



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **Hazel Massey (1907-1990)**

Hazel Massey, was born in Brownsville, Texas in 1907 to Anna and Louis Rutland Cowen, a bookkeeper. Known for her impressionist landscape paintings of the Texas Hill Country and its wildflowers, Hazel “studied oil painting at Ursuline Convent, Brownsville and took art classes at Rockport School of Fine Art and Trinity University”.<sup>1</sup>

In 1928, Hazel married Clyde Massey, a graduate of West Point Military Academy stationed at Fort Brown [Texas] since 1925.<sup>2</sup> They had a son, Clyde, Jr. in 1930 and their daughter Barbara was born in 1937 while the family was stationed in the Philippines. Clyde Massey was promoted to Brigadier General in 1944 and in 1945 received a bronze star for his service during World War II. He retired from active duty in 1954.

After years of relocating with the military the Masseys settled in San Antonio where Hazel actively exhibited her work during the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. The Express and News (San Antonio, Texas) stated, “Mrs. Massey has painted from an array of scenic spots but she has remained loyal to her homeland with most of her oil paintings portraying the beauty of native landscapes.”

During her lifetime, Hazel’s paintings were exhibited in the “Witte Memorial Museum, Panhandle-Plains Museum at Canyon, Coppini Academy, Brass Door Gallery of Houston, North Star Gallery, Collectors Gallery in Waco, McNamara-O’Connor Museum of Victoria, G. Harvey Gallery at Austin and the Annual Western Art Shows at the Joe Freeman Coliseum.”<sup>3</sup>

Hazel Massey died on August 25, 1990 at the age of 83 in San Antonio, Texas.

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<sup>1</sup> “Massey Show Now in Public Library”, *Express and News* (San Antonio, TX), Sun, Aug 2, 1970, p. 138

<sup>2</sup> “Ft. Riley Visitors Return to Kansas”, *The Brownsville Herald* (Brownsville, TX) Sun, Sep 1, 1929, p. 17

<sup>3</sup> “Massey Show Now in Public Library”, *Express and News* (San Antonio, TX), Sun, Aug 2, 1970, p. 138