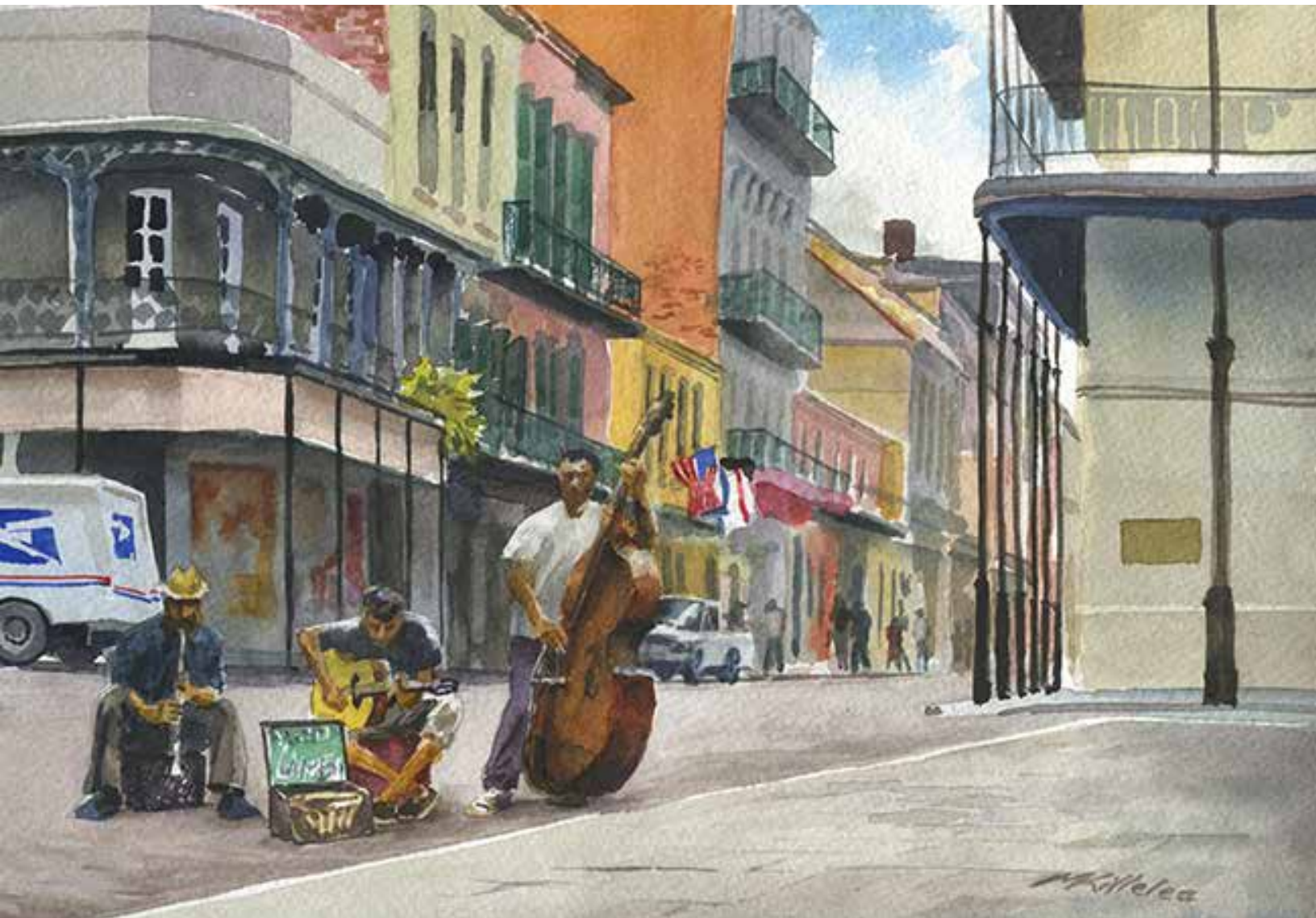
By Mike Killelea

Watercolor impressions painted on the streets of a very lively city.



BEIGNETS are a special New Orleans treat. Deep fried pastry covered with a shovel full of powdered sugar. Accessible even in the rain at the end of a long line at the Café du Monde. (left)

ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT Musicians of all stripes are a movable feast throughout the French Quarter, as here on Royal Street. (below)





**ST. LOUIS
CATHEDRAL**

A tranquil island in a boistrous sea of humanity, it sits in the heart of the city, opposite Jackson Square. (above)

**ST. CHARLES
STREETCAR** is the oldest continuously operating streetcar in the world. Its route along St. Charles Ave, passes many of the wealthiest homes in the city's Garden District. (right)



NEW ORLEANS

is a city that's tacky, loud, obnoxious and loaded with culture, all at the same time. Where an indomitable citizenry personifies the spirit of "joie de vivre". Where funerals are celebrated with brass bands, and the food... ahhh, the food... swells the salivary glands before you can open a menu. Beignets come buried in powdered sugar, and music booms from every nook and cranny close by the levees that once allowed Katrina to overpower everything.

Drunks and vagabonds coexist with loose women (or men) and the wanderers and wealthy who arrive by Mercedes to stroll Bourbon Street's bawdy bars. Mardi Gras never seems to end here, and Mardi

Gras Indians are forever working on next year's outrageous feathered costumes. History lives here in Jackson Square and all along the banks of the river that gave the city life.

But the one thing that soars above this whole living gumbo is the resilience of those who call this place home.

What a place. What a home.



Mike Killelea

*is an artist, author, teacher and traveler who loves to record his visual impressions wherever he goes.
His work can be seen online at www.killeleart.com*