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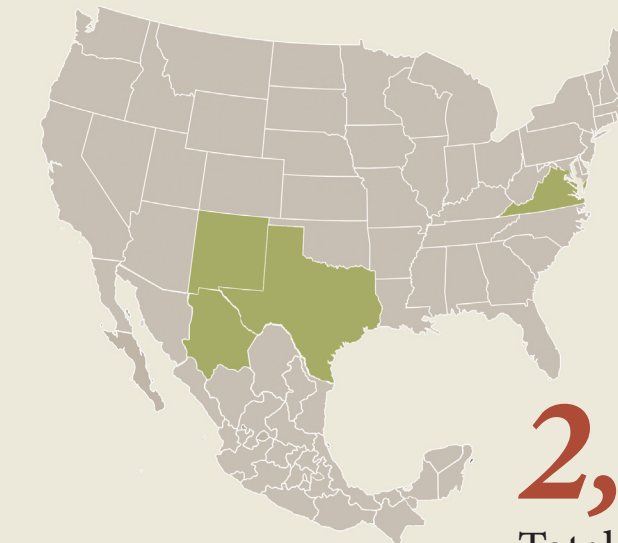
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Tom Lea Month Highlights

REPORT ON OCTOBER 2014

This year marked our 8th annual Tom Lea Month. From two national conferences in Washington, D.C., to bi-national tours in Texas and northern Chihuahua, we shared Tom Lea's art, writing and the region that nourished his work with broader audiences than ever before. We are pleased to report the results of our month-long celebration:

47
Events



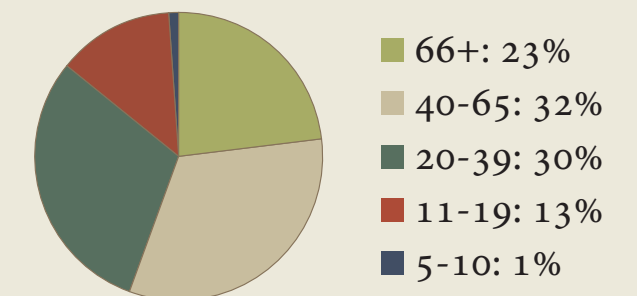
5 Participating states:
TEXAS
NEW MEXICO
WASHINGTON, D.C.
VIRGINIA
CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

27
Partners

2,939,132
Total reached

23,661
Attendance

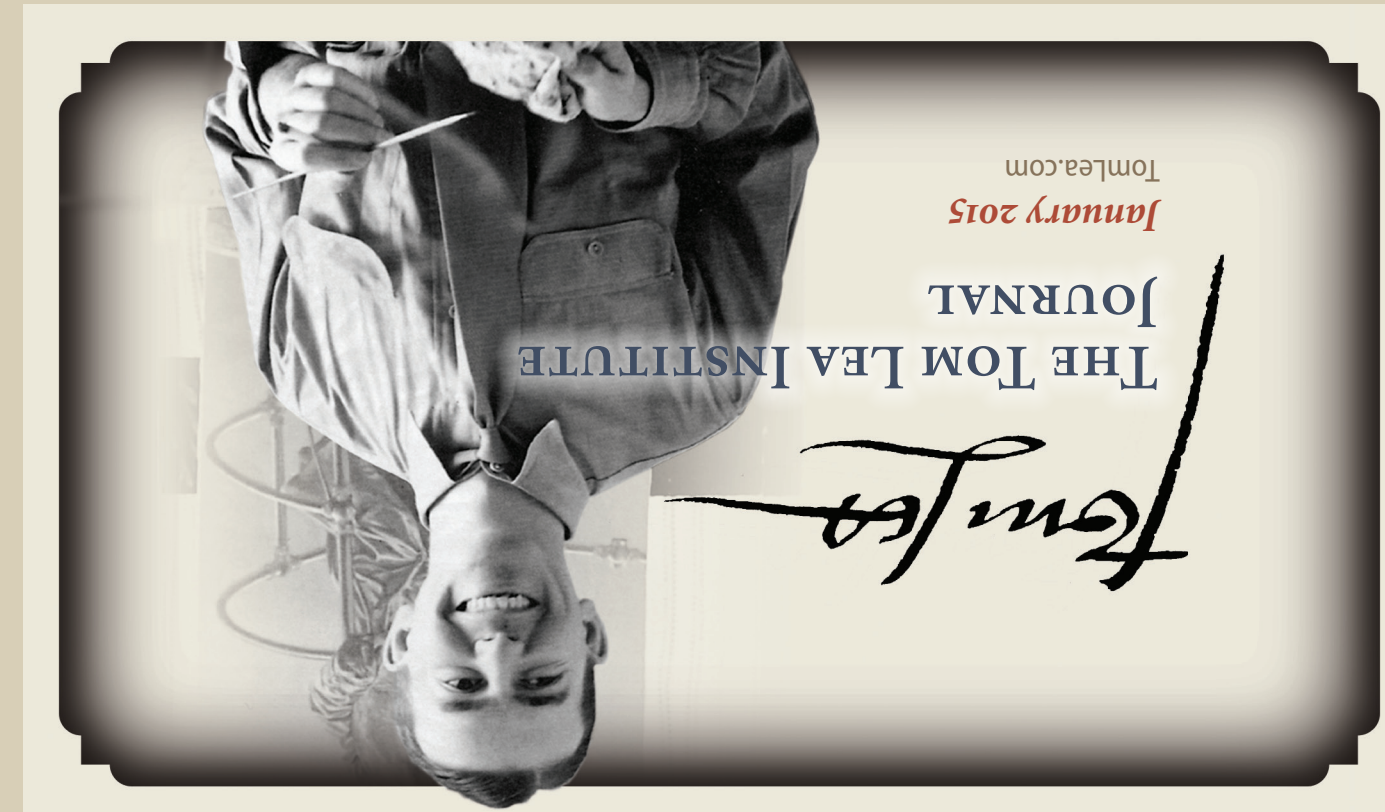
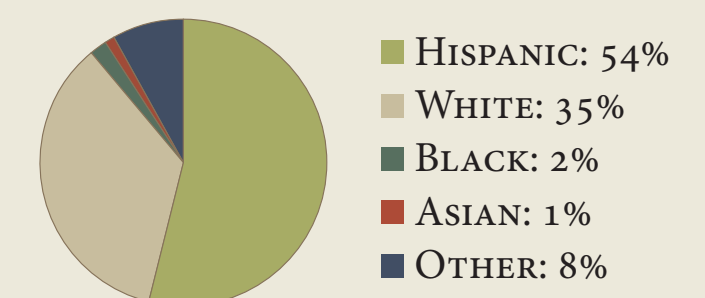
Age groups reached



95% "Good" or "Excellent" ratings



Ethnicities reached



Southwest University Park – Tom Lea and the El Paso Chihuahuas

EL PASO'S new baseball park is a "masterpiece," making it the 2014 Ballpark of the Year for Baseballparks.com and BallparkDigest.com's annual awards. The 9,500-capacity ballpark was designed for less than six acres of land by Architects Populous and MNK on the plot where El Paso's City Hall used to stand.

To the east is El Paso's familiar ridge of rock, Mount Franklin, and throughout the building are works of art by Gaspar Enriquez, Frederick Carter, Creative Kids and Tom Lea. The Tom Lea reproductions line the cor-

ridors of the top floor, and include pictures describing the landscape, people and culture of El Paso. Included are some of his famous eye-witness accounts of World War II as a tribute to the military, which is celebrated every Monday night during the baseball season.

Cherie Morgan, lead design architect of Morgan Design, said, "When we selected Tom Lea we felt we had found the best of both worlds. His work is so personal and we felt it was fitting to display it so that visitors to the ballpark could become familiar with his work and El Paso at the same time."

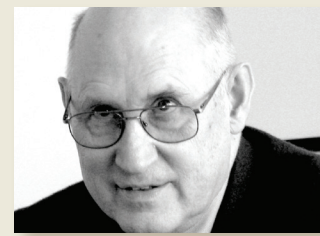
Memorable quotes from Tom Lea Month Speakers



“Tom Lea’s *Southwest* is connected strongly to the place of its birth. Its quality is a distillation of a vision that transforms the regional and the local into the universal. Tom Lea is an artist who was shaped by the forces of his homeland but who chose to connect with the force of life, and he communicated with the universality that would speak to the world at large. Tom Lea is an artist from El Paso, an artist to America, an artist of the world. His spirit deserves to be celebrated.”

– Sabiha Al Khemir,

Senior advisor, Islamic art, Dallas Museum of Art, speaking at *The Art of Tom Lea: Preserving Our National Heritage conference at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.*



“I’ve had a bit of an epiphany because I was remembering one of my favorite essays by Sir Philip Sidney called *In defense of Poesy* and he argued that the value of literature was that it combined the best of both

history and philosophy. Like history, it could tell stories that were about real events, but like philosophy you can shape it and tell the story that you really want to tell. He called that phenomenon of literature, appropriately enough for what we are talking about today, ‘speaking pictures.’ So, I do see a connection between what we call written history and [Tom Lea’s World War II artwork].”

–BG Creighton Abrams USA-Ret.,

executive director, Army Historical Foundation, speaking at *The Two Thousand Yard Stare: Tom Lea’s World War II conference at the Officers’ Club in Ft. Belvoir, VA*

Scenes from Tom Lea Month Events



Downtown Juarez Tour led by Tomas Cuevas, director, Department of Tourism, UACJ.



The Rev. Neal Locke shares the story of Lea’s stained-glass windows at El Paso’s First Presbyterian Church.



Zayra Estrada and her collection of Tom Lea-inspired dresses.



Tom Lea was an extraordinary Texan who left behind a legacy full of passion and color, a legacy full of great spirit, and a legacy that inspires our national heritage. No artist, perhaps, has so carefully and effectively captured the essence of the Southwest border region. He knew the mountains, valleys and rivers intimately, and he could place himself in the shoes of every colorful character who crossed that rugged terrain in order to bring their experiences to life. He created in oil on canvas or between the pages of a novel. Though his work took him to every continent, he is remembered for always returning back home to Texas.

– United States Senator John Cornyn,

speaking at *The Art of Tom Lea: Preserving Our National Heritage conference at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.*



“Travelling along the Tom Lea trail, giving talks in large cities (El Paso, Austin) as well as small towns (Odessa, Seymour), enabled me to get a real feel of Texas and thus better understand the art of Tom Lea, which is notably strongly imbued with the spirit of his region. I was quite taken by the warm welcome of my hosts (my stay in Ranger Creek Ranch near Seymour is particularly memorable), and by the enthusiastic response of the public. The comparisons I made between Tom Lea’s New Deal murals and those of the Italian Renaissance seem to have struck a chord.”

– Luciano Cheles,

art historian, University of Poitiers, France, following his tour of four Texas cities during Tom Lea Month

Coming out of Tom Lea Month ...



Stampede, mural, 1940. Oil on canvas, 5.5 x 16 ft., Post Office, Odessa, Texas

Restoration plan for “Stampede” in motion after murals conference

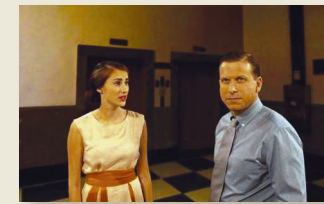
CITIZENS of Odessa, Texas, and members of its Ellen Noel Art Museum hit the ground running after returning home from the September 24 Smithsonian American Art Museum’s conference on preserving New Deal murals, where the condition of their own 1940 Tom Lea post office mural, *Stampede*, was discussed. Presenter Trudy Lewis, a retired school teacher, stated, “It’s true, our mural has been damaged over time and is in a very vulnerable place right now. What we’d like to do is to explore ways to preserve it.” Within six weeks, the interim director of the Ellen Noel Museum, Doyle Land, had contacted conservator Steven Prins of Santa Fe to provide a condition report and plan for the mural’s restoration. The Odessa group is grateful to the U.S. Postal Service and Daniel Delahaye, federal preservation officer, for invaluable guidance.

Our Annual Valentine’s Day Open House for Members



SAVE the date for the Tom Lea Institute’s annual open house on Friday, February 13, from 4-6 p.m. Learn the story of Tom Lea’s first date with his sweetheart Sarah Dighton in a members-only downtown tour of Tom Lea’s *Pass of the North* mural in the historic Federal Courthouse, followed by a display and refreshments in the Institute’s Chase Bank Building offices, 201 E. Main, Suite 100. Tour begins at 4:00 sharp. Parking provided. RSVP to Lauren at 915-533-0048.

Video to bring “Pass of the North” to life with animation, special effects



Jenna Doddridge and Alan Humphry play Sarah and Tom Lea.

HOLLY COBB, producer of KSCE Television’s *Decision Points* in El Paso, was so inspired by the mural conference in D.C. that she returned home to develop a seven-minute video drama with animation and special effects on Tom Lea’s 1938

Pass of the North mural in El Paso’s U.S. Federal Courthouse with her brother, Derek Packard. After a talent search, she found actors Jenna Doddridge and Alan Humphry – from Las Cruces and Santa Fe, New Mexico – to play Sarah Dighton and Tom Lea on their first date, when Tom shared the historic giants of El Paso history he was painting on the foyer wall. The figures come to life as Tom shares their stories with his future wife. The Spanish barb horse snorts, the Mexican vaquero moves his eyes, and the Apaches’ long black hair blows in the wind, thanks to the animating capabilities of digital media. Tom Birkner, a left-handed assistant professor of art at the University of Texas at El Paso, posed for the hand of Tom Lea painting *alla prima*. The video is based on a true story, recorded in *Tom Lea, An Oral History* by Adair Margo, and will be available to educators nationwide through the Tom Lea Institute.

MEMBERSHIP

We invite you to join us as members of the Tom Lea Institute again in 2015! All member names will appear in our next newsletter and we hope yours will be there. Not a member or can’t remember? Call us at 915-533-0048 or visit our website: TomLea.com/membership



Pass of the North, Now the Old Giants Are Gone We Little Men Live Where Heroes Once Walked the Inviolate Earth, 1938. Oil on canvas, 11 x 54 feet. U.S. Courthouse, El Paso, Texas. Commissioned through the Section of Fine Arts, 1934-1943. Fine Arts Collection, U.S. General Services Administration.

Limited Edition “Pass of the North” print

TOM LEA’S *Pass of the North* mural, which has inspired generations with its classical depiction of El Paso’s cultural richness, is now available in beautifully printed, limited edition offset lithographs. Upon completion of the mural in 1938, Tom stated in a June 24 interview with the El Paso Herald Post:

“I hold two hopes for this work just completed. One, that it may bring to life in a few minds that vivid history of the Pass of the North. And the other, that the point of view I have taken as a

creative artist may help demonstrate that the function of a mural painting in a community is to deepen and to enrich a people’s perception of its own tradition and the character of its own land.”

Each print is numbered in an edition of 400 and embossed with the Tom Lea Institute chop. Unframed cost is \$200.00 for nonmembers and \$180.00 for members, plus tax and shipping. Contact Arturo Flores at 915-533-0048, aflores@tomlea.net

Laura Bush visits El Paso for Tom Lea Month Events

Laura Bush visited El Paso during Tom Lea Month, bringing Nancy Dedman and Caren Prothro from Dallas with her. They experienced many of the places Tom Lea frequented, including the El Paso Mission Valley, breakfast at H&H Carwash, the Magoffin Home, El Paso Museum of Art and historic Mills Building downtown. Elisa Garrido and Carolina Franco took the foursome on a tour of Tom Lea’s 1938 *Pass of the North* mural in the historic Federal Courthouse, eliciting enthusiastic comments from our guests seeing it for the first time.

Laura Bush, whose mother grew up in El Paso, is a member of the Tom Lea Institute



Caren Prothro, left, Nancy Dedman, former first lady Laura W. Bush, and Adair Margo visit the Socorro Mission

Board. She and her husband, George, have become XII Travelers Founding Members of the Institute, joining J.P. Bryan and Betty Ruth Wakefield Haley in contributing generously to its endowment.

THE XII TRAVELERS

The first twelve \$100,000 donors are designated The XII Travelers, named after the 1946 *Calendar of Twelve Travelers Through the Pass of the North* written and illustrated by Tom Lea and published by Carl Hertzog. While the book commemorates notable characters who left their imprints upon history, The XII Travelers honors the Distinguished Founding Donors of the Tom Lea Institute.