



Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 14th Annual Symposium and Texas Art Fair held in Dallas, Texas, May 13 – 15, 2016. 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:

Bill and Cynthia Gayden of Dallas, 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. and Mrs. Gayden, who are long-time patrons of CASETA, were acknowledged for, "for providing substantial leadership, resources and inspiration in advancing our understanding and appreciation of the rich visual arts heritage of the State of Texas." They have financially supported publication of museum exhibition catalogs and early Texas art museum collection purchases. Bill and Cynthia Gayden have given philanthropic gifts in Dallas and across Texas. They are long-time patrons of CASETA.

Bill Reaves of Houston, Texas, was awarded CASETA's 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. Mr. Reaves was recognized, " for founding CASETA in 1999 along with co-founder, Bill Cheek. He played a major role in the growth and development of CASETA for over a decade serving as a board member and as Board Chairman for six years 2004 through 2006 and 2011 through 2013. He is recognized as a collector and scholar of early Texas art and beginning in 2006 as a gallery owner (now William Reaves | Sarah Foltz Fine Art in Houston) specializing in early and contemporary Texas art.

During his time of service on the CASETA board he played a significant role in advancing the prestige of CASETA and generating interest in this vital aspect of our heritage among educators, collectors, scholars, museum curators and the public.

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In a period of challenging transition and at significant personal expense and countless hours of hard work he led the organization to a position of strength, stability and growth. He is widely known to be a person of strong intellect and persistence combined with a sense of humor and a warm and congenial personality. Although Bill no longer serves on the board he continues his devotion to early Texas art and is a generous donor and advocate for CASETA.”

The CASETA Research Award is given to a graduate or undergraduate student for recognition in the advancement of scholarship and our understanding of early Texas art and is funded by support from CASETA donors. The **2015-16 CASETA Research Award** was presented to **Linda East**, who received her Masters of Arts from the University of North Texas, Denton, in May, 2016. The award was given for Ms. East’s MA thesis entitled, “Semiconductors and Symbolism: Thomas Stell’s Ceramic Murals and the Story of Texas Instruments” which focused on Texas architect O’Neil Ford (1905-1982) and Texas artist Thomas M. Stell, Jr. (1898-1981) and the work they completed for Texas Instruments in Dallas.

Publication Awards were presented to two 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, ***Allie Victoria Tennant and the Visual Arts in Texas*** by Light Cummins, PhD, which was published by Texas A&M Press in 2015; ***Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh***, Peter Mears, Editor, and published by the University of Texas Press in 2015; and the exhibition catalogue, ***Texas Modernists*** published by The Grace Museum in 2015.

Light Townsend Cummins is the Guy M. Bryan Jr. Professor of American History at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. The subject of his book, ***Allie Victoria Tennant*** ((1892-1971) was a vocal and very public advocate of Regionalism in the 1920s and 1930s. A true pathfinder, she helped to create and nurture art institutions that still exist today, most especially the Dallas Museum of Art. Dr. Cummins's book explores the development of Allie Victoria Tennant as an artist and sculptor in the context of the evolving art scene in Dallas and Texas, providing much new information about both. Texas A&M University Press was also acknowledged with an award as the publisher of ***Allie Victoria Tennant and the Visual Arts in Texas***.

Peter F. Mears, Curator of Art at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, is the editor of the book, ***Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh***. Artist, educator, inventor, and naturalist, Charles Franklin Reaugh (1860–1945) is often called the “Dean of Texas Artists.” Using more than one hundred artworks from the Harry Ransom Center’s Frank Reaugh collection, and works from public and private collections across the state, this beautifully illustrated book, a companion to the exhibition, ***Frank Reaugh: Landscape and the American West***, examines Reaugh’s mastery of the pastel medium. Essays from seven contributors discuss Reaugh’s life and long career. The University of Texas Press in Austin was also acknowledged with an award as the publisher of ***Windows on the West: The Art of Frank Reaugh*** in 2015.

The Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas, published the exhibition catalogue ***Texas Modernists*** as a companion piece to two exhibitions, ***Seymour Fogel: On the Wall and Beyond*** and ***The Abstract Impulse: Texas Modernists***, May 28 – October 24, 2015, this beautifully illustrated catalogue contains color plates and exhibition checklists. Thoughtful essays on Seymour Fogel and his work and the 53 modernist artists are written by Judy Tedford Deaton and Katie Robinson Edwards, respectively.

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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 The Grace Museum in Abilene, Texas, for the exhibition, *Seymour Fogel: On the Wall and Beyond* shown from **May 28 - October 24, 2015**. Seymour Fogel (1911-1984) was an important American painter, muralist and sculptor. Fogel was born in New York and came to Texas in 1946 to join the art faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. He is considered an important early modernist painter whose hard-edged style and mastery of color was greatly admired in his time. This solo exhibition was an opportunity to reexamine the development of his unique style of modernism. It was one of two exhibitions included in the overarching theme of Texas Modernists which were co-curated by Judy Tedford Deaton, Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections, The Grace Museum and Katie Robinson Edwards, Curator, Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum.

Exhibition Award presented to The Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin for the exhibition, *Frank Reaugh: Landscape and the American West*, exhibited August 4 through November 29, 2015. This exhibition offered an epic historical survey of the most significant works created by artist, educator, inventor, and naturalist, Charles Franklin Reaugh (1860-1945), one of the Southwest's earliest and most distinguished artists. The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center's Curator of Art, Peter F. Mears, who curated the exhibition, drew on more than 100 artworks in the Ransom Center's Frank Reaugh collection, as well as other archives, museums, and private collections across the state. The exhibition examined Reaugh's mastery of the pastel medium and his sophisticated yet direct approach to the challenges of landscape painting, particularly en plein air. Small sketches, larger studio works and the epic series of mural-size pastels underscored Reaugh being known as “the Dean of (early) Texas Artists.”

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.

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