86R19362 BK-D

By:  Cyrier H.R. No. 897

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the 2020 appointments for State Poet Laureate, State Musician, State Two-Dimensional Artist, and State Three-Dimensional Artist; and

WHEREAS, The state's highest accolade for excellence in the arts, designation as a Texas State Artist is conferred on those individuals who represent the best of our rich and diverse artistic community and who inspire others through their unique creative expression; and

WHEREAS, Emmy Pérez, author of the poetry collections *With the River on Our Face* and *Solstice*, is the 2020 State Poet Laureate; after growing up in Santa Ana, California, she has spent the past 18 years of her life in Texas border communities; she currently resides in McAllen and works as a professor of creative writing at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where she also serves as associate director for the Center for Mexican American Studies; a member of the Macondo Writers Workshop for socially engaged writers, she additionally serves on the organizing committee for the CantoMundo national workshop for Latin American poets; her work has earned her several poetry fellowships, and it has been featured on the Poetry Foundation website, in Poem-a-Day by the Academy of American Poets, and in a host of poetry anthologies; and

WHEREAS, Singer and pianist Emily Gimble has been selected as the 2020 State Musician; a third-generation musician, she began performing on stage when she was only seven years old, and she went on to record an album, *A Case of the Gimbles*, with her father and grandfather in 2005; after exploring western swing with the Marshall Ford Swing Band, she branched out into jazz, country, folk, and pop with Warren Hood and the Goods; in 2014, she signed on with the Grammy Award-winning band Asleep at the Wheel, performing with the group on *Austin City Limits* and recording a duet with one of her idols, Merle Haggard; her debut solo album, *Certain Kinda*, was released in 2017, and she continues to tour on her own, with her family band, and with other artists; she has received acclaim from the Austin Music Awards as the "Best Keyboards" in the city in 2013, 2014, 2018, and 2019; and

WHEREAS, The 2020 State Two-Dimensional Artist is Earlie Hudnall Jr., a photographer whose work has focused on documenting the daily lives of African Americans in Houston's Third, Fourth, and Fifth Wards; born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Mr. Hudnall moved to Houston to study at Texas Southern University after serving in the United States Marines during the Vietnam War; he was subsequently hired to photograph communities that were impacted by the federal Model Cities program, a component of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, and the experience greatly influenced his development as an artist; his photographs have been exhibited in museums and galleries around the country, as well as in such major collections as the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture; and

WHEREAS, Named the 2020 State Three-Dimensional Artist, Gabriel Dawe is a native of Mexico City who, through his work with textiles, attempts to examine the complex construction of gender and identity in Mexico and to subvert modern-day notions of masculinity and machismo; he creates immersive, site-specific installations, and his works have been displayed at numerous exhibitions and collections at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, the Toledo Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and other institutions; Mr. Dawe moved to Dallas to pursue his master of fine arts degree at The University of Texas at Dallas in 2008, and he was recently honored with the school's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2018; and

WHEREAS, The artists who have been selected to hold these prestigious posts have all greatly contributed to the vibrant cultural life of the Lone Star State, and Texas is indeed fortunate to be home to these talented individuals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate the 2020 Texas Commission on the Arts honorees and extend to them sincere best wishes for continued fulfillment in their creative endeavors.