

# PAINTING THE TOWN

Raising Funds, Remembering Houston's own Rome Prize Fellow, Fifth Ward's Native Son, Artist Bert Long Jr.



Peter Boesel

Minnette Boesel

## PALETTE

The evening slanted towards the jubilant — more wake than dirge, fueled by free-flowing wine and song, just as the late great would have wanted. It featured a musical tribute by **Texas Johnny Boy** and **Milton Hopkins**, while an admiring throng turned out to honor Long and view his epic *Riding the Tiger*, 2000, installed in a special viewing station arranged for the occasion. *Riding the Tiger* is also the book title of Long's forthcoming biopic authored by the brilliant and iconoclastic Dr. Thomas McEvilly of Rice University, the late art historian.



Deborah Colton

Jason Aigner



Bert Long Jr.'s *Church and Death*, 2010



Alison de Lima Greene

Sally Sprout



Bert Long III

Joan Batson



Jack Massing

Everett Taasevigen



Bob Nowak

Carolyn Farb

Christy Karll

## THE CANVAS

On the year to the date of the mythic talent Bert Long Jr.'s passing, collectors, curators, family, friends and fans came together to toast the remarkable artist's legacy, fund his foundation and benefit his book. The place: **Deborah Colton** Gallery, Long's Houston dealer. The exhibition, which spanned five decades, was aptly titled "Bert: Back and Beyond."



Ina Honke

Toby Kamps

Jereann Chaney



Nancy Kienholz

Ken Mazzu

Janice Thomas



Keith Hollingsworth

Meredith Loving

Paul Horn



Bert Long Jr.'s *Endangered Species (Offering)*, 1995

## SOCIAL SCULPTURE

Long-time Long patron **Marilyn Oshman**; curatorial duo The Menil Collection's **Toby Kamps** and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's **Alison de Lima Greene**; fellow MFAH "Fresh Paint" artist **Sharon Kopriva** and gallerist husband **Gus**; Art Guy **Jack Massing**, leading the charge on the book fund-raising through the Houston Artists Fund; Long's widow, artist **Joan Batson**, son **Bert Long III** and sister **Violet White**; archivist **Pete Gershon**; **Leigh and Reggie Smith**; **Jason Aigner**; **Cyndy Allard**; Art Prince **Lester Marks**; **Craig Massey**, who uncovered a lost video of Long in studio, which was screened during the exhibition; Long's Dallas dealer, **Kirk Hopper**; and **Minnette Boesel**, who reigns over the cultural life of our town through her post at the Mayor's Office, with husband **Peter**.

**PC PARTY MOMENT:**  
**THE ARRIVAL OF ANITA AND GERALD SMITH, WHO SHOWED UP TO LEND SUPPORT AND ACQUIRE ONE SIGNATURE TREASURE: A LANDMARK PAINTING EMBLAZONED WITH A PAINTBRUSH IMAGE, ARTERY, 1982.**

BY CATHERINE D. ANSPON  
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