IN MEMORIAM

TERENCE GRIEDER

Terence Grieder (September 2, 1931, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – February 21, 2018, Austin, Texas) taught at The University of Texas at Austin from 1961 until 2000 in the Department of Art and Art History. He was the David Bruton Jr. Centennial Professor of Art History. From age eight, he grew up in Boulder, Colorado, where his interests in art, archaeology, and native cultures gradually blossomed. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Colorado in 1953. He earned his M.S. in Applied Art (Painting) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1956 and his Ph.D. in the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania in 1961. Shortly after the completion of his dissertation, which was entitled “The Development of Representational Painting on Maya Pottery,” Professor Grieder joined The University of Texas faculty.

Professor Grieder was an internationally-renowned scholar as well as a beloved teacher and colleague, a prolific writer of articles and books. His research and teaching interests in the Americas extended from pre-Columbian Peruvian tombs to rock art in South Texas to contemporary Latin American art. With Stanton Loomis Catlin, Professor Grieder authored Art of Latin America since Independence: 1800-1965, the catalogue of a pioneering exhibition at the Yale University Art Gallery in 1966. The Art and Archaeology of Pashash (University of Texas Press, 1978) examined an ancient Peruvian Indian tomb, which he excavated, and the ceramics found within. The Origins of Pre-Columbian Art (University of Texas Press, 1982) challenged some of the prevailing theories about the beginnings of artistic cultures in South and North America. Professor Grieder relished the debate that this book inspired. A Spanish translation,
Origenes del arte precolombino, appeared in Mexico City in 1987. After co-directing the excavations at La Galgada, Professor Grieder edited La Galgada, Peru: A Preceramic Culture in Transition (University of Texas Press, 1988), a study which included a detailed investigation of textiles. Late in his career, Professor Grieder started a new excavation project in Ecuador. His collaborators included his former Doctoral student, James D. Farmer, now Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. Their findings were published as The Art and Archaeology of Challuabamba, Ecuador (University of Texas Press, 2009), which Professor Grieder edited. His talents as an artist are evident in the many careful drawings and plans he made to illustrate his publications.

Professor Grieder delighted in teaching classes that ranged from large undergraduate surveys to graduate seminars. His more specialized courses explored the pre-Columbian art of Peru and South America as well as Native American art. He directed numerous Masters and Doctoral students. Professor Grieder and his colleague Professor Linda Schele (Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin 1980; Visiting Associate Professor to Professor 1981-98), the famed Mayan hieroglyph specialist, created the foremost pre-Columbian graduate program in the United States. Unsatisfied with introductory art history survey textbooks, Grieder authored Art and Audience (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1990; 2nd edition, Brown and Benchmark, 1996). This textbook included a much more diverse selection of global art and architecture than was common at that time.

Professor Grieder was an engaging and encouraging colleague. He is fondly remembered for his friendship, his quiet, wry humor, and his steadfast support of younger faculty. He was instrumental in fostering the growth and prominence of the graduate program in art history at The University of Texas at Austin. After his retirement, Professor Grieder continued writing, yet
increasingly he returned to his roots as an artist. For several years he maintained a painting studio in Austin.

Professor Grieder is survived by Dagmar Janiel Grieder, his wife of forty-five years; his son Matthew Grieder and Matthew’s wife Keiko Asao; his daughter Miranda Grieder, her husband David Cochran, and his grandson Liam Cochran; his stepdaughter Sharon Wilson and stepson Steve Wilson; his brother Timothy Grieder, Timothy’s wife Virginia, their sons Tony and Kit and their spouses; and his brother-in-law, Michael Janiel.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Jeffrey Chipps Smith (Chair), John Clarke, and David Stuart.