

# EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Hilliard University Art Museum

University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
710 East Saint Mary Blvd.  
Lafayette, LA 70503

Jolie Johnson, Marketing Manager  
jolie.johnson@louisiana.edu  
(337) 482-6060

## ***A. Hays Town and the Architectural Image of Louisiana***

Guest curated by Dr. Carol McMichael Reese

**Exhibition Dates: June 15, 2018 – December 29, 2018**

**Reception: Friday, June 15, 6:00-8:00 PM**



©Philip Gould Vermilion Parish Courthouse

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the original Art Center of Southwestern Louisiana, the Hilliard Museum is pleased to present an exhibition that marks the legacy of its designer, famed Louisiana architect A. Hays Town. The exhibition will be guest curated by architectural historian, Dr. Carol McMichael Reese, Professor in the School of Architecture at Tulane University, where Town studied. A highly collaborative project, the exhibition brings together faculty and students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Tulane University in New Orleans, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, providing an opportunity for students to gain experience in exhibition research, design, and production.

The focus of the exhibition will be Town's residential architecture, for which he gained national renown. It will also showcase the evolution of Town's work over more than 70 years of practice, from the Modernist designs of his earlier commercial and civic buildings to his later iconic residences, which were inspired by the historic architecture of the American South. A rich assemblage of drawings, furnishings, photographs, architectural models, and archival records will introduce visitors to his design approach, as well as his impressive career.

In his single-family houses, Town integrated historic motifs from a variety of cultural traditions, drawing upon French, Spanish, and Caribbean building techniques and details. He achieved sensuous patinas of age through his use of recovered materials from demolished buildings—including cedar beams, heart-pine flooring, and imported marbles—as well as antique furnishings and decorative fixtures. He arranged principal rooms to emphasize views toward the landscape and often worked with clients to design their gardens. His beloved and often imitated homes are evocative of the archetypal residential architecture of Creole Louisiana, indeed, a Louisiana Style.

A defining aspect of Town's practice was his attention to long-term, intimate, and trusting relationships with his clients, who came to consider him a member of their extended families. The exhibition will emphasize the important social element of his work through video-taped oral histories, not only with Town's original clients but also with second-generation owners of Town's houses, who take pride in caring for his legacy.

Homeowners throughout the region as well as Town family members have participated in this significant initiative to honor an architect whose approach encompassed not only architecture, but also interior and landscape design, art, and the interpretation of what might be termed "lifestyle." The Louisiana Architectural Foundation will partner with the Hilliard Museum to present tours of select Town-designed

homes and businesses throughout the region in conjunction with the exhibition. The Lafayette tours will occur on Saturday, July 14 and in Baton Rouge on Sunday, October 21.

### **Special Thanks**

The Hilliard University Art Museum wishes to express its gratitude for the donors who made this exhibition possible: Dr. Beverly Gladney and Mr. Neil Buckingham; Eskew Dumez & Ripple; Paul and Madlyn Hilliard; *Country Roads* Magazine; Tulane University School of Architecture Dean's Fund for Excellence; Bevolo Gas and Electric Lights; Bouligny Family in memory of Jackie & Dan Bouligny; Friends of the Humanities; Thomas and Celia Foard; Leslie Gladley, Burns and Co., Realtors; Michael and Melanie McKenzie; Jeffrey and Kathryn Scurlock; Ralph and Cherie Kraft; Ricca's Architectural Sales; Mr. Cyril Vetter; Louisiana Digital Reproductions; Lettermans; Kevin Harris Architect; Chase and Maura Nelson; Leo Landry; University of Louisiana at Lafayette Alumni Association; and Dr. Donald Voorhies.

### **Museum Hours, Admission & General Information**

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors (62+), \$3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit [hilliardmuseum.org](http://hilliardmuseum.org) or call (337) 482-2278.

### **About the Hilliard Museum**

The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwestern Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

###