



**For Immediate Release**

December 27, 2019

Contact: Joy Reed Belt

405.528.6336

[gallery@jrbartgallery.com](mailto:gallery@jrbartgallery.com)

[www.jrbartgallery.com](http://www.jrbartgallery.com)

**EVENTS:**

Opening Reception

Friday, January 3, 2020, 5 – 9 pm

**JRB Art at The Elms Presents:**

**D.J. Lafon**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The new year 2020 brings wonderful news. JRB Art at The Elms recently acquired all remaining works of art from the estate of well-known Oklahoma artist D.J. Lafon (1929 – 2011). The exhibition of many of the works opens First Friday, at JRB Art at The Elms on January 3, 2020.

An accomplished painter of people, D.J. Lafon is known for his skill in using a sophisticated visual language to capture the interest of the viewer. When speaking about the appeal of Lafon's work, gallery owner, Joy Reed Belt, states, "Every painting is well thought out, well-conceived and extremely original." Every detail is thoughtfully placed on the canvas to enhance the meaning of the painting. He typically painted in series, each one unique and interesting. His solo exhibitions at the gallery over the years have included "Farm Series," "Businessman Series" and "Watercolor Series." One of his most popular exhibits, recalls Belt, was titled "Uncommon Influences." That show featured paintings of 15 writers, musicians and artists – painted in the style of which they lived. Lafon credited these individuals as being creative influences for him. JRB Art at The Elms is delighted to display this collection containing pieces from each of his series – many of which have never before been publicly available.

Born and raised in Utah, Lafon realized at age 15 his desire to be an artist. He entered a national art competition when he was 18 years old and won second place. As a result, his work was published in "Life" magazine. He received formal training at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Art and Master of Fine Arts Degrees in Painting and Illustrating. Lafon

worked as an illustrator and art educator before serving as Chairman of the Art Department at Oklahoma's East Central University in Ada for 20 years. In addition, he also served as Visual Arts Director for the Oklahoma Arts Institute.

Throughout his lifetime, Lafon was honored by the Governor of Oklahoma and his work continues to be a mainstay in many prestigious museums, galleries and public collections, including: the State Art Collections of Oklahoma and Utah, the University of North Carolina Art Museum, Springfield Art Museum, Oklahoma City Art Museum, the Philbrook, Southwestern Bell Telephone, Conoco and Koch Industries. Lafon also received numerous top awards in competitions across the country and completed commissions for Warner Brother, the University of Oklahoma School of Dentistry and the Ada Public Library.

Due to the popularity of its shows, JRB Art at The Elms is extending the length of exhibitions in 2020 to two months at the start of the new year. **The works of D.J. Lafon will be available to view at JRB Art at The Elms from January 3 – February 29, 2020.**

### **About JRB Art at The Elms**

JRB Art at The Elms presents a diverse roster of emerging, established, and internationally exhibited artists who create a wide range of media including paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, glass, fine crafts, functional objects, fiber art and photographs. This 8,000 square foot award-winning gallery in Oklahoma City's Paseo Arts District presents its exhibits in a gracious environment that fosters a dialogue between the arts and the larger community while providing quality art for first time buyers as well as individual, corporate and museum collections.

# # #