



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 seven achievement awards during the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium and Texas Art Fair held in San Antonio, Texas, April 27-29, 2018.** 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:

**Jill Wilkinson and the Still Water Foundation of Austin, 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 Ms. Wilkinson, who is President of the Still Water Foundation Board of Directors, and a long-time patron of CASETA, was acknowledged for, "being a practicing artist, gallery owner, art museum trustee, and art philanthropist who believes that the best art touches what is both profoundly human and profoundly divine in human beings, and is therefore of primary importance to us all."

The Still Water Foundation was recognized as a, "family foundation whose philanthropy benefits countless local and state-wide arts education, architectural conservation, and community-based initiatives through grants and financial assistance to support early Texas art exhibitions, gifts of art to art museums, and presentation and preservation of important works of American and early Texas art in public collections. The Still Water Foundation has been a major underwriter of the CASETA annual symposium and CASETA, like many other organizations funded by the Still Water Foundation, has enjoyed on-going financial assistance fostering opportunities for long range growth and future planning."

Texas artists and CASETA supporters Henri Gadbois and Leila McConnell of Houston, Texas, received the **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.**

Henri Gadbois and Leila McConnell, "have been making Texas art individually and together for more than 70 years. Both are Houstonians who found their calling as artists young, in the 1940s. Since their marriage in the 1950s, they have developed unique, but parallel, careers as among the most productive artists in the state. For many years, Henri taught art in the Houston Public Schools while Leila was at home with their young family. But they both persevered in their art, life-pressures notwithstanding. Works by each are in scores of private and public collections of art, and they have shown in literally hundreds of solo and group exhibitions. For decades, from the 1950s to the 1980s, they were at the core of the art world of Houston, and of Texas. Though they were well established long before the founding of CASETA, since coming into the CASETA family, they have been steady supporters and participants who have championed CASETA. "

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**Tam Kiehnhoff** 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 in part that Ms. Kiehnhoff "has provided exemplary service to CASETA and the cause of Early Texas Art for over 15 years. She has served on the CASETA Board since 2009, as member, vice-chair and chair and has been one of those most effective officers in bringing the organization to the stable position it has achieved. She has worked tirelessly in raising funds through securing symposium sponsors and enlisting Texas Art Fair dealers over many years. She has also admirably served as the voice of CASETA at symposia and in other events around the state, and has curated or co-curated a number of exhibitions with Houston area arts organizations."

**Publication Awards were presented to individuals and institutions, "who have made the most important contribution to the published literature on early Texas art during the previous calendar year."** Publication awards were given for the book, ***Sense of Home: The Art of Richard Stout***, edited by William E. and Linda J. Reaves which was published by Texas A & M University Press in 2017; and to the Houston Art Group for the exhibition catalogue, ***Planned, Organized, and Established: Houston Art Cooperatives in the 1930s***.

***Sense of Home: The Art of Richard Stout***, edited by William E. and Linda J. Reaves, is a beautifully illustrated book which critically examines a career spanning many of the formative decades of Texas art. Including biographical information it is thoughtful retrospective of Richard Stout's career, documenting his works which are held in national and international collections. **Texas A&M University Press** of College Station, Texas, received an award as publisher of this book in 2017. An exhibition by the same name was mounted by the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, which will travel to several Texas art museums.

**The Houston Art Group** received a Publication award for the exhibition catalogue, ***Planned, Organized, and Established: Houston Art Cooperatives in the 1930s*** which was published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name mounted at the Julia Ideson building of the Houston Public Library from August 12 – November 9, 2017. This catalogue documents two prominent art cooperatives in Houston of the 1930s: the Houston Artists Gallery and the Negro Art Guild and shows that Black artists were casualties of a segregated culture. Thoughtful essays by Randolph Tibbits, Kelly Montana, and Scott Grant Barker are included. Linda Reaves was catalogue designer. The Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA) was publisher.

**The final award was the Exhibition Award given to an institution that had, "organized and presented outstanding an exhibition on early Texas art during the previous calendar year."**

**Exhibition Award** given to the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum** for the exhibition, ***Mentoring a Muse: Charles Umlauf & Farrah Fawcett*** from **February 16 – August 20, 2017**. This exhibition brought together for the first time the work of Farrah Fawcett, an international icon, and her mentor, Professor Charles Umlauf, with whom she studied art as an undergraduate student at the University of Texas at Austin from 1965-1968. Works by Fawcett from her personal collection were generously loaned by the Blanton Museum of Art. ***Mentoring a Muse: Charles Umlauf & Farrah Fawcett*** showed the extraordinary aspect of an actress who until now was known mostly for her broad smile and beautiful looks.

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](http://www.caseta.org) or contact the CASETA office in San Angelo, Texas, at 325.212.4872.