

UT NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

News & Information Service

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'Printmaking in Texas' exhibition to open Nov. 5 in Harry Ransom Center

AUSTIN, Texas -- More than 60 prints that can be identified in one way or another as "Texan" -- by birth or residency of artist or by distinctive images and art techniques -- form a new "Printmaking in Texas" exhibition opening Saturday (Nov. 5) at The University of Texas at Austin.

Organized by UT Austin's Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, the show will be on view through Dec. 11 on the second floor of the Harry Ransom Center (21st and Guadalupe streets).

The exhibition coincides with the Nov. 9-12 meeting on campus of the 20th North American Print Conference, whose sessions will be devoted to prints and printmaking of Texas.

Jonathan Bober, curator of prints and drawings for the Huntington Art Gallery, says the Texas prints on view in the Ransom Center are a "wonderful mix" of styles and techniques that range from the pre-World War II years of the 1930s to the present. Most are from the Huntington's own collections, with others drawn from the Barker Texas History Center, friends of the gallery and collectors in the Austin area.

Works are as diverse as images of wartime housing, a rattler, crows in a melon patch, a Texas courthouse, horses and riders, a silent hanging and Padre Island.

According to Bober, the prints successively reflect an awareness of the modern traditions of European art, a sensitivity to Latin American art, the influences of international styles of the 1960s, the new trends emanating from New York workshops of the 1970s and the rich imageries developed by contemporary Texas artists who work from El Paso to Beaumont, from Amarillo to the Mexican border. One print is by Robert Rauschenberg, the internationally known pop artist who is a native Texan now living on Florida's Captiva Island.

Among other artists represented in the print show are John Alexander of Beaumont, James Surls of Houston, Vernon Fisher of Fort Worth, Eric Avery of San Ygnacio, Ed Blackburn of Amarillo, Jack Mims and David Bates of Dallas, Judy Youngblood of El Paso and Melissa Miller of Austin.

From UT Austin's current art faculty are works by Lee Chesney, Bob Levers, Kenneth Hale, Timothy High and Peter Saul, as well as works by retirees Kelly Fearing, Loren Mozley and William Lester, and the late Constance Forsyth.

Exhibition hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

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Austin Media, Locals, Campus and Texas Fine Arts Editors (Art)