

About the Artist

LOCAL ARTIST BRINGS LOUISIANA'S CULTURE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

CHRISTMAS SEASON HAS come and gone, but Acadiana artist Adrian Fulton is still floating on a cloud since being invited to the White House to hang a Christmas ornament representing Louisiana on the official White House tree. Handpicked by Senator Mary Landrieu due to his volunteerism and philanthropic work, Adrian designed a culturally rich ornament that was a true depiction of Louisiana's culture. The ornament contained a crawfish with a Santa hat, appropriately named Santa Craw, riding a sleigh being pulled by shrimp, with Rudolf the Red-Tailed Shrimp as the leader. Oh, and did we forget to mention that the sleigh was flying over an oil rig? Fulton says, "I wanted to create an ornament that would depict happiness and productivity in Louisiana." Not only did Fulton achieve his goal, but he also created a perfect image of Louisiana's Cajun lifestyle.

Surrounded by a positively electric atmosphere while staying at the White House, Fulton felt like a kid on Christmas morning. He presented a prayer to the First Family, which was given to him by the mother of a fallen Louisiana soldier of whom he painted a portrait. Fulton and his wife were greeted and thanked by First Lady Laura Bush for participating in the event. During their stay, they visited the WWII Monument in honor of Americans who contributed to the war effort.

Fulton is looking forward to his art exhibit in the U.S. Senate, which will be held in early 2009.

BY AGENTKASEY LEJEUNE