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■ **COLLECTOR'S EYE**

KINGSVILLE (August 15, 2007) — Kirk Clark found his love of art early in life. The son of Rio Grande Valley artists Charles and Dorothy Clark, he created his first oil painting, "The Lone Cypress," in 1956 at age 10. In his adult years, he would go on to become a successful South Texas car dealer, but studying and making art remains a big part of his life.

In addition to creating art at 10 years old, Clark started collecting art as a boy, too. Urged by his family to purchase pieces that meant something to him, Clark now has a substantial collection featuring modern notables from Europe to the southwestern United States.

Selections from that collection make up the new exhibit, "A Collector's Eye," featured at the Ben P. Bailey Art Gallery on the Texas A&M University-Kingsville campus from September 3-28.

On Thursday, September 6, Clark will give a slideshow presentation from the gallery at 3 p.m., talking about his art collection and the collection of his parents, part of which was previously donated to A&M-Kingsville. An opening reception for "A Collector's Eye" will follow at 6 p.m.

The exhibit will feature a varied selection of artists, with no one dominant medium. Featured artists include Ernst Fuchs, Austrian artist and co-founder of the Vienna School of Fantastic Realism; Rufino Tamayo, Mexican painter who developed the printed artwork style of mixografia; Amado Pena, a major figure in the Chicano art movement and an A&M-Kingsville alumnus; and J.D. Challenger, chronicler of the Native Americans of New Mexico and the land around them.

Charles Wissinger, professor and co-chair of the art department, notes the value of "A Collector's Eye."

"This exhibit is particularly important in that it stresses collecting," said Wissinger. "Mr. Clark could have sold these and other pieces in his collection for a lot of money. Instead, he has shared them with our university and others, and donated works as well."

For more information on the exhibit, call 361-593-2619.



