

## **UT Dallas is staging an art exhibition in honor of late art historian and influencer, Rick Brettell**

The late Rick Brettell, who served as art critic of The Dallas Morning News from 2013 to 2018, left a legacy at the University of Texas at Dallas, where he spent 22 years teaching. And making a name for himself as a rainmaker.

Brettell served as distinguished chair of art and aesthetic studies and as founding director of the Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History — which he raised \$17 million to create. In 2016, he established a \$150,000 art prize given out every two years whose funding came from his friend, the late Margaret McDermott. The Richard Brettell Award in the Arts spans the disciplines of visual art, music, literature, performance and architecture/design.

Brettell was also the driving force in UTD's acquisition of the Barrett Collection, which consists of 400 rare works of Swiss art. And he spearheaded UTD's acquisition of the Crow Museum of Asian Art, which will soon have a presence on the UTD campus as well as the Dallas Arts District, where it opened in 1998.

Phyllida Barlow, *Untitled Maquette*, 2003, Mixed Media for the exhibition: "Brettell: An Artist's Homage to the Dynamic Influence of Rick Brettell," at the University of Texas at Dallas from Sept. 10 to Oct. 9, 2021. A reception will be held Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, from 2 to 6 p.m. at UTD's SP/N Gallery, 3020 Stewart Drive, Richardson.

In honor of Brettell, who died of cancer in 2020 at 71, UTD has put together a live and virtual art exhibition that pays homage to what he created at UTD. "Brettell: An Artist's Homage to the Dynamic Influence of Rick Brettell" promises an eclectic sampling of works by "some of the many artists who found their way into his personal sphere of influence and support, most often in a mutually shared friendship."

Those featured include, among others, Frances Bagley, Phyllida Barlow, James Magee, Vicki Meek, Pamela Nelson and Ruben Nieto.

The live portion of the show will take place at SP/N Gallery, Sept. 10 through Oct. 9, 3020 Stewart Drive, Richardson, 75080. For more information, click [ah.utdallas.edu/events](http://ah.utdallas.edu/events). Access to the virtual component is available via the same link. A reception, which is open to the public, will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12.

— Michael Granberry