



Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art
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CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND STUDY OF EARLY TEXAS ART
GIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA) recognized individuals and institutions with ten achievement awards during the 15th Annual Symposium and Texas Art Fair held in Fort Worth, Texas, April 28-30, 2017. CASETA annually gives awards to recognize individuals and institutions who have made significant contributions to the advancement and study of early Texas art during the previous calendar year and service to the organization for an extended period of time.

Those recognized include:

William J. Hill of Houston, Texas, received The Bill and Mary Cheek Patron Award. This award named for one of CASETA's founders is given to an individual or couple for providing substantial leadership, resources and inspiration in advancing our understanding and appreciation of the rich visual arts heritage of the State of Texas. In the nomination for this award Mr. Hill, who is a long-time patron of CASETA, was acknowledged for, "being one of the most ardent and passionate collectors of Texas art and artifacts. His collection includes paintings, sculpture, pottery, furniture, silver, prints, drawings, various decorative arts, and much more. William J. Hill is knowledgeable in all these areas. He has been a generous exhibition lender from his collection, and has made, and continues to make, innumerable gifts of pieces of remarkable quality and interest to institutions including The Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park in Houston, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Bayou Bend, among many others. He is one of the main supporters of the William J. Hill Artisans and Artists Archive, which is collecting all available documentation concerning 19th Century Texas artists and artisans in all categories, already a significant web-based resource freely open to researchers, and which is continuing to grow thanks to his support. CASETA continually benefits from his support."

Two recipients were given CASETA's **William and Linda Reaves Lifetime Achievement Award which is presented to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself with a lifetime involvement with Texas art as an artist, a patron, collector or scholar of early Texas art.**

Recipient **Morris Matson** of Fort Worth, Texas, "is a long-time enthusiast for and collector of Early Texas Art -- particularly the artists of Fort Worth. He was a close friend of A.C. Cook, an early and important collector of early Texas art. Together they, and other Fort Worth enthusiasts, conserved many significant art works of early Texas art by buying them or finding buyers for them so that they would not disappear. Mr. Matson was active in the Fort Worth Library Foundation, CASETA, and the Amon Carter Museum of Art where, after twenty years as a docent, he is a Docent Emeritus. In 2012 he taught an art history class, "Collecting Early Texas Art For Fun And Profit", at Texas Christian University.

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He served on the CASETA board beginning the year it was founded in 2003 and continued to be an active board member from 2004 through 2007. In 2008 Mr. Matson received the Distinguished Service Award Within the Organization for his long-time and distinguished service to CASETA and the promotion of early Texas art through activities such as board service, fundraising, committee work, and educational work. For many years he was the "Official Volunteer Photographer" and thoroughly documented the CASETA symposia.

The second recipient given CASETA's **William and Linda Reaves Lifetime Achievement Award** is **George Palmer** of Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Palmer is, "the cofounder of TACO (Texas Art Collectors Organization) which was organized over 20 years ago. He has been a tireless board member of CASETA, taking an active role in all aspects of CASETA, including being chair or co-chair of the annual symposium on many occasions, and especially providing expert leadership, fund raising, contacts, and continuity. George Palmer is one of the most knowledgeable collectors on higher quality early Texas art. He also is a tireless researcher who is happy to share his knowledge with others and has mentored many in the early Texas art world as well as being an advocate for early Texas Art to many collectors, curators and those outside early Texas Art. "

According to the person who nominated him, "George Palmer lives and breathes early Texas art."

Randall Tibbits of Houston, Texas, received CASETA's **Distinguished Service Award which is given in recognition of the recipient's long-time and distinguished service to CASETA and the promotion of early Texas art.**

The nomination stated that Mr. Tibbits "is an outstanding researcher and professional writer, authoring numerous articles for the press, art publications and exhibits and has curated or co-curated numerous Texas art exhibitions in the Houston area. He is a known expert on Emma Richardson Cherry and her students and is founder and organizer of Houston Early Texas Art Group. Mr. Tibbits has been a loyal supporter, patron, speaker and board member of CASETA."

The Nancy and Ted Paup CASETA Research Initiative provides grants for graduate or undergraduate students or Texas art museum curators for recognition in the advancement of scholarship and our understanding of early Texas art and is funded by support from CASETA donors. Two awards were presented for the **2016-17 Nancy and Ted Paup CASETA Research Initiative.**

Recipient **Jenna Cooper, Brush Square Museums (O. Henry Museum, Susanna Dickinson Museum) in Austin, Texas,** was presented with an award for her original research in an article entitled, **Where Neoclassicism Meets Romanticism: The Sculptures of Elisabet Ney,** which will be submitted for publication in a scholarly journal.

The second recipient is **Wendy Earle, Curator of the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas.** The award recognized her original research and curating of the exhibition, **Three Millennia of Art in West Texas, to be shown at the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas, July through September, 2017.** The exhibition includes components on Ancient Rock Art, Texas Regionalism, and contemporary art in West Texas since the 1970s.

Publication Awards were presented to three individuals and three institutions, "who have made the most important contribution to the published literature on early Texas art during the previous calendar year."

The publication awards were given for the book, **Julian Onderdonk: A Catalogue Raisonné** by Harry and Elizabeth Halff, which was published by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in 2016; **Rounded Up in Glory, Frank Reaugh Texas Renaissance Man** by Michael R. Grauer and published by the University of North Texas Press in 2016; and the exhibition catalogue, **This Was Contemporary Art: Fine and Decorative Arts in Houston 1945-1965,** published by The Heritage Society, Houston, in 2016.

Julian Onderdonk: A Catalogue Raisonné, written by **Harry and Elizabeth Halff**, is the definitive resource on Julian Onderdonk (1882-1922) and brings Onderdonk's extraordinary paintings to a national audience. It is the first publication to document the complete works of Onderdonk and demonstrates the breadth, quality, and brilliance of his work. Beautifully illustrated, the catalogue includes a chronology of the artist's life and career along with an essay by Emily Ballew Neff. An exhibition, **Julian Onderdonk and the Texan Landscape**, was mounted by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, to accompany the publication of the catalogue raisonné in 2016.

Michael R. Grauer, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs/Curator of Art and Western Heritage, is author of the book, **Rounded Up in Glory, Frank Reaugh Texas Renaissance Man**, which is the first full-length and definitive biography on Frank Reaugh (1860–1945) of Dallas, Texas, who was known as “the Dean of Texas artists.” The book thoroughly documents Reaugh's prominent place in early Texas art. The University of North Texas Press was also recognized as publisher of this book in 2016.

The Heritage Society in Houston, Texas, published the exhibition catalogue, *This Was Contemporary Art: Fine and Decorative Arts in Houston 1945-1965*, as a companion piece to the exhibition of the same name. This beautifully illustrated catalogue contains color plates and an exhibition checklist along with thoughtful and contemplative essays written by Randolph K. Tibbits and Ben Koush, with end notes by Tam Kiehnhoff. The catalogue designer is Linda Reaves. The exhibition, mounted July 14 – October 15, 2016, was based on the inaugural exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum in 1948 entitled, **This Is Contemporary Art**, which looked at art in Houston at that time.

The final two awards were given to two institutions that had, “organized and presented outstanding exhibitions on early Texas art during the previous calendar year.”

Exhibition Award given to Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas, for the exhibition, *Jose Arpa, A Spanish Painter in Texas*, shown from **April 9 – September 5, 2016**. Arpa's paintings and his teachings impacted "Texas Impressionism" more than any artist in south-central Texas. The exhibition was curated by Michael R. Grauer, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs/Curator of Art and Western Heritage, and was the first major Jose Arpa exhibition since 1998 and it showcased Arpa as one of the Texas artists who brought Impressionism to the Lone Star State. After its initial showing at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum it traveled to three additional Texas art museums.

Exhibition Award presented to the Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi, Texas, for the exhibition, *The Color of Being/El Color del Ser: DOROTHY HOOD (1918-2000)*, exhibited **September 29, 2016, through January 8, 2017**. This exhibition of 20th-century American artist and Texas Modernist, Dorothy Hood was the first major critical overview of Hood's paintings and works on paper produced from the 1930s until her death in 2000. The retrospective reestablished Hood as an important Modernist painter and integral to the ongoing dialogue of abstraction by artists of the postwar period. Curated by Susie Kalil, author and independent curator of Houston, Texas, the exhibition included an accompanying hardcover monograph also written by Kalil.

The Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA) is a state-wide organization whose mission is to promote the preservation, study and appreciation of Texas visual arts and its history. For more information on CASETA awards, programs, membership, and general information visit CASETA's website at www.caseta.org or contact the CASETA office in San Angelo, Texas, at 325.212.4872.