

By: Cyrier

H.R. No. 897

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the  
2 2020 appointments for State Poet Laureate, State Musician, State  
3 Two-Dimensional Artist, and State Three-Dimensional Artist; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Singer and pianist Emily Gimble has been selected as  
23 the 2020 State Musician; a third-generation musician, she began  
24 performing on stage when she was only seven years old, and she went

1 on to record an album, *A Case of the Gimbles*, with her father and  
2 grandfather in 2005; after exploring western swing with the  
3 Marshall Ford Swing Band, she branched out into jazz, country,  
4 folk, and pop with Warren Hood and the Goods; in 2014, she signed on  
5 with the Grammy Award-winning band Asleep at the Wheel, performing  
6 with the group on *Austin City Limits* and recording a duet with one  
7 of her idols, Merle Haggard; her debut solo album, *Certain Kinda*,  
8 was released in 2017, and she continues to tour on her own, with her  
9 family band, and with other artists; she has received acclaim from  
10 the Austin Music Awards as the "Best Keyboards" in the city in 2013,  
11 2014, 2018, and 2019; and

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

25 WHEREAS, Named the 2020 State Three-Dimensional Artist,  
26 Gabriel Dawe is a native of Mexico City who, through his work with  
27 textiles, attempts to examine the complex construction of gender

1 and identity in Mexico and to subvert modern-day notions of  
2 masculinity and machismo; he creates immersive, site-specific  
3 installations, and his works have been displayed at numerous  
4 exhibitions and collections at the Contemporary Arts Museum  
5 Houston, the Toledo Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art  
6 Museum, and other institutions; Mr. Dawe moved to Dallas to pursue  
7 his master of fine arts degree at The University of Texas at Dallas  
8 in 2008, and he was recently honored with the school's  
9 Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2018; and

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

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