



Fresco Books has just released a book that marks an unprecedented effort to unify historic and contemporary abstraction created in the Lone Star State.

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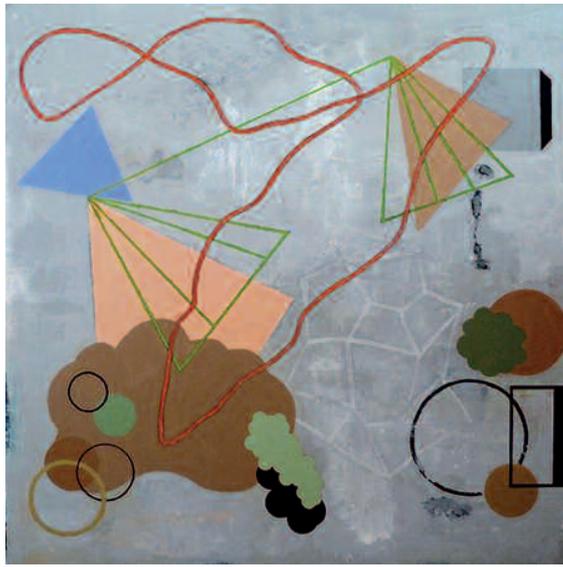
Texas Abstract: Modern + Contemporary by Michael Paglia and Jim Edwards

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



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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 has been co-authored by Michael Paglia and Jim Edwards. Paglia, who served as the book's curator, selecting all the artists in both the historic and contemporary sections, and choosing all the specific works used in both. Edwards wrote the individual sketches that highlight each of the included contemporary artists.

Lavishly illustrated with over 200 color images, *Texas Abstract: Modern + Contemporary*, exquisitely printed in Italy, fully exemplifies the high standards for which Fresco Books are known.

***Texas Abstract: Modern + Contemporary* (\$85) is distributed by the University of New Mexico Press.**

Ordering information: www.unmpress.com 800 249-7737