

HETAG Newsletter No. 41, April 2020



**The Virtual
Earlier Houston Art Symposium
& Earlier Houston Art Fair**

And so the [18th Annual CASETA Early Texas Art Symposium & Texas Art Fair](#), our once-a-year total immersion ETA weekend, which had been scheduled for late April right here in Houston, has been cancelled. We understand, under the circumstances; we support the CASETA Board for making the tough decision early; but we are sad that for the first time in eighteen years we won't be able to gather with our friends from around the state to share this always exciting, illuminating, invigorating experience.

The hope is that it will be possible to resume the in-person symposium & art fair in Spring 2021, perhaps even here in Houston, and, we can hope, including many of the tantalizing/intriguing speakers/topics we were so looking forward to this year. CASETA is deliberating now about that, and about other offerings that might be possible until next spring, to help us feed our addiction for Early Texas Art. There will be more news in the near future about that.

But in the meantime, as we shelter-in-place and socially distance, we can revel in our own **VIRTUAL EARLIER HOUSTON ART SYMPOSIUM & ART FAIR**. Borrowing lavishly from previous CASETA symposia, and elsewhere, I've brought together the following links to online talks, publications, and gallery and artist websites, which together provide a virtual survey of Earlier Houston Art from the 1890s down to today. This won't replace the actual symposium, but maybe it can help get us through to the day when we'll once again be able to gather together in person. Enjoy!

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group

TALKS ON EARLIER HOUSTON ART – Videos of all the talks presented at the [CASETA Annual Symposium & Texas Art Fair](#) since 2014 are available for viewing on YouTube via the CASETA Website. These talks, focusing specifically on Houston, are drawn from that goldmine of information about our art history (augmented with a few from other sources). Even if you were in the audience for the original presentation, they're well worth viewing again.



[Sense of Home: A Conversation with Richard Stout](#) and Sarah Beth Wilson McKeel (CASETA Symposium 2018)



[Then, Now and Tomorrow: James Surls](#) (CASETA Symposium 2019)



[Dorothy Hood: The Color of Being](#) – Talk by Susie Kalil (CASETA Symposium 2017)

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group



Across the Miles: Robert Preusser and Texas After 1954 – Talk by Althea Ruoppo (CASETA Symposium 2017)

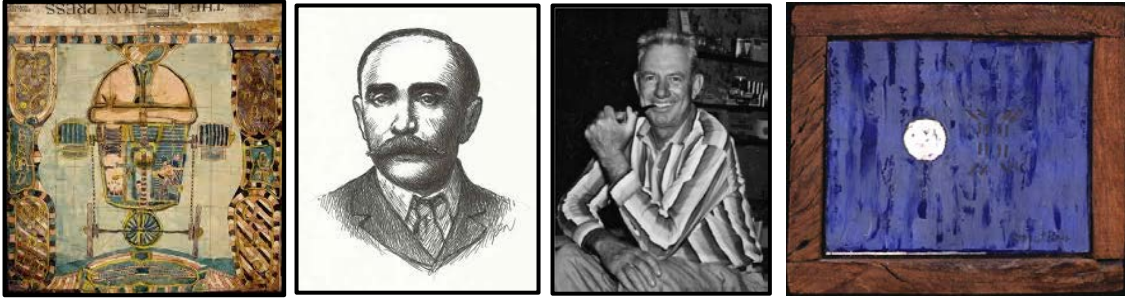


Guys and Gals Like That: Gay and Lesbian Texas Artists in the 1930s – Talk by Randy Tibbits (CASETA Symposium 2015)

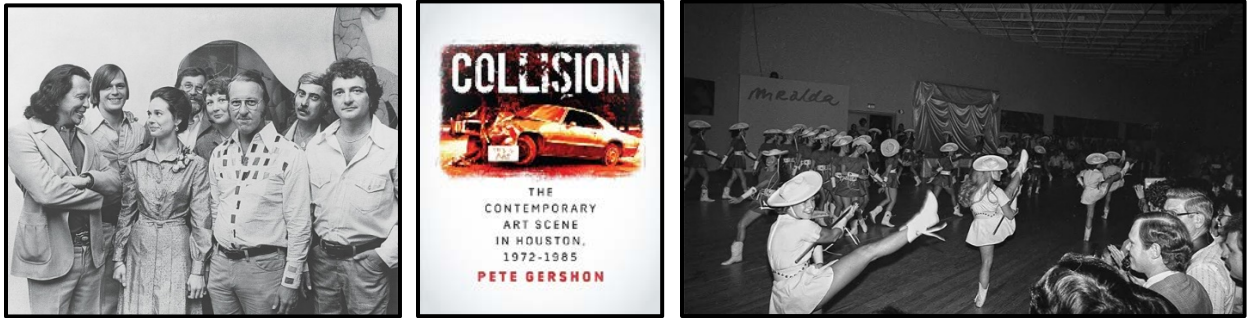


Texas and Its Impressionists – Talk by William Rudolph (Witte Conference on Texas: 250 Years of Art for History's Sake 2019)

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group



Three Texas Artists and the World of Outsider Art – Talk by Jay Wehnert (CASETA Symposium 2016)



Collision: The Contemporary Art Scene in Houston, 1972–1985 – A conversation with author Pete Gershon (The Bookmark, PBS)



Golden Triangle Greats: A History of the Arts in Southeast Texas – Talk by Sarah Beth Wilson McKeel (CASETA Symposium 2016)

**THE HETAG
Buy Some Art / Support an Art Org
Campaign**

We all know by now that the times are alarming and probably going to become more alarming in the days/weeks/months ahead. This is as true for the art world as for the world in general. Galleries, museums, studios and art organizations of all kinds are closing for the time being, to do what they can to slow the spread of the threatening virus at large among us.

We commend them for doing their bit, but commendations don't pay the bills. Those of us who lived through the post-9/11 period will remember how the world came to a standstill – and how the money stopped, with dire consequences for many. The same thing is happening now. Things will get better sometime, but before they do, galleries may go out of business, employees may lose jobs, artists may go hungry as the art world shuts down for the common good.

Since we can't travel or go out drinking anyway, and since there's no TP to be had at any price, I'm proposing that those among us who may have the blessing of some disposable income join in a **HETAG Buy Some Art / Support an Art Org campaign.**

The dollar amount doesn't matter – just what you can afford. Even if you think you don't need anything more, or don't have room for even one more piece of art – believe me, there's always room for at least one more, and your spirit may actually need it now more than ever.

Many galleries are still open “by appointment,” or you can make your selection on their website. Most artists would be happy to email you images of their available works – and many of them have websites too. You can find out how to donate to almost all art organizations, big or small, via the web.

We HETAGers are often focused on Texas art from the past, and there are galleries we can turn to for that (see next page). But let's keep in mind that variety is the spice of an art collection, so maybe it's time we added a piece by a contemporary artist too. And if we really don't have room for any more art, then certainly we can make a donation to a museum or other art organization (some links on the next page).

Now is the time to do it – and also next week and next month - it doesn't have to be just once. But in the name of HETAG, let's do it. Let's buy some ART!

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group

These artists have shown their support for HETAG over the years by joining our email list and sometimes inviting us into their studios. As you think about joining the HETAG Buy Some Art Campaign, you might want to look first to them. I've included links to their webpages when I could locate them. Many may sell their work through galleries, but they'll be happy to tell you if they do. If no link is included here, I can put you in touch with the artists directly. And artists, if I've overlooked anyone or haven't found your weblink, or included the wrong link, it is completely unintentional; if you let me know, I'll correct my mistake.

[David Adickes](#)

Bill Owens

[Claire Ankenman](#)

[Patrick Palmer](#)

Scott Apeshot

[Noe Perez](#)

[David Aylsworth](#)

[Russell Prince](#)

[Randy Bacon](#)

Kay Seriff

[Tod Bailey](#)

Lynda Shephard

[Harvey Bott](#)

[Jesse Sifuentes](#)

Mark Cervenka

[Gail Siptak](#)

[Michael Roque Collins](#)

[Erik Sprohge](#)

[Letitia Eldredge](#)

[Earl Staley](#)

[Ibsen Espada](#)

[Richard Stout](#)

[Richard Fluhr](#)

[Motte Thomas](#)

David Gray

[Arthur Turner](#)

[Mary Margaret Hansen](#)

[Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin](#)

[Roberta Harris](#)

Bill Willis

[Ron Hartgrove](#)

Scott Winterrowd

[Joseph Havel](#)

[Ben Woitena](#)

David Lackey

[Judy Youngblood](#)

[Ken Mazzu](#)

[Mary McCleary](#)

[Leila McConnell](#)

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group

Art Fair & Exhibitions

If we were able to gather at the CASETA Symposium hotel, we'd have spent hours and hours looking at all the fabulous art in the TEXAS ART FAIR, brought by dealers from around the state, including several Houston dealers. But we can't gather at the actual Texas Art Fair this year, so how about a Virtual Art Fair, this one focused specifically on Earlier Houston Art.

Here are some Houston galleries that have shown their support of our Earlier Houston Art passion through participation in our events and the art they sell.

[Foltz Fine Art](#)

[Deborah Colton Gallery](#)

[Moody Gallery](#)

[Inman Gallery](#)

[David Lackey Antiques & Art](#)

[Heidi Vaughan Fine Art](#)

[Reeves Art & Design](#)

And don't forget the Early Texas Art Galleries from around the state that we've met at the [CASETA Texas Art Fair](#).

With galleries closed, in-person viewing of exhibitions is now a memory and a future hope, but we can still get a glimpse of exhibitions that were up when the shutdown began, or were planned to open in the near future. The always virtual and always delightful [Glasstire](#) is doing a great service with a series of 5-minute video exhibition tours, including a few that are of Earlier Houston Art interest.

[Five-Minute Tours: Herb Mears at Foltz Fine Art, Houston](#)

[Five-Minute Tours: "Texas Women: A New History of Abstract Art" at San Antonio Museum of Art](#)

And Foltz Fine Art is giving us a web look at two shows that would have opened in March, with

[Leila McConnell Collages](#)

[The Early Works: Jack Boynton & McKie Trotter, 1950-60s](#)

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group

Here are some Houston museums and art organizations, large and small, that have also actively supported Earlier Houston Art over the years. They need our support now more than ever.

[The Heritage Society](#)

[Houston Public Library](#) (Julia Ideson Gallery and Historic Gregory School)

[The Menil Collection](#)

[The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston](#)

And many museums around the state have also supported the Early Texas Art effort through their sponsorship of [CASETA](#).

And we also should not overlook [CASETA: Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art](#) itself, the foremost organization in Texas devoted exclusively to the mission of highlighting Early Texas Art. Since CASETA has canceled the annual symposium, it will need our help more than ever to make up the lost revenue on which it depends to carry out our shared mission and passion for ETA.

HETAG Newsletter now part of The Portal to Texas History

Even in these difficult times, there's a bit of good news to share. The HETAG Newsletter, which has been appearing more or less regularly since 2016, is now part of [The Portal to Texas History](#), thanks to the support of our good friend D. Jack Davis and the good folks at The University of North Texas, where The Portal is maintained. For those who may not be familiar with The Portal, it is the premier repository of digital resources for all topics related to Texas history – a necessary and invaluable first stop for all those researching Texas past and present. It is a great honor for the HETAG Newsletter to be included in that every-growing repository, which is freely available to all, anywhere in the world. And it's a great way to continue getting the word out about the fabulous art Houston has produced – and is continuing to produce. Thanks to The Portal, UNT and D. Jack Davis for making this happen.

And we are, of course, continually grateful to The University of Houston Libraries for making the HETAG Newsletter available via the [UofH Digital Library](#); and to [The Hirsch Library](#), Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, for making it available to MFAH patrons via their internal systems.

All three of these splendid organizations are much appreciated partners in the ongoing effort to spread the word about Earlier Houston Art. Thanks to you all.

HETAG: The Houston Earlier Texas Art Group



Gene Charlton *Oranges* 1941 Oil on Canvas
17th Annual Houston Artists Exhibition, museum purchase prize, 1941.
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

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](#)

and

[The Portal to Texas History](#)

**Randy Tibbits, coordinator
HETAG: The Houston Earlier
Texas Art Group
tibbits@rice.edu**