

# HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group

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## HETAG Newsletter No. 31, March 2019



Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art  
Friday-Sunday, March 29-30, 2019

[The 2019 Casetta Symposium and Texas Art Fair](#) at the TCEA Conference Center in Austin, TX. Registration, program and hotel info now available on the [Casetta website](#). Thanks to all who helped make HETAG a Gold sponsor again this year, and to all Houston individual and organization [symposium sponsors](#), including The Menil Collection and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. See you all in Austin in just two weeks!

### Symposium speakers for 2019:

**Katherine Brimberry**  
Co-founder and Director  
Flatbed Press and Gallery, Austin, TX  
Topic: Early Texas Artists in the History  
of the Flatbed Press

**Michael R. Grauer**  
McCasland Chair of Cowboy Culture/  
Curator of Cowboy Collections and Western Art  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum,  
Oklahoma City, OK  
*Porfirio Salinas: Serious Artist or Potboiler Painter*

**Susie Kalil**  
Author/ Independent Curator, Houston, TX  
and

**Roger Winter**  
Artist, New York, NY  
*Fire and Ice: A conversation with artist Roger  
Winter*

**Liz Kim, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor in Art History  
Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX  
*Coreen Spellman's Abstractions*

**James Surls**  
Internationally-known artist and sculptor,  
*Then, Now and Tomorrow*

**Bradley Sumrall**  
Curator of the Collection  
Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans,  
LA  
Topic: The Ogden Museum and Roger Ogden  
Collections

**Ron Tyler, Ph.D.**  
Former Director, Amon Carter Museum of  
American Art, Fort Worth, TX  
*The Art of Texas: 250 Years*

Panel – *So Much Art, Too Little Space: What can  
Collectors Do with Their Artwork?*

**Sue Canterbury**  
The Pauline Gill Sullivan Associate Curator of  
American Art, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX

**Ted Lusher**  
Early Texas Art Collector, Austin, TX

**Andrea Perez**  
Attorney specializing in art law, Kessler Collins  
Attorneys at Law, Dallas, TX

**Moderator – Bonnie Campbell**  
Director, Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens,  
Houston

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Some photos from our HETAG Houston art tour of **Glenwood Cemetery**, March 10, 2019 – including what just may be the best view of the Houston skyline you can find anywhere.

It was a beautiful day in a gorgeous setting when HETAGer **Bob Pando, PhD**, toured us to the final resting places of some who have been influential in the art history of our city, pointed out some of the memorial art that graces their graves, and gave a fascinating history of Glenwood.

Some of those we visited, either as memorial artists or Glenwood residents, were William McVey, Virgie Claxton, Annette Finnigan, Caroline Weiss Law, Jesús Moroles, William Ward Watkin, Emma Richardson Cherry (by inspiration), Dick Wray, Jim Love as well as many more. And, since no visit to Glenwood is complete without it, we stopped by two of the most famous residents, Howard Hughes, Jr., and Hollywood beauty, actress Gene Tierney.

For those who missed the tour, we may be able to talk Bob into doing it again sometime – or it may even become part of the regular Glenwood tour offerings of Preservation Houston.



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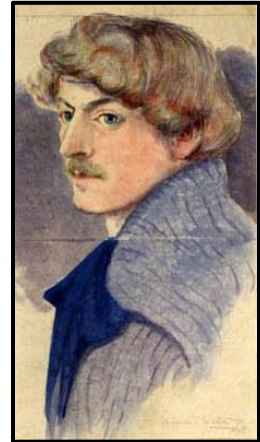
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### Houston Art History Notes: Emma Richardson Cherry in Giverny, 1888/1889



Vintage postcard view of Giverny.

In the spring of 1889, future Houston artist Emma Richardson Cherry (1859-1954) traveled from Paris to Giverny to visit her childhood friend, Mary Hoyt Sellar.



Mary Hoyt Sellar (l), Emma Richardson Cherry (c) and Dawson Dawson-Watson (r).

The two went to France together in December, 1887, as travelling companions, but Mary soon fell in love with, and married, a young English painter named Dawson Dawson-Watson. He was an early member of the nascent art colony at Giverny, and the newlyweds went there to live.

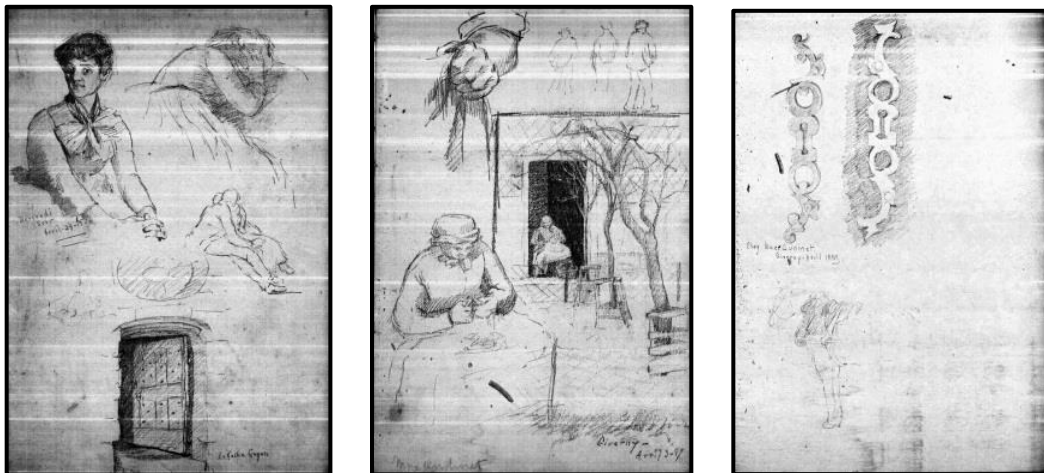
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Two sketches by Mrs. Cherry of Dawson Dawson-Watson at Giverny, 1888 or 1889

Cherry was also a newlywed, having married Dillin Brook Cherry in Kansas City only two months before leaving on an already-planned, two-years of art study in Paris. She had visited the Dawson-Watsons at Giverny at least once before – in October 1888. Both then, and on her return in spring 1889, she took photographs, sketched and painted, making her the first woman documented to have made art in Giverny (Gerds "Monet's Giverny" p33).



More of Mrs. Cherry's drawings in Giverny and surrounding towns, April 1889

She must have written letters home about the visits, since she was a voluminous and constant letter writer throughout her life. Unfortunately, those letters have not survived, so we don't have details about her time in Giverny. What have survived are half a dozen paintings, numerous drawings and a few photos.

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ER Cherry *Rainy Afternoon, Giverny* WC 6x7in (l) and untitled 1888/89 OonC 8x10in (r).

In Giverny, Emma Richardson Cherry and Dawson Dawson-Watson began a life-long personal and artistic friendship. They painted these two pieces working side-by-side *en plein air*.



ER Cherry *Normande* 1888 WC 16x20 in. (l);  
Dawson Dawson-Watson *Giverny* 1888 OonC 14 3/4x19 1/2 in. Terra Foundation Collection (r).



The street in Giverny they painted, as it looks today, along with two photos included among Mrs. Cherry's papers: *Giverny* (l) and *On the Road to the Garden of Madame* (r).

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These works of art and photos give a glimpse of a now world-famous art destination at a time when it was hardly known to anyone other than local residents and the few painters who found it an appealing, and cheap, place to live and work. They also give us insight into the artistic development of a soon-to-be Houstonian (she didn't finally get to Houston until the mid-1890s) who put her stamp on the art culture and civic life of our city to a degree that has seldom been equaled by other Houstonians.

More of the paintings that Mrs. Cherry did while visiting in Giverny:

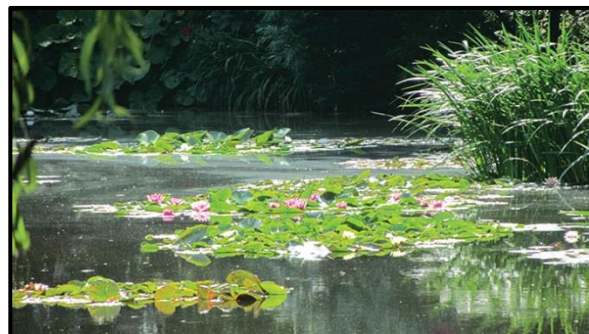


ER Cherry *Normandy Fields* ca1889 OonC 12x16 in (l); *The Harvesters* 1889 OonC 15¼ x 19¼ Kirkland Museum (r).

Note: Discussions are underway with the [ROAD SCHOLAR](#) educational travel company about a special, small-group **EMMA RICHARDSON CHERRY** version of their popular

### [IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GREAT MASTERS: IMPRESSIONISM ALONG THE SEINE](#)

river cruise – including Paris, Honfleur, Rouen and Giverny (of course), for September 30 – October 11, **2020**. This is a long way away and still evolving, but put it on your radar. I'll share details as they develop.



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**Coming soon in Houston and beyond:**

***NEXT: Three Generations of Houston Abstract Expressionists***

**Featuring the work of Richard Stout, Ibsen Espada and Jonathan Paul Jackson and**

***Immediacy: Watercolors by Dick Wray***

[Foltz Fine Art](#)

2143 Westheimer

On View March 16—April 27, 2019

Opening Reception: Saturday, March 16, 6-8pm

Artist Coffee Talk: Saturday, March 23, 1-3pm

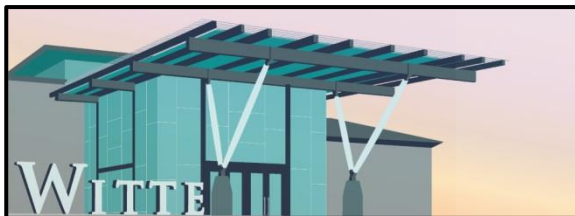


### **Women in the Arts Panel**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 6 pm**

**Sarah Beth Wilson McKeel, HETAGer and Director of Exhibitions and Curatorial Projects at Art League Houston, will moderate a panel discussion about women in the arts in Houston. Panelists will be Houston artists Pat Colville, Terrell James and Rabea Ballin.**

**The program is organized by Visual Arts Alliance and will take place at MATCH. Details, including ticketing information, will follow, but mark your calendar now.**



### **The Art of Texas: 250 Years**

**Opens May 4, 2019 San Antonio**

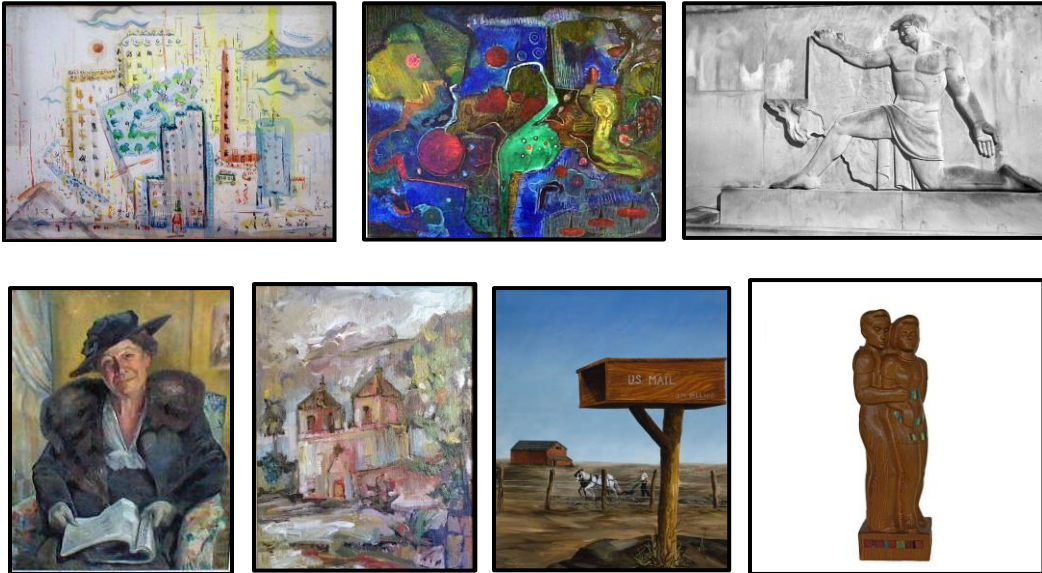
This May a major and massive exhibition will open at the Witte Museum – *The Art of Texas: 250 Years*. Artists range from 19th century Theodore Gentilz to 20th century Georgia O’Keeffe. The more than hundred art pieces will include a mural by John Biggers, a sculpture by Jesus Morales, and a painting by Julian Onderdonk, “Chili Queens at the Alamo,” that once graced the Oval Office during President George W. Bush’s time in the White House. Art will travel from museums and collectors from throughout the United States and in Texas, from El Paso to Houston and from Dallas to Corpus Christi.

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Who made that – 1930s – The next in a series testing our Houston art eyes to see if we can spot which of these artists made these works, all from the 1930s. Answers below.

The artists this month are William Houliston, Robert Preusser, Gene Charlton, Belle Heaps, Mabel Fairfax Karl, Forrest Bess and William McVey.



**The mission of HETAG is to illuminate Houston's art history by providing viewing opportunities for art, by supporting and doing research on the artists and art communities working in Houston through the years, and by spreading the word.**

**Back issues of the HETAG Newsletter are available via the  
University of Houston Libraries  
Digital Library**

**<https://digital.lib.uh.edu/collection/hetag>**

**Randy Tibbits, coordinator  
HETAG: The Houston Earlier  
Texas Art Group  
[tibbits@rice.edu](mailto:tibbits@rice.edu)**

Answers to WHO MADE THAT? – 1930s

Top row: Gene Charlton, Robert Preusser, William McVey  
Second row: Belle Heaps, Forrest Bess, William Houliston,  
Mabel Fairfax Karl