



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL REVEALS POSTER FOR 2021 HYBRID FESTIVAL

**AUSTIN, TX (June 21, 2021)** - The Texas Book Festival is thrilled to reveal the 2021 Festival poster artist, Clemente Guzman, whose career embodies a love of the Texas outdoors, a love that many Texans are feeling stronger than ever as we emerge, bit by bit, from more than a year in lockdown.

The art for this year's poster, titled *Viva Texas Rivers!*, will also be the cover of a Texas A&M University Press published book of essays by the same name, edited by Steven Davis—a Texas Institute of Letters fellow and former president, as well as the literary curator at the Southwestern Writers Collection for The Wittliff Collections.

The book *Viva Texas Rivers!* is studded with contributions from Texas literary stars, including Carmen Tafolla, David Bowles, Naomi Shihab Nye, Michael Barnes, the late Larry McMurtry, and [Texas Writer Award](#) winners Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Attica Locke, Sandra Cisneros, Pat Mora, and more.

Guzman was a Texas Parks and Wildlife staff artist from 1988 to 2017. His career highlights include producing five Texas Conservation license plates (White-tailed Deer, Largemouth Bass, Camping, Diamondback Rattlesnake, and Lucifer Hummingbird), thirty-three Texas game stamps, and illustrating posters for the Texas Wildlife Expo, Great Texas Birding Classic, Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Texas Game Warden Memorial, and Texas State Railroad. Guzman was the Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio poster winner, 1992, 1995, 2002 and the California Upland Game Bird Stamp Art Contest winner, Sacramento, California, 2012.

“Clemente Guzman’s gorgeous painting is a marvel. It summons the joy and beauty people have found along Texas rivers for thousands of years,” says Steven L. Davis, co-editor of *Viva Texas Rivers!*. “It wonderfully evokes the sparkling writing found inside [*Viva Texas Rivers!*].”

Though born in Martinez, California, Guzman has always considered himself a Texan. “Three months before I was born, my family left Doss, Texas, as my dad was a cowboy looking for work in California,” he says. “Soon after I was born, we returned to Doss. I should have been born in Fredericksburg. We moved to San Antonio when I was in first grade.” Guzman currently lives and works in San Antonio.

“Clemente Guzman’s *Viva Texas Rivers!* painting, featured in a forthcoming Texas rivers book, is the perfect selection for the festival’s poster,” says DJ Stout, TBF Board of Advisors member and partner at the design firm Pentagram. “After a year of being cooped up, Clemente’s lively celebration of the outdoors is a breath of fresh air.”

Every year, the Texas Book Festival chooses an artist and work that reflects the spirit of the Texas Book Festival, including imagination, creativity, and community. The artist should have a strong Texas affiliation, and the work should capture the diversity of Texas culture.

Posters and T-shirts featuring the *Viva Texas Rivers!* art will be available for pre-order with a donation on the Texas Book Festival website.

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## **ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL**

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, the Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former First Lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing through its annual Festival Weekend, the Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming. This year's hybrid Texas Book Festival will take place from October 25 through October 31, with virtual events October 25 - 28 and the Festival Weekend taking place on the grounds of the Texas Capitol October 30 - 31, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and children's activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.