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## **NORTH TEXAS ARTISTS TAPPED FOR THE BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS 2021 OBELISK AWARDS**

**DALLAS—** Four North Texas artists, Polly Gessell, Zeke Williams, and fiddle duo Joanna Ridgway and Roberta Rast Smith of *June Blount* have been tapped to lend their talent to the 2021 Obelisk Awards, held by Business Council for the Arts to recognize businesses, individuals, and organizations who have provided extraordinary support of arts and culture.

Glass artist Polly Gessell will craft a bespoke Obelisk Award for each of this year's honorees, showcasing her signature sandblasting technique of creating layered textures on glass with stunning effect. Polly's 12 exceptionally crafted works are underwritten by the Craig and Kathryn Hall Foundation.

The 2021 Obelisk Awards graphics are detail of *Athor/Laurentia, 2019*, by local Dallas artist Zeke Williams, represented by Erin Cluley Gallery. Zeke is an artist, writer for *Glasstire*, and currently an MFA candidate from Texas Christian University.

Joanna Ridgway, Managing Director & Head of Southwest Region at Santander Bank will give a special presentation, accompanied by Roberta Rast Smith on fiddle. The duo, known professionally as *June Blount*, perform Celtic, Bluegrass, classic, and contemporary hits as well as provide music education opportunities in Dallas.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Obelisk Awards will be presented on Wednesday, November 17 at the Fairmont Dallas. Tickets and sponsorship information can be found at [www.ntbca.org/the-obelisk-awards](http://www.ntbca.org/the-obelisk-awards).

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### **THE 2021 OBELISK AWARDS**

Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, The Obelisk Award honors businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, for their extraordinary support of arts and culture in North Texas.

Philip and Rebecca Silvestri, publishers of community-connecting magazine *Local Profile*, serve as co-chairs of BCA's 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Obelisk Awards.



**Presenting sponsors** of the 2021 Obelisk Awards are Nancy A. Nasher + David J. Haemisegger. **Collector level sponsors** are Capital One, Neiman Marcus Group, and NorthPark Center. **Aficionado level sponsors** are American Airlines, Atmos Energy, The Beck Group, Bourland Octave Management, Comerica Bank, Corgan Associates, Inc., Fisher & Phillips, Frost Bank, Gensler, HALL Group, Harwood International, HaynesBoone, Holland & Knight LLP, Jackson Walker LLP, Jones Day, Local Profile, Maintenance, Inc., McGrath Family Charitable Fund, MPS Real Estate Investors, Oncor, Parkland Health and Hospital Systems, PepsiCo, PZP BizConnect, RealPage, SMU | Meadows School of the Arts, Texas Instruments, Tolleson Wealth Management, UNT, UT Dallas, and UT Southwestern Medical Center. **Catalyst level sponsors** are AT&T Performing Arts Center, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership - TWU. **Advocate level sponsors** are Andy Smith and Paul von Wupperfeld, Pat Villareal and Tom Leatherbury, Polsinelli, Powell Arnold & Coleman LLP, and Vinson and Elkins. **Appreciator Sponsors** are Albert Outdoor Advertising, Charles W. Eisemann, and Southwest Airlines. **Media sponsors** are Local Profile and Patron Magazine. **Design sponsor** is Banowetz + Co.

## ARTISTS OF THE 2021 OBELISK AWARDS

Recipients of the Obelisk Award receive an original artwork created by noted Dallas glass artist Polly Gessell, underwritten by the Craig + Kathryn Hall Foundation. The 2021 Obelisk Awards graphics are a detail of Athor/Laurentia, 2019 by local Dallas artist Zeke Williams, represented by Erin Cluley Gallery. J Crawford Construction Systems, LP underwrites the photography by Sheryl Lanzel.

Sponsorships, tickets, and donations in recognition of the honorees and BCA programs can be purchased at [www.ntbca.org/the-obelisk-awards](http://www.ntbca.org/the-obelisk-awards).

## BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Business Council for the Arts encourages, inspires, and stimulates businesses and municipalities to support the arts in the workplace, in education, and in the community. We are a connector between commerce and culture. Our programs bring wellness and equity into the workplace through the arts, develop next-generation business leaders for arts boards, inject creativity into work teams, measure the economic impact of the arts in North Texas, and enrich arts organizations with business best practices. Contact us at [bca@ntbca.org](mailto:bca@ntbca.org) for more information or visit our website at <https://ntbca.org>.

Attachments:

BCA Logo

Obelisk Logos

Photo of Polly Gessell

Photo of Obelisk Award



Photo of Artwork by Zeke Williams

Photo of Joanna Ridgway and Roberta Rast Smith, *June Blount*