



For Immediate Release: *February 9, 2021*

For More Information, Contact:

Lee Ann Whatley

(830) 456-0374

leeann@appretiarefbg.com

“Lee Ethel’s Fredericksburg” Special Exhibit to Celebrate 175th Anniversary of Fredericksburg

FREDERICKSBURG, Texas – Pioneer Museum and the Gillespie County Historical Society will be sponsoring a special art exhibition featuring the paintings and archival sources of Fredericksburg artist Lee Ethel. *Lee Ethel’s Fredericksburg: The Artist’s Paintings and Archival Sources* will be on display at Appretiare Art Studio, 237 W. Main St., from May 7 through September 15, 2021, in conjunction with Fredericksburg’s 175th Anniversary celebration.

More than 40 paintings on loan from private collectors and corresponding archival photographs from the Gillespie County Historical Society’s permanent collection will be on display.

Sponsored events include a presentation of Lee Ethel’s art, life and legacy will be given by Lee Ann Whatley, curator of the exhibition and granddaughter of the artist. A panel discussion on the historical and community impact of Ethel’s artwork will be presented by historians including Dr. Donald Frazier, director of the Texas Center at Schreiner University in Kerrville.

A special children’s educational activity will also be offered throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Events include:

- Friday, May 7: Opening Exhibition Presentation, 5-7 p.m.
- Friday, July 2: Lee Ethel’s Life and Legacy Presentation by Lee Ann Whatley, 5-7 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 6: Panel discussion on Lee Ethel’s contribution to the history of Fredericksburg, 5-7 p.m.



Lee Ethel (1926-1992) was a professional graphic designer in Dallas before retiring to Fredericksburg with his wife Betty in 1973. He focused on developing his unique style of painting and documenting the historic and iconic architecture of Fredericksburg. Ethel researched and accurately portrayed the houses, public buildings, street scenes and festivals of Fredericksburg, capturing the spirit and history. Ethel's wife, Betty, donated the artist's working materials to the Gillespie County Historical Society's permanent collection in 1998.

All exhibits will conform to COVID safety guidelines.

This exhibition and accompanying education programs and publications have been made possible through grants from Humanities Texas and the Pedernales Creative Arts Alliance as well as private sponsorships.

For more information on this exhibition, contact Lee Ann Whatley at 830-456-0374 or by email at leeann@apptiarefbg.com or Pioneer Museum at 830-990-8441 or online at pioneermuseum.net.

For more information on the year-long celebration of Fredericksburg's 175th Anniversary, please visit <https://175th.org/>.

###