

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNBOUND BOTANICALS OPENS AT STUDIO COMFORT FEATURING WORK BY PAULA OWEN *Studio Comfort Texas (SCTX) opens an exhibition of mixed media work by San Antonio artist, Paula Owen.*

COMFORT, TX – Beginning May 4th, Studio Comfort Texas presents a solo exhibition of mixed media works by Paula Owen entitled *Unbound Botanicals*, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 7, from 12:00 to 4:00pm.

The *Unbound Botanicals* series germinated during the pandemic shutdown. In the absence of regular social interaction, time and solitude were fertile ground for Owen to begin each piece with an intentional challenge to respond to a detail or object in her personal natural world or to a memory at the back of her mind.

Uninterested in representation, Owen conveys less obvious qualities of familiar references in nature. Whereas traditional botanical illustrations successfully combine scientific accuracy with visual appeal, Owen's "botanicals" are imagined—unfettered by reality.

"As I transition from a career requiring a high degree of structure, the making of this new work has been an unfurling," said Owen. "The natural world is so full of marvels and is all, in a sense, 'unbound'—a proclivity I want to continue to embrace and cultivate."

Paula Owen will soon retire from her position as President of Southwest School of Art in San Antonio, where she began her tenure in 1996. Prior to this, she held the position of Director of the Visual Arts Center in Richmond, Virginia, for eleven years, as well as various other roles in art education. Owen has served as curator of numerous exhibitions and on national and regional boards and panels, including the Pew Artist Fellowships, the Bush Foundation Fellowships, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is a published arts writer and co-authored the book, *Objects and Meaning: New Perspectives on Art and Craft*, published by Scarecrow Press. Most recently, her essay "Fabrication and Encounter: When Content is a Verb," was published in Maria Elena Buzcek's book, *Extra/Ordinary: Craft and Contemporary Art*.

Owen holds the MS degree in art education from Minnesota State University and the MFA in painting and printmaking from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her work is held in numerous private and public collections. She lives in San Antonio with her husband, Ben Owen, and has three children and six grandchildren.

The exhibition and opening reception will be located at Studio Comfort Texas, located at 716 High Street in Comfort, Texas, and celebrates both the artwork of Paula Owen and the significant contributions she has made to art education during her tenure at Southwest School of Art.

Important Dates:

Exhibition Dates | May 4 – June 26, 2022

Opening Reception | Saturday, May 7 – 12:00pm to 4:00pm

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LINKS:

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/2k318DuQy>

From the President (including short video documentary): <https://www.swschool.org/from-the-president>

Studio Comfort Website: www.studiocomforttexas.com