

INSPIRED LIVING IN AND AROUND TARRANT COUNTY

817 HOME

a cozy issue



Hygge Style

All things warm and wonderful

Swatch Watch

Textures and colors in our sights

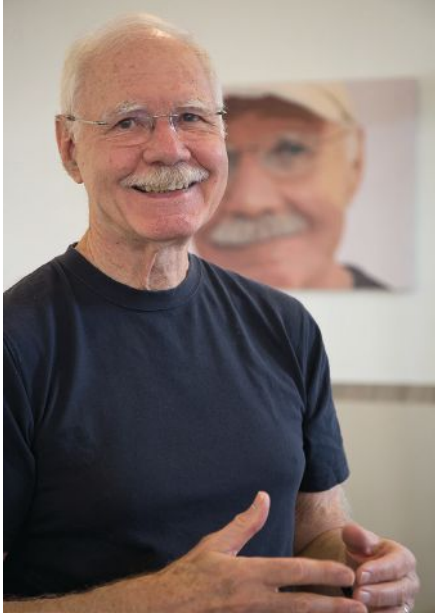
The Interview

An architect mends fences

ARTFUL LIVING

\$5.95 Winter 2017





Photos by Ralph Lauter

Artists in the House David Conn

PAINTER AND MASTER PRINTER

David Conn's signature immersive woody scenes are in the permanent collections of more than half a dozen museums around the world, including the Amon Carter and The Modern. The retired TCU art professor also is a regular presence at the Main St. Fort Worth Arts Festival each spring; after two award-winning years as an exhibiting artist, he returns as a juror this spring. The rest of the year, he welcomes art collectors by appointment to his Shaw St. Studio in south Fort Worth.

While the machinery of printmaking lured Conn away from his drawing and painting background, he's lately returning to his beginnings with oversized paintings. The newest works are inspired by linocuts, similar to woodcuts but made with linoleum; the paintings even incorporate the yellow-tan color of printmaking paper as a background.

Nature has served as constant inspiration. Conn grew up in New Jersey, in an urban setting that motivated him to go west — and to fly-fish. "Trout live in the most beautiful places on earth," he says, naming northern New Mexico and the Brazos River as favorite destinations. "I tie



David Conn's *Fox Hollow* (2012, acrylic on canvas, 72 by 48 inches) shows a swath of Fort Worth woods near the Colonial Country Club golf course.

my own flies, which is almost like an art form itself." A recent rainstorm prompted Conn to shoot some images of puddles and made him puzzle out how to achieve a sense of translucency using only his black and neutral palette. "Can you imagine that 8 feet high?" he asks, holding the watery image. "It will just sing."

Conn does take on commissions — the

latest, *Daybreak, Edward's Ranch* (2017, acrylic on canvas, 6 by 9 feet) was recently installed in a Clearfork office. But he also works with designers and private clients to find a print or painting from his studio to bring his tranquil, meditative take on nature to private spaces. "To me, it's living and breathing," he says. "People buy things they love; they want to live with it."

David Conn The artist's Shaw St. Studio is open by appointment. 1024 W. Shaw St., Fort Worth, 682-465-9202, shawstreetstudio.com.