



Art exhibition title: TEXAS Abstract

Location: Galveston Arts Center, 2501 Market Street, Galveston, TX 77550

Reception date: Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 6pm-9pm

Exhibition span: January 10 through February 22, 2015

The Galveston Arts Center in cooperation with Fresco Books ([frescobooks.com](http://frescobooks.com)) and Ken General of Duende Art Project is pleased to present *TEXAS Abstract*. The January 2015 exhibition showcases abstract artworks originating from the recent release of the book *TEXAS ABSTRACT: Modern + Contemporary*, written and curated by art scholars Michael Paglia and Jim Edwards.

The exhibition of over 20 of the most significant contemporary Texas abstract artists will open to the public free of charge from Saturday, January 10, until Sunday, February 22, at the Galveston Arts Center's gallery on the corner of Market and 25th Streets. A public reception for the exhibition will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 from 6:00pm through 9:00pm, with a gallery talk starting at 6:30pm.

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The appearance of abstraction in Texas in the 1930s and the development of its various currents into the 1960s, and its continued relevance in present day contemporary art, is the expansive topic of *Texas Abstract: Modern + Contemporary*. This effort represents an unprecedented attempt to reconcile the historic mid 20th century abstraction in Texas with the vibrant contemporary abstract scene flourishing now in the early 21st. The book documents through scores of examples the fact that Texas has played an unexpected role in both the history of abstraction, and in its present place in the contemporary art world.

The first section of the book focuses on the appearance of abstract painting in Texas divided between four stylistic phases: Cubist-related Abstraction, Abstract Surrealism, Abstraction and Abstract Expressionism. One key revelation of this initial section is that in the case of Abstract Surrealism, the work of artists active in the late 1930s to the early 1950s in Texas, in particular, in Houston, was as advanced stylistically as any abstract painting being done anywhere in America at that time. The importance of these historic artists has only recently been recognized as a product of the increasing scholarly interest in the subject in Texas and beyond.

The second section of the book examines the contemporary work of nearly three dozen of the state's most significant contemporary abstractionists. Though the historic discussion is limited to painting, the contemporary artists are working not only in painting, but in sculpture, installation and a number

of other mediums. Unlike the historic Texas artists, who participated in fairly isolated scenes in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston, as well as in a number of smaller Texas cities or towns, today's abstract artists are more fully integrated into the context of international contemporary art. These artists are exhibiting their pieces not only in Texas, but around the country, if not around the world, as did only a few of their historic predecessors in the art history of the Lone Star State.

Texas Abstract: Modern + Contemporary  
by Michael Paglia and Jim Edwards

featuring

David Aylsworth  
Kristen Cliburn  
Lucinda Cobley  
Pat Colville  
Brad Ellis  
Ibsen Espada  
Garland Fielder  
Linnea Glatt  
Larry Graeber  
Sam Gummelt  
Roberta Harris  
Jane Helslander  
Jane Honovich  
Terrell James  
Michael Kennaugh  
Winston Lee Mascarenhas  
Jesus Moroles  
Steve Murphy  
Tom Orr  
McKay Otto  
Aaron Parazette  
John Pomara  
Sam Reveles  
Margo Sawyer  
George Schroeder  
Howard Sherman  
Charlotte Smith  
Lorraine Tady  
Liz Ward  
Mac Whitney  
Leslie Wilkes  
Joan Winter  
Sydney Yeager

## Contact information

### **Galveston Arts Center**

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### **Fresco Books**

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### **Duende Art Project**

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