

Impressions of the Big Thicket: Blaffer of Southwestern Art

The Big Thicket, a vast and diverse ecosystem located in southeastern Texas, has long been a source of inspiration for artists. Its towering pines, winding rivers, and teeming wetlands have been captured in paintings, photographs, sculptures, and other works of art for centuries.



Impressions of the Big Thicket (Blaffer Series of Southwestern Art) by Michael Frary

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Blaffer Museum of Art at the University of Houston is proud to present "Impressions of the Big Thicket," an exhibition that explores the artistic interpretations of this unique ecosystem. The exhibition features works by more than 30 artists, including Frederick Remington, Frank Reaugh, Julian Onderdonk, and John James Audubon.

The exhibition is organized into four thematic sections: "The Land," "The Water," "The People," and "The Legacy." The "Land" section features works

that depict the Big Thicket's diverse landscape, from its rolling hills and towering pines to its winding rivers and cypress swamps.

The "Water" section features works that explore the Big Thicket's waterways, from its crystal-clear creeks to its murky bayous. The "People" section features works that depict the human history of the Big Thicket, from its Native American inhabitants to its early European settlers.

The "Legacy" section features works that explore the Big Thicket's environmental legacy. These works address the threats to the Big Thicket, such as logging, development, and pollution, as well as the efforts to protect this unique ecosystem.

"Impressions of the Big Thicket" is a stunning exhibition that celebrates the beauty and diversity of this unique ecosystem. The exhibition is a must-see for anyone who loves art, nature, or Texas history.

The Artists

The artists featured in "Impressions of the Big Thicket" represent a wide range of artistic styles and backgrounds. Some of the most notable artists include:

- **Frederick Remington** (1861-1909) was a renowned American painter, illustrator, and sculptor. He is best known for his depictions of the American West, including cowboys, Native Americans, and landscapes.
- **Frank Reaugh** (1860-1947) was a Texas painter and illustrator. He is best known for his landscapes of the Big Thicket and other Texas environments.

- **Julian Onderdonk** (1882-1922) was a Texas painter and printmaker. He is best known for his landscapes of the Big Thicket and other Texas environments.
- **John James Audubon** (1785-1851) was an American ornithologist, naturalist, and painter. He is best known for his illustrations of birds, which were published in his book "The Birds of America."

The Artwork

The artworks featured in "Impressions of the Big Thicket" are equally diverse in style and subject matter. Some of the highlights of the exhibition include:

- **"The Big Thicket"** (1890) by Frederick Remington is a large-scale oil painting that depicts a group of cowboys rounding up cattle in the Big Thicket.
- **"The Old Mill"** (1905) by Frank Reaugh is a watercolor painting that depicts an old mill in the Big Thicket.
- **"The Live Oak Tree"** (1910) by Julian Onderdonk is a oil painting that depicts a large live oak tree in the Big Thicket.
- **"The Ivory-billed Woodpecker"** (1831) by John James Audubon is a watercolor painting that depicts an ivory-billed woodpecker, a now-extinct bird that was once common in the Big Thicket.

The Exhibition

"Impressions of the Big Thicket" is on view at the Blaffer Museum of Art from March 11 to June 11, 2023. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

The Blaffer Museum of Art is located at 1001 Bissonnet Street in Houston, Texas. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

For more information about the exhibition, please visit the Blaffer Museum of Art website at www.blafferartmuseum.org.



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