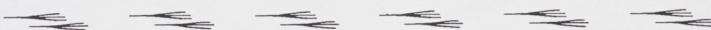


Of Birds and Texas

SELECTED PAINTINGS FROM THE GENTLING COLLECTION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 21, 1997

CONTACT: Melinda Mains, Marketing Director
(817) 255-9408

OF BIRDS AND TEXAS TO APPEAR AT MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Of Birds and Texas: Selected Paintings from The Gentling Collection will appear at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History February 7 through May 4, 1997. The exhibition features twenty-two original watercolor paintings from the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History's Gentling Collection. The collection comprises forty paintings of Texas birds which inhabit Texas for all or part of the year. These birds are depicted life-size and are set against landscape backgrounds showing most of Texas' geographical regions.

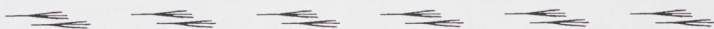
The pictures are the result of an unusual collaboration by Fort Worth artists Scott and Stuart Gentling, twin brothers who spent more than eight years creating them for their book *Of Birds and Texas*. The Gentlings maintain that the reason they are artists today probably stems from their early interest in Audubon's life and work, an interest sparked when they were thirteen years old by their discovery of a book on Audubon's paintings in the library of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Many of the paintings in *Of Birds and Texas* show birds that are not depicted with a strict realism, but are rather stylized and formally arranged, recalling in some of the works the paintings of John James Audubon. Their book, *Of Birds and Texas*, is dedicated to Audubon.

The Gentling's recent work includes a series of drawings and paintings for the documentary film *500 Nations*. Some of their designs are being incorporated into Fort Worth's Bass Performance Hall, scheduled for completion in 1998.

The Museum of Science and History is located at 1501 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth's Cultural District. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 8 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 general admission, \$4 for adults sixty and older, and \$3 for children three to twelve. Children under three are admitted free. All exhibits at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History are wheelchair accessible. For more information, call (817) 255-9300 or toll-free (888) 255-9300.

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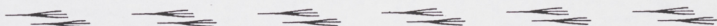
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Scott and Stuart Gentling were born December 31, 1942, in Rochester, Minnesota. In 1948 their father, a physician, brought the family to Fort Worth. With the exception of several years spent away at schools, Fort Worth has remained their home. Both attended Tulane University in New Orleans, but upon receiving an unusual invitation from the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts to attend that school, Scott left Tulane for Philadelphia at the end of his freshman year. Stuart continued his schooling at Tulane and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1965. Following graduation he spent one year at the University of Texas School of Law. During that year he was encouraged by Scott to apply to the Academy in order to follow his own interest in art. He was accepted, and since 1966 the brothers have pursued their respective artistic careers.

Though painting birds is important to the Gentlings, it is nevertheless a peripheral interest compared to the main body of their work which is the painting of landscapes, portraits, and still lifes executed in drybrush watercolor. Many of the paintings in this collection show birds that are not depicted with a strict realism, but are rather stylized and formally arranged, recalling in some of the works the paintings of John James Audubon. Their book, *Of Birds and Texas*, is dedicated to Audubon. The Gentlings maintain that the reason they are artists today probably stems from their early interest in Audubon's life and work, an interest sparked when they were thirteen years old by their discovery of a book on Audubon's paintings in the library of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

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OF BIRDS AND TEXAS COLOR SLIDE KEY

RED: Cattle Egret

Scott and Stuart Gentling , Drybrush watercolor, 1983

The Cattle Egret is one of the least graceful but surely the most amazing of the long-legged wading birds. Without the aid of man it has spread from its native East Africa to every continent except Antarctica. The species was first noted on the Texas coast in 1955. A Texas survey found 11 nesting pairs in 1959 – and more than 20,000 pairs in 1965.

YELLOW: Red-billed Pigeon

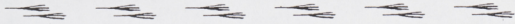
Scott and Stuart Gentling , Drybrush watercolor, 1982-1985

The increasingly rare status of the Red-billed Pigeon reflects the manmade changes that have occurred in the Rio Grande Valley since the 1920s. Clearing has removed over 90% of the trees and brush; big freezes caused changes in crops; and construction of Falcon Dam lowered the water table, killing many of the large remaining trees. The future of this handsome tropical pigeon lies in efforts now underway to restore native habitat along large stretches of the lower Rio Grande.

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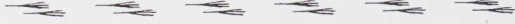
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