

TOM LEA MONTH 2020

AMISTAD

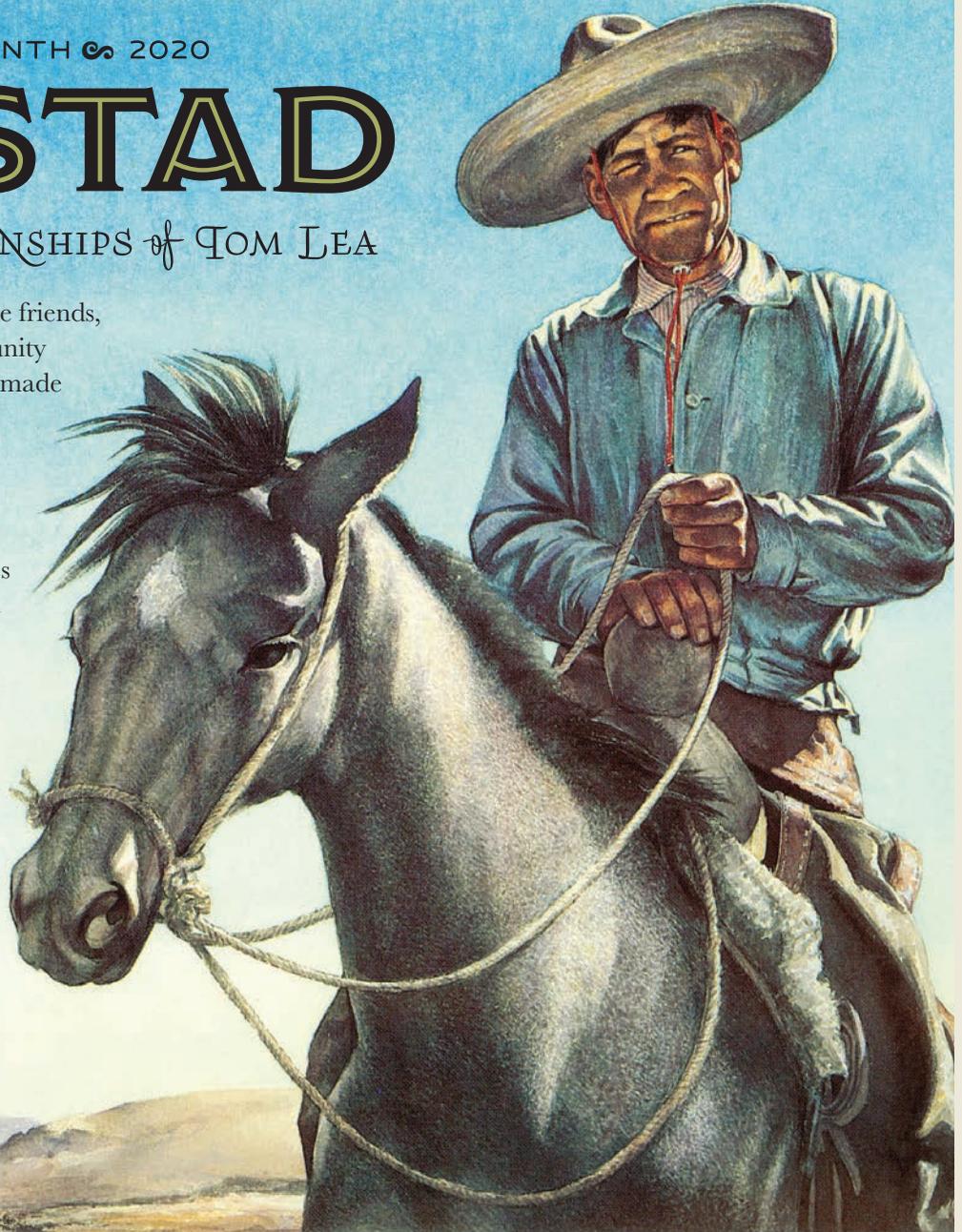
THE RICH RELATIONSHIPS of TOM LEA

TOM Lea had close and diverse friends, always crediting each opportunity that came his way to the bonds he made throughout life. His paintings, he said, were a personal conversation between him and his friends.

Our team has been hard at work, finding new ways and opportunities to bring our community a safe and fun Tom Lea Month experience.

This year has indeed allowed us to strip away the non-essentials and focus on what's truly important, which aligns perfectly with our theme this October – *Amistad: The Rich Relationships of Tom Lea*. Tom Lea's life and art are a brilliant example of how much further you can go when you bring people alongside you.

➔ *Find a schedule of events in the center spread of this issue.*



¿Qué Tal, Juan Sanchez?, 1965. Water Color, 18 X 25. Collection of Peggy Donaldson Bishop, Roanoke, TX

TOM LEA MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDING BY



NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tom Lea Month 2020

WHILE other institutions are closed or in partial operation, the Tom Lea Institute is standing in the cultural gap by producing creative and informative programming both live and virtual. With 11 offerings for Tom Lea Month, there is something for everyone – those who want to stay home or go out. Our events are presented in outdoor venues and follow all COVID-19 guidelines, while others are online. The theme, *Amistad: the Rich Relationships of Tom Lea*, explores how Lea found inspiration for his art through diverse friendships worldwide. During this time of social distancing, we can find nourishment by learning about how Tom Lea’s art drew from the wellspring of his friendships. We hope you will select a few events and join us for Tom Lea Month 2020.

– Holly Cobb
Executive Director

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In Memory of Bill Kiely, Big Foot Wallace XII Traveler

WATER centered the life trajectory of El Paso native William “Bill” Kiely, a life he called “pretty exciting and sometimes bizarre,” in reflecting on a childhood playing in irrigation well water on his parents’ Vinton farm, earning his engineering degree from UTEP, and soldiering in Vietnam’s rice paddies. He was a pioneer in deep water submersibles and off-shore terminals for oil supertankers.



William "Bill" and Ann Kiely

Tom Lea’s art also flowed through Bill’s life. As a youngster, Bill would hang out near Lea’s works in the El Paso Federal Courthouse, El Paso

National Bank, and the El Paso Library while his mother did her downtown shopping. “I knew even then there was something special about them.” Later, just returned from Vietnam, he, “a total stranger,” knocked on Tom and Sarah’s door. “I asked a hero from my youth if he would have a print I could purchase to take with me to my new life in DC.” Lea gave him a small signed print of *Ranger Escort West of the Pecos*. Said Bill years later, “While Tom and Sarah did not remember that brash young soldier at their door 30 years previous, over the next few years, we developed a truly wonderful and strong friendship.”

Kiely, with his wife, Ann, helped purchase Tom’s World War II sketchbook for the El Paso Museum of Art’s permanent collection, and Bill served on the Tom Lea Institute board. Wanting to leave a legacy commemorating their admiration for Tom, he and Ann became our most recent XII Travelers. Bill passed away after a long illness on August 5, 2020.

BECOME A MEMBER

Keep up with the latest events and support the Institute. Membership levels and benefits are listed online. It’s easy to join at **TomLea.com**

ONLINE



TomLea.com

INSTITUTE STAFF

- Holly Cobb EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- Arturo Flores ... MEMBERSHIP & OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Christy Gonzalez ... MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER
- Javier Segovia ... COLLECTIONS & EDUCATION MANAGER
- Patricia Ladd FINANCE
- Lyn Mckinley GRANT WRITER
- David Guerin VIDEOGRAPHER

DEARLY DEPARTED

- AJ DeGroat*
- Annabelle B. Johnson*
- Fred “Pito” Morton*
- Marilyn Mendeloff*
- Bill Kiely*
- Preston T. Foster*



The Altar of Earth, 1964. Oil on Canvas, 27 X 36. Collection of Jack and Carroll Maxon, El Paso, TX.

El Paso Tragedy

AUGUST 3, 2020, marked one year since 23 of El Paso's own left too soon. And while we are still hurting and mourning the loss of our loved ones, we are finding pockets of peace in the gift that is

Tom Lea's art. Take a minute with Lea's piece "The Altar of Earth" and notice the hand in the clouds. We're believing for brighter days ahead, to find rest in nature, art, and the hand of the Almighty.

Mindful Monday Yoga Session

AUGUST 10 was a mid afternoon meeting many were happy to attend. In partnership with UTEP and the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, our yoga instructor Lavon Egleton led us through art, music and yoga – a meeting of the mind. This session featured calming music from EPSO paired with yoga, all while enjoying Tom Lea's landscapes in the background. Our current season has emphasized the importance of being mindful, peaceful and joyous. We are delighted to offer our audience a respite. In case you missed it, head over to our youtube page to rewatch and relax at any time! For more fun and education, rewatch our Snack & Storytime videos on YouTube as well!

WATCH: [youtube.com/TomLeaInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/TomLeaInstitute)



BACKGROUND IMAGE: *New Caledonia*, 1947, Casein tempera, 17" x 20", Collection of Wells Fargo, El Paso, TX.

TOM LEA MONTH  2020

AMISTAD

THE RICH RELATIONSHIPS of TOM LEA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

3 SATURDAY | 9 AM HERBS AND HEALING FOR YOUR FRIENDS

⇒ **IN-PERSON** event

Tom Lea believed that all painting was portraiture, and took the time to study every part of "the Almighty's majestic handiwork," including vegetation and individual plants. Dr. Eric Kappus, a professor at Southwest University who studied Native American tribes, will demonstrate the healing properties of plants in the El Paso region.

*El Paso Chihuahuan
Desert Gardens,
500 W University Ave.,
El Paso, TX 79968.*

RSVP at tomlea.com

8 THURSDAY | 6 PM CULTURE & COCKTAILS Broadcast from Ellen Noel Museum, Odessa

⇒ **ONLINE** event via YouTube Live

Listen in as Adair Margo, founder of the Tom Lea Institute, joins educator Trudy Lewis and UTEP assistant professor of art history Melissa Warak to discuss the fascinating history behind Tom Lea's famous *Stampede* mural. Watch from home with us, and make sure to serve yourself your favorite cocktail before tuning in!

**RSVP at tomlea.com
for the link to join.**



9 FRIDAY | 5 PM DATE NIGHT IN THE GARDENS

⇒ **IN-PERSON** event; members only

The Tom Lea Institute and Magoffin Home are calling couples to join us for a yoga session made just for the two of you! Enjoy prepackaged crudites, a yoga session by El Paso yoga master Rebecca Hendricks, and projected art by Tom Lea and the Magoffins as you unwind. Event is BYOB; also bring a yoga mat and picnic blanket.

**TICKETS: \$40 per couple; includes crudites.
Yoga Session begins at 5:30 PM.
1120 Magoffin Ave, El Paso, TX 79901**

RSVP at tomlea.com

10 SATURDAY 9 AM- 3 PM AMIGOS AT KILBOURNE HOLE

⇒ **IN-PERSON** event

Tom Lea loved the Chihuahuan Desert and captured it in paintings and murals. Grab a friend and visit El Paso's youngest volcano, Kilbourne Hole. Join Paul Galvan and Dr. Eric Kappus on a Celebration

of Our Mountains field trip to the volcano, where Apollo astronauts trained. Kilbourne Hole erupted tons of the August birthstone peridot, which you can collect there.

Meet at Rudy's BBQ on Artcraft at I-10.

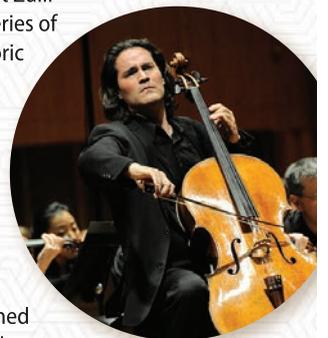
**RSVP at tomlea.com
or visit celebmtns.org for details.**

11 SUNDAY | 2 PM LOVE LETTER TO EL PASO, ZUILL BAILEY

⇒ **ONLINE** event via YouTube Live

Grammy-winning cellist Zuill Bailey will perform a series of Bach concertos at historic landmarks in the city. The first comes on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Church of St. Clement, one of the oldest churches in the Southwest, and where Tom Lea attended. Bathed in the light of spectacular stained-glass windows, enjoy the setting, music, and Zuill's commentary. Co-sponsored by El Paso Pro-Musica.

**RSVP at tomlea.com
for the link to join.**



All in-person events will enforce COVID-19 precautions. Masks will be required; hand sanitizer and temperature check will be provided upon entry. Social distancing will be implemented to further protect those attending.

15 THURSDAY | 6 PM
COCKTAILS AND CULTURE Amistad: Tom Lea, J. Frank Dobie & a Cowboy Poet | Broadcast from Museum of the Big Bend

➔ **ONLINE** event via YouTube Live

Join researcher and writer Susan Pittman as she recounts the tumultuous relationship between J. Frank Dobie and Tom Lea. The two Texas artists traveled the state researching its life and lore, culminating in Lea illustrating Dobie's books *Apache Gold* and *Yagui Silver* and *The Longhorns*. Their friendship suffered a terrible blow, but was restored through the intervention of their wives, Bertha and Sarah.

Featuring cowboy poet Don Cadden.

RSVP at tomlea.com for the link to join.



16 FRIDAY | 6 PM
THE TRAVELS OF TOM: A GLOBAL CITIZEN

➔ **IN-PERSON** event

Tom Lea loved to explore new places: Australia, Italy, the Solomon Islands, China, and Mexico. His art captured the unique light and essence of each place. In a presentation, Tom Lea Fellow Cristina Mayagoitia unveils an embroidered world map inspired by Lea's travels.



Flor de Barro Gallery, 6721 Westwind Dr. El Paso, TX 79912 **RSVP** at tomlea.com.

21 WEDNESDAY
5:30 PM
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES THROUGH THE ART OF LEA

➔ **IN-PERSON** event

Tom Lea loved to camp and fish. His landscapes evidence intimate knowledge and insight into the mysteries of nature. Claudia Rivers, director of Special Collections at UTEP, delves into the archives to explore the stories behind rarely seen photos of Tom Lea and his outdoor adventures with the Leavell family. EPSO 90th Anniversary Quartet performs.

Outdoor patio, 1120 Magoffin Ave, El Paso, TX 79901. **RSVP** at tomlea.com.

24 SATURDAY | 11 AM
VOICES OF LA LYDIA

➔ **ONLINE** event via YouTube Live

In a program presenting her newly released book, *VOICES OF LA LYDIA, The History of Lydia Patterson Institute*, Adair Margo shares the story of an early student, Jose Cisneros, whose passion for illustrating historical figures of the Spanish borderlands was encouraged at the school. Listeners will learn about Cisneros' friendship with Tom Lea, John Wesley's positive influence in 19th century Mexico, and how a Wesleyan school founded to train ministers became the first English as a Second Language program in the U.S. Above all, listeners will experience El Paso at its finest as characters of the region demonstrate the power of faith and what American philanthropy and Christian charity can accomplish together.

RSVP at tomlea.com for the link to join.



29 THURSDAY | 6 PM
RIO BRAVO: A RIVER OF GREAT FRIENDSHIP IN WORD & SONG

➔ **IN-PERSON** event

Join us for a night stuffed with pizza and pints on the rooftop patio of Hotel Indigo. This indoor/outdoor event offers a look at Lea's novel and movie *The Brave Bulls*, and his love for Mexico and its people that grew because of it. Lea's friendship with Roberto Gonzalez, owner of the bullring in Ciudad Juárez, allowed him an insider's view of the corrida. José Mario Sanchez illuminates this story, interweaving speech and Spanish songs from the early 20th century.

TICKETS are \$20 per person; includes pizza, cash bar. Hotel Indigo 325 N Kansas St, El Paso, TX 79901. **RSVP** at tomlea.com.

29 THURSDAY | 10AM
CULTURE AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PASO DEL NORTE REGION, UAJC

➔ **ONLINE** event via YouTube Live

As the keynote speaker for the UAJC

conference, Adair Margo will explore the potential to spur economic development through cultural tourism. Collaboration on both sides of the border can bring extraordinary opportunities to showcase the rich culture and history of three states, two countries, and one region.

RSVP at tomlea.com for the link to join.

JANUARY

21 THURSDAY | 6 PM
AMIGOS Y AMISTAD: A CULTURAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE (CD Release Event)

➔ **IN-PERSON** event

A unique cultural experience with a multimedia presentation using state-of-the-art editing techniques, special effects and animation, in partnership with El Paso Pro-Musica. The presentation features the art of Tom Lea friends Jose Cisneros, Enrique Alferes, Urbici Soler, Peter Hurd, as well as contemporary Chicano artist Gaspar Enriquez. Grammy-winning cellist Zuill Bailey will play a selection from his latest CD, Richard Strauss's *Don Quixote, Op. 35*; El Paso artist Hal Marcus, who made the cover art, also will speak.

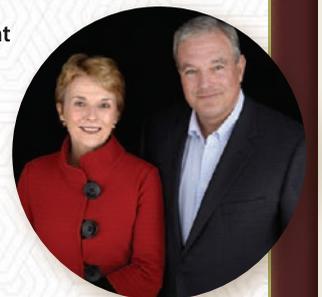
Church of St. Clement, 810 N Campbell St, El Paso, TX 79902. **RSVP** at tomlea.com.

FEBRUARY

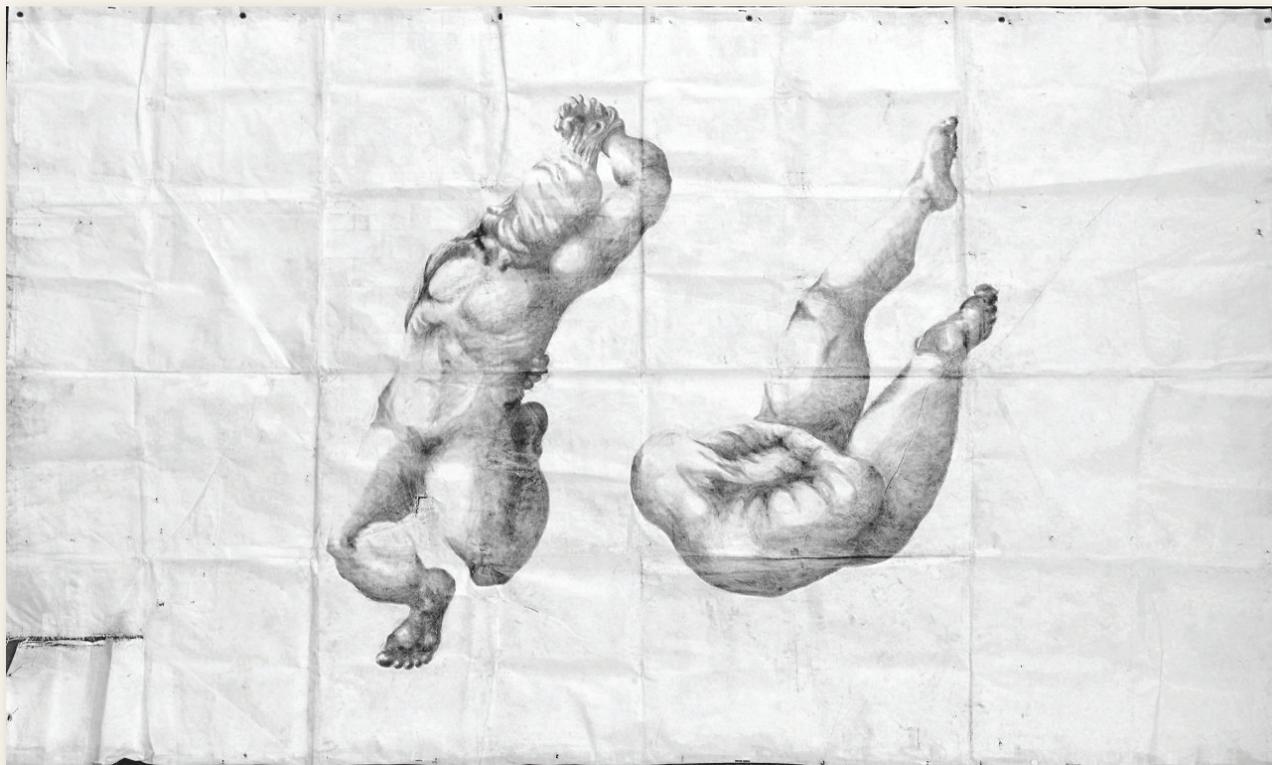
11 MONDAY | 6PM
I LOVE EL PASO with Mayor Dee & First Lady Adair Margo

➔ **IN-PERSON** event

Power couple Mayor Dee and First Lady Adair Margo share what they believe is the secret to a successful marriage, family, and work life. The Margos define the term "opposites attract," celebrating over 44 years of marriage while balancing demanding careers and passion projects. Enjoy charcuterie and wine or beer tastings while leaning in and learning more from these El Paso icons. **TICKETS** are \$5 per person; location TBD. **RSVP** at tomlea.com.



OPPOSITE PAGE: *Stampede*, 1940, oil on canvas, 5 1/2 x 16 feet. on loan at the Ellen Noël Museum, Odessa, TX. TOP LEFT: *Portrait of Frank Dobie*, 1953. Chinese ink with charcoal and chalk, 17 1/2 x 15, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin. CENTER: *Chapter Heading for The Brave Bulls* (page 98), 1948. Pen and ink, 8 x 5/12. Collection of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin. ABOVE LEFT: *Upper Assam Jungle*, 1947. Casein tempera, 17 x 20, collection of Wells Fargo, El Paso, TX. All © Catherine Lea Weeks



Miguel Aguilar, *XXII & XXII*, 2019. Graphite on Tarpaulin. 190"x125"

Tom and Sarah Lea Best Life Drawing or Life Painting Award

Tom and Sarah Lea established the Best Life Drawing or Life Painting Award in the years preceding Tom's death in 2001.

In his oral history, Tom told Adair Margo that when he attended figure drawing class at the Art Institute of Chicago, his teacher instructed students to make ovals and more ovals to draw a nude model. It was miserable and he refused to do it. "I'd draw the figure, you know?" he told Margo. "I never got a grade at all."

This fellowship was established so that students – no matter what their teachers tell them – can draw the



human figure from life. The winner receives a \$1,000 award.

The recipient of the Tom and Sarah Lea Best Life Drawing or Life Painting is Miguel Aguilar, an El Paso-born artist who specializes in jewelry, small sculpture, and drawings. He received his BFA

in both Metalsmithing and Drawing from the University of Texas at El Paso in 2020. He has been featured on multiple occasions in the Annual Juried UTEP Student Show, showcasing his large figural drawings, typographic prints, and rustic works in metal. Congratulations, Miguel!



The gift to the Institute included lithographs of *Recuerdo de Lágrimas*, 1967, and *And There He Was*, 1970.

What's New in Our Collections?

TOM Lea Institute member Pam Nelson's grandfather, Bob Homan, was a great friend of Tom Lea—even creating a scrapbook of clippings while Tom was serving as an artist correspondent in WWII. Pam Nelson has given The AJ Degroat Collection 2020 in honor of her mother, who recently passed away. Pam gifted the Tom Lea Institute with 31 Tom Lea books and 7 lithographs that we are delighted to have. These precious heirlooms will be used for exhibitions and education, cherished and well maintained.



U.S. #1242 honors Texas hero Sam Houston
Issue Date: January 10, 1964

Historic Stamp Illustration by Tom Lea

DID you know there was an issue of stamps featuring a portrait by Tom Lea? Institute member Jody Schwartz introduced us to her cousin Chuck White, who donated these rare, unissued stamps using Tom Lea's portrait of Sam Houston. The stamp was to come out just after John F. Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, and was thought to be "bad form" to portray a Texan with his gun at that time. Tom Lea Institute members Andrew and Peggy Feinberg own the original Houston drawing.

Tom Lea Institute Fall Intern

SUSAN Ely Gonzalez, a senior at UTEP, studies Graphic Design and Printmaking with a minor in Museum Art Studies. She is a driven printmaker/graphic designer and museum enthusiast, who enjoys attending art and music events and meeting new people. Known for taking

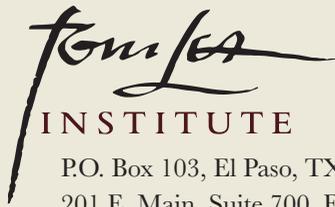


the initiative to promote artistic experiences, she has participated in several development teams for local and international exhibits.

Because so much of Tom Lea's art is in the hands of private collectors, Ely

will work with our collections manager to get high-resolution photos taken of art not yet catalogued for our digital library.

If you have some of Tom's art which has not been photographed for our digital library, please contact Javier Segovia, jsegovia@tomlea.net.



P.O. Box 103, El Paso, TX 79941
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 915-533-0048 | tomlea.com

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MEMBER MAKES A DIFFERENCE

ONE of our longtime members, Russ Moore, read in the spring newsletter about our high school curriculum, *Uncommon Valor: WWII Through the Eyes of Tom Lea and Admiral Nimitz*. Almost a native El Pasoan, he graduated from Burges High School in 1960 and Texas Western College in 1969. Having spent 26 years in the army and serving a tour in Vietnam, he retired as a colonel from Fort Bliss. During his time in El Paso, he became a fan of Lea’s WWII art. Russ wanted his grandchildren to learn about WWII through the eyes of Tom Lea and reached out to us about the videos and materials. He contacted the principals of his grandchildren’s two high schools in McKinney, Texas, and sent them information. Both principals and teachers were delighted to receive such high quality resources ready to be implemented online or in the classroom! Welcome to McKinney ISD as an educational partner. We are thankful to Russ for taking the initiative. We will assist members who wish to reach out to their local school districts about one or several of the eleven curricula available at many grade levels.

MORE INFORMATION:
 Tomlea.com/education

