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Kelly Best Bourgeois: Lone Star Gifts

May 7 – July 23, 2022 at the Beeville Art Museum

HOUSTON, TEXAS (April 18, 2022) Kelly Best Bourgeois will bring her exhibit of *Lone Star Gifts* to the Beeville Art Museum beginning May 7, 2022. The exhibit highlights her life-long profound love of nature from the ever-changing scenery and wildlife across the state of Texas and along the Texas Gulf Coast. An artist's reception, free to the public, is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Bourgeois is dedicated to painting *en plein air*, a practice in which artists paint landscapes outdoors rather than in a studio. "Beeville is the ideal place to share my work as nature and everyday life provide continual inspiration for my paintings," commented Bourgeois. "There is a story behind everything, and Beeville provides the perfect balance of history and a love of the land."

Bourgeois grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas and graduated from the University of Texas. After earning her M.D. degree at the University of Texas McGovern Medical School, she settled in Houston where she married, raised her family, and continued her art studies, with local artists, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts Glassell School of Art, and the Art League of Houston, while maintaining her medical practice.

Since retiring from medicine in 2020, Bourgeois continues traveling to different locations to paint *en plein air*, using her experience in nature to create larger oil paintings in her Houston studio. She has earned recognitions and honors for her paintings in several shows in Houston, Galveston, and Corpus Christi, TX, and her works are part of several private collections across the United States and as far away as the UK. She is a member of the Oil Painters of America and The American Artists Professional League.

Stated Tracy Saucier, Director of the Beeville Art Museum, "I have been a fan of Kelly's art for many years and have watched her exploration and interpretation of nature continue to expand. I knew her paintings of rural landscapes and focus on nature would connect with Beeville residents."

The Beeville Art Museum, created and operated by the Joe Barnhart Foundation, is first and foremost a teaching museum, providing cultural and educational opportunities for the citizens of Bee County and surrounding areas. Cited by *Texas Monthly* magazine as one of the “great small towns for art,” Beeville, with a population of approximately 13,000, is home to one of the most ambitious art and educational programs in Texas. In addition to exhibiting works by some of Texas’s most renowned artists, as well as selections from private collections and major museums across the state, the Beeville Art Museum provides docent-led tours and art classes for children and adults and workshops for Beeville educators at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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The Beeville Art Museum, located at 401 E. Fannin, is open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. To contact the museum, please call 361-358-8615 or visit our website at www.bamtexas.org.