


HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group

Newsletter No 3, May 2016

I hope many of you will be able to join me Saturday, May 7th, 10am, for my talk on Houston art history at the Glassell School of Art. It's free and open to the public.

<http://www.mfah.org/visit/maps-directions/glassell-school/>



**BAYOU CITY ISM'S:
Houston Art from Impressionism
to Abstract Expressionism
1890-1960**

with lecturer Randy Tibblts

May 7, 2016

10:00am - 11:00am

Glassell School of Art Auditorium; Room 226

Houston's Art Community has become a national success; how did this happen? This lecture investigates the effect of the isms, from Impressionism to Modernism to Abstract Expressionism, as expressed through the work of Houston artists beginning in 1890, when the roots of our thriving artistic community were just beginning to spread.

The lecture begins with Emma Richardson Cherry, the first woman documented to have painted at Giverny and the first modern artist in Houston, who introduced Impressionism to the Bayou City 1896 when she organized the first Impressionist exhibition in Texas; and continues, through the second-wave Abstract Expressionism of Richard Stout and others, down to 1960.

In between, Post-Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, Synchronism, Surrealism, Precisionism, Magic Realism—everything—even a little Realism and Regionalism, found their way to the city. Since Houston was a little on the edge of the art world, they all took a few years (or decades) to get here, but they all did.


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CASETA SYMPOSIUM in Dallas, May 13-15, 2016

at the Hilton Anatole Dallas. Registration details are posted at the CASETA website:

<http://www.caseta.org/sessions>

CASETA ★
Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art



Florence McCung
Oil on canvas, 1941
Collection of Mark and Geraldyn Kever

Dallas Cityscape

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF
EARLY TEXAS ART
**14th Annual SYMPOSIUM
& TEXAS ART FAIR**
May 13 – 15, 2016
Hilton Anatole Dallas
2201 N. Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75207
**Monet and Metropolitan Ballrooms
Tower Mezzanine Level**

Register Today!
Go to www.caseta.org for more details
Questions call 325.212.4872

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
NICOLE ATZBACH Curator, Meadows Museum, Dallas
DOREEN BOLGER Director, Retired, Baltimore Museum of Art
CARMEN CHAMPION 2014-15 CASETA Research Award Recipient, Houston
PHILLIP COLLINS Chief Curator, Retired, African American Museum, Dallas
JUDY TEDFORD DEATON Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections,
The Grace Museum, Abilene
REX KOONTZ Director, School of Art, University of Houston
OLIVIER MESLAY Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs, Dallas Museum of Art
ANDREW J. WALKER Director, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth
JAY WEHNERT Director, Intuitive Eye, Collector and Dealer, Houston
SARAH BETH WILSON Curator of Exhibitions and Collections,
Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont

Also visit **CASETA TEXAS ART FAIR**
with the following participating dealers
Beuhler Fine Art • Charles Morin's Vintage Texas Paintings • David Dike Fine Art
Heritage Auctions • Rainone Galleries • Robert Alker Fine Art • Russell Tether Fine Art
William Reaves! Sarah Foltz Fine Art

AND MORE TO COME!
*Admission to the Texas Art Fair opening Friday free with Symposium Registration
Texas Art Fair will be open free to the public on Saturday and Sunday*

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Exhibitions of interest:

The Texas Aesthetic X

May 6 - June 25, 2016

Opening Reception - Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 6:00 - 8:30pm

William Reaves | Sarah Foltz Fine Art

http://www.reavesart.com/Exhibit_Detail.cfm?ShowsID=152

Forrest Bess Paintings

05 MARCH 2016 - 14 MAY 2016

Michael Tracy Paintings

02 APRIL 2016 - 28 MAY 2016

HIRAM BUTLER GALLERY

4520 BLOSSOM STREET

HOUSTON

<http://hrambutler.com/>

JOSE ARPA SPANISH PAINTER IN TEXAS

Apr 9, 2016 - Monday Sep 5, 2016

Panhandle Plains Historical Museum

Canyon, TX

This exhibition is the first major Jose Arpa exhibition since 1998. It places Arpa firmly in the pantheon of Texas artists who brought Impressionism to the Lone Star State and gives a more complete picture of Texas artists' contribution to American and world Impressionism.

<http://panhandleplains.org/gallery.asp?pageid=7&galid=481>

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Earlier Houston Art history notes: Anna Belle Peck, a not quite forgotten earlier Houston artist

In 1950 the three young Houston women in the photo below were students together in the school of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (now the Glassell School). Most of you probably know Leila McConnell (l) and Gertrude Levy Barnstone (c), who have been active artists here right down to the present. But Anna Belle Peck (1930-1990), the other eager young artist, is hardly known today. It's not because she didn't have talent; the examples of her work included here make that clear. She was exhibiting, along with her classmates, throughout the 1950s – even winning prizes. But by 1960, she stopped exhibiting, and very likely stopped making art at all. According to the city directories, she worked for many years at the Rice Hotel, finally as bookkeeper in the laundry. After that she was bookkeeper in other businesses in the city. Her obituary lists her only survivor as her mother, so maybe life and making a living as a single woman didn't leave her much time for art. Making sure that Houston doesn't forget to look at the work of artists from our past, like Peck, is what HETAG is all about. (The portrait of Peck is by McConnell, done during their student days.)



Morning Snow Enamel on board 1952 (l) and *Checkmate* Casein on board 1953 (r)



Leila McConnell *Portrait of Anna Belle Peck* Oil on Canvas early 1950s

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Research notes:

And speaking of city directories, as I did in the history note above, they're a great source of information on HETAG-related topics of all kinds, including names and addresses of artists, galleries, art suppliers, among many others. For more recent directories you'll need to consult the actual printed volumes in a local library, but thanks to the ongoing digitization efforts of Houston Public Library, you can dig into the Houston directories from the mid-1920s and before online at this link. And while you're there, check out the other great local history sources they've made available.

<http://digital.houstonlibrary.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/citydir>

HETAG is happy to be working with **The Heritage Society** on this exhibition:

This WAS Contemporary Art: Fine and Decorative Arts in Houston 1945–1965

Thursday, July 14–Saturday, October 15, 2016
The Heritage Society Museum Gallery

The inaugural exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Museum in 1948 was a show called “This Is Contemporary Art”, combining fine and decorative arts. It was a concept, perhaps growing out of a Bauhaus approach brought to Houston by Robert Preusser, emphasizing that both were really art and that art was something to bring into all aspects of life. It was also the era of Handmakers, a cooperative of Houston artists making things for the home. This exhibition will use the 1948 show as a model for a look back at a time when Houston and the Houston art world were in transition from regional to national – even international – significance. Though the art and decorative items in the earlier show were not Houston made, this time we will be showcasing Houston art and, wherever possible, decorative arts and furniture made, designed and/or installed here.

<http://www.heritagesociety.org/exhibits/>

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Lucretia Donnell Newman Coke died the morning of April 27, 2016, in Austin, Texas, at the age of 99. As noted by Michael Grauer, she was the last surviving student of Frank Reaugh, the great artist of the Texas Landscape. With her death we've lost the last living link to Reaugh and his dedication to depicting Texas and to kindling the flame of art in Texans. Which makes it all the more important for those of in HETAG, CASETA, TACO and other such groups to make sure that such pioneers are remembered and that their art is seen.



Bill Condon *Cemetery, Saltillo* Ink and Watercolor on cardboard 1960

Randy Tibbits, coordinator
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