Benito Huerta believes art should be provocative as well as inspiring. Drawing on his background while growing up in Corpus Christi and Houston, Huerta creates works that engage the view, asking them to reflect on history, art history, popular culture, philosophy, and society in general. His skill as a painter allows him to vacillate between dynamic, large-scale works that dominate the senses to smaller, more subtle works that invite a more intimate dialogue. His rich surfaces layered in luminous colors, textures and patterns encourage the viewer to look more deeply into the context and content. Appropriation, be it an iconic image or a piece of currency, is part of his visual language. Whether considering his work as an artist, curator, or writer, Huerta’s interest in social issues and constraints is visible.

- Denise Stringer Davis

Huerta received a B.F.A. degree from the University of Houston, and his M.A. from New Mexico State University. He co-founded the Texas art journal Art Lies. He is a Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and has been the Director/Curator of The Gallery at UTA since 1997. Exhibited around the country, his work has been featured recently at the Houston Museum of African American Culture, the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. In 2011 Huerta was featured in a one-person exhibition at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. He was honored with the Dallas Center of Contemporary Art’s 2002 Legend of the Year Award. Huerta was selected for the first Maestros Tejanos Exhibition in 2008 at the Latino Cultural Center, Dallas. He has also been commissioned to create several public arts pieces within Texas. Huerta has curated work around the country, including surveys/retrospectives of Mel Chin, John Hernandez, Luis Jimenez, Dalton Maroney, and Celia Alvarez Munoz.
Texas National Competition & Exhibition

Distinguished artist and curator Benito Huerta is the juror for the 2017 Texas National Competition & Exhibition, now in its 23rd year. The School of Art’s annual juried competition attracts entrants from across the United States, providing artists an opportunity to have their work juried by highly acclaimed artists and critics.

Texas National features an assortment of art, including photography, painting, sculpture and mixed media, and includes over 90 pieces of art by 81 different artists from 30 states. Past jurors for this annual event include:

- Abelardo Morell
- Zhi Lin
- Jerome Witkin
- Peter Selz
- David Hickey
- James Drake
- Judy Pfaff
- James Surls
- Jerry Uelsmann and Maggie Taylor
- Mel Chin
- Faith Ringold
- Sandy Skoglund
- Donald Sultan
- The Starn Twins (Doug and Mike)
- The Art Guys
- James McGarrell
- Ed Moses
- Martha Erlebacher
- Ed Hill and Susan Bloom (Manual)
- Paul Brach
- Roger Shimomura
- Leon Golub

The exhibition and reception are sponsored in part by the SFA Friends of the Visual Arts, Nacogdoches Junior Forum, R&K Distributors, Inc., and the Texas Commission on the Arts.
Winners

1st Place

Yeqiangle Wang, Topeka, KS
Return to Classicism—Portrait of a Lady, 2015
Oil on canvas
2nd Place

Kari Rives, Santa Fe, NM

Bendix, 2016
Clay

Sibyl, 2015
Clay
3rd Place

David Bartlett, Morehead, KY

Eastern State Penitentiary I, 2015
Digital photograph

Eastern State Penitentiary III, 2015
Digital photograph
Huerta received a B.F.A. degree from the University of Houston, and his M.A. from New Mexico State University. He was Co-founder, Executive Director and Emeritus Board Director of Art Lies, a Texas Art Journal. He is a Professor at the University of Texas at Arlington where he has been Director/Curator of The Gallery at UTA since 1997.

His work will be featured in an upcoming one—person exhibition at Reavley Gallery, Cole Art Center at Stephen F. Austin University in April 2017 and was recently featured in one-person exhibitions at the Houston Museum of African American Culture, the Wichita Falls Museum of Art, and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. Other recent one-person exhibitions took place at the Glassell Gallery, Shaw Center for the Arts, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago in 2011; and at the Ellen Noel Art Museum in Odessa, Texas in 2010.

Huerta was the recipient of the Dallas Center for Contemporary Art's 2002 Legend of the Year Award and Exhibition and was the first Maestros Tejanos Exhibition in 2008 at the Latino Cultural Center, Dallas. His work is in several museum and corporate collections throughout the United States. He is currently working on Urban Village: South Main Street public art project to be installed this fall, and completed work on the Marine Creek Park Corridor Master Plan in 2014, both in Fort Worth, Texas. Other public art projects include SnakePath (Mexican Milk Snake), Mexican American Cultural Center, Austin, Texas (2007); Wings, DFW International Terminal D Skylink terrazzo floor designs (2005).

As a curator he has organized surveys/retrospectives of Mel Chin, John Hernandez, Luis Jimenez, Dalton Maroney, and Celia Alvarez Munoz.

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8 Honorable Mentions

Thad Duhigg, Worden, IL
Presence, 2016
Cast bronze

Heather Foster, Athens, GA
Barking Puppies Silent Night, 2015
Gouache on paper
Tanja Gant, Madison, MS
Little Bird, 2015
Graphite

Karen Hillier, Bryan, TX
Family Monogram,
Thomas Hillier, b. 1848, 2015
Embroidery on linen handkerchief
Holland Houdek, Iowa City, IA
Extended Articular Component (Implants Series III)
Copper, Swarovski, crystals (1,164), pierced, patina

Holland Houdek, Iowa City, IA
Asymmetrical Mamoplasty (Double Breast Replacement)
hand-fabricated copper, pierced, silicone breast implants,
Swarovski crystals (1,267), bead-blasted, patina
Betsy Litton, Chesterfield, MO
New Land “Valley” TN, 2015
Photograph

Tom Wheeler, Palos Verdes, CA
Cube #1, 2016
Archival print
Gill Alexander, Miami Beach, FL
Receiver, 2015
Ink drawing with stippling on paper

Erika Anderson, Evansville, IN
Fortress, 2015
Oil on canvas

Robert Andes, Brownsville, TX
Allison, 2016
Oil
Allison Blair, Westover, WV
Wooden Walls / Second Ships (#11), 2016
Cyanotype

Max Boyang, Okemos, MI
Wasp, 2017
Pen & ink, watercolor on paper

Josh Brinlee, Memphis, TN
Masculine Projection: Double
Self Portrait as Good Ol’ Boy, 2016
Digital print

Korey Burns, Grayson, LA
Fragments, 2017
Copper, nickel, ceramic paint
Katelyn Butler, Charlottesville, VA
Kenophobia, 2016
Nickel, silver, steel

Dana Caldera, Houston, TX
Ngozika, 2016
Mixed media on board

Lisa Cardenas, Dallas, TX
Moving Forward, 2016
Mixed media on canvas
Yinan Cheng, New York, NY
Untitled II (from the series Reproducibility), 2015
Digital C print

Eunnym Cho, New York, NY
Untitled Gaze 2, 2016
Photograph

Jack Delaney, The Woodlands, TX
Selfie Portrait I, 2016
Oil on wood with selfie stick
Joshua Dryk, Arlington, TX
Lucca, Italy / Fiesole, Italy, 2015
Silver gelatin lumen print

Linda Duffy, Magnolia, TX
Electric Lace, 2016
Digital photograph

Thomas Elder, Boise, ID
The Treachery of (CG)Images, 2015
Archival print on canvas
Cuyler Etheredge, Dallas, TX
Night Thoughts, 2016
Gouache on paper

Angel Fernandez, Lakeside, TX
Ranch Seat, 2016
Painted resin and wood

Rachel Foster, Park City, KS
Moxie, 2017
Oil on canvas

Tanja Gant, Madison, MS
Cinderella, 2016
Colored pencil
Diane Gelman, Bellaire, TX
EAT!, 2016
Acrylic paint, laser cut wood on board

Samantha Goss, Easley, SC
Maiden of the Sea, 2016
Digital photograph

Cangshu Gran, Boca Raton, FL
China Doll, 2017
Oil on canvas

Linda Grandstaff, Bellaire, TX
Nail It Ring Profile, 2015
Jewelry fabrication
Casey Gregory, Houston, TX
The Loyalist, 2015
Oil on canvas

Neal Harrington, Russellville, AR
The Fish Lady of Toad Suck Holler, 2016
Woodcut with India ink washes

Karen Hillier, Bryan, TX
Immediate Family, James Hillier, 1768
Laser etching with powdered graphite on vellum

Karen Holmes, Alameda, CA
Tilt-Up Wall #5, 2016
Pigment print
Carita Huckaby, Benbrook, TX
Sister Francis, 2014
Pigment print on fabric

Sarah Jentsch, Etoile, TX
Ruby Throated, 2016
Oil on canvas

James Joffe, San Antonio, TX
I've Been Breaking Glass in Your Room Again, 2016
Acrylic on birch panel

Moonkyung Kim, St. Louis, MO
An Aerial View, 2016
Mixed media on canvas
Cindee Klement, Houston, TX
The Last Straw, 2014
Bronze and concrete

Nancy Lamb, Westworth Village, TX
Too Heavy on the Sauce, 2016
Oil on canvas

Sarah Landstrom, Chicago, IL
The Docks at Galway, 2016
Acrylic on canvas

Tess Lehman, Odessa, TX
The Hard Life—Bruce Springsteen, 2016
Oil on gessoboard
Xiao Liu, Denton, TX
The Training, 2016
Etching

Larry Madrigal, Peoria, AZ
Jonni Cheatwood, 2015
Oil on canvas

Jason Makepeace, League City, TX
Embedded Yellow Kayak, 2017
Crepe Myrtle log and paint
Richard Martinez, Walla Walla, WA
California Chrome, 2017
Oil, enamel, ink, shaped canvas (diptych 2 panels)

Allan Maxwell, Orlando, FL
Skull, 2016
Digital photo

John McCaskill, Kailua-Kona, HI
Anahulu Bridge, 2016
Reductive woodcut

Caitlin McCollom, Austin, TX
The Bleeding Window Beckons, 2016
Acrylic on synthetic yupo paper
Amy Meissner, Anchorage, AK
Reliquary #3: Catch, 2015
Vintage domestic linens, silk, cotton, wool

Elizabeth Mesa-Gaido, Morehead, KY
Then and Now Series, 2013
Hand-dyed, pleated, stitched organza; printed images
Christopher Morse, Cumberland Center, ME
Finnto, #73, 2013
Photograph: archival pigment on paper

Paul Murray, Jamestown, RI
Havana Living #1, 2014
Color print

Abigail Nash, Mason, TX
Sandia, 2016
Oil on canvas

Lake Newton, Baltimore, MD
Remnant 05, 2016
Archival print
Carolyn Norton, Nacogdoches, TX
Shifting Horizons, 2016
Collagraph print

James Pace, Tyler, TX
WRECKstate, 2016
Aluminum, copper, zinc, paint

Elizabeth Panzer, Accord, NY
Archival pigment print

Suhyung Park, Pontiac, MI
Weeds, 2016
Oil on canvas
Lori Pond, Los Angeles, CA
Bosch Redux 1.0, 2014
Archival pigment print

Gail Postal, New York, NY
Tsering, 2015
Graphite and oil paint

Andrei Renteria, San Antonio, TX
Ana La Mas Barata, 2016
Lithograph and found objects

Rolando Reyna, Houston, TX
South Texas Deputy Sheriff, 2016
Watercolor and ink on paper
Winter Rusiloski, Lakeside, TX
Herculean Line, 2015
Oil and collage on canvas

Rajab Sayed, Houston, TX
Waiting for You, Waiting for Me, 2015
Oil on canvas

H. Jennings Sheffield, Waco, TX
The Collective Glitch [HERO], 2016
Archival pigment print

Jason Stout, Martin, TN
Rebellion Brume, 2016
Oil on canvas
Nathan Taves, Columbia City, IN
Lake Crossings, 2016
Oil on panel

Peter Tunnell, Fort Worth, TX
Android Superstar, 2016
Digital painting on canvas with resin

Austin Turley, Portland, OR
A Map of What is Effortless
Acrylic, hand-gathered pigments,
varnish on birch panel

Marilyn Waligore, Richardson, TX
Aluminum RBYG #1, 2016
Archival pigment print on cotton
Brooke Walker-Knoblich, Portland, OR
Halloween Skull, 2016
Oil on wood

Jutoria Warner, Atlanta, GA
Wood from the Fall, 2016
Digital pinhole

Patricia Wasserboehr, Greensboro, NC
Plumb, 2015
Poplar wood, paint

Jim Wilson, McKinney, TX
Freedom’s Just Another Word for Nothin’ Left to Lose, 2016
Mixed media on panel
Dwight Yassany, Lafayette, CA
Indian Tawny Eagle in Flight, 2016
Pen & ink drawing