

In Memory of
PROFESSOR DAVID LEE CRAVEN

The fifth volume of *Hemisphere: Visual Cultures of the Americas* is dedicated to the memory of Dr. David L. Craven, for all of his time and dedication to the Department of Art and Art History as well as *Hemisphere*.



Dr. David Lee Craven, Distinguished Professor of Art History at the University of New Mexico, died Saturday, February 11, 2012, at the age of 60 in Albuquerque, NM. He had been on the faculty at UNM since 1993. David was a man of letters and a champion for social causes, beloved by all who knew him for his keen intellect, genuine sense of compassion and desire to help others. Recognized by his peers as one of the most informed and incisive art historians in the world, David's immense knowledge and the publication of ten books and more than 150 articles that have appeared in twenty five different countries and translated into fifteen different languages led to his recognition as a world authority in the fields of twentieth century

Latin American art, post-1945 art from the United States and critical theory, as well as the philosophy and methods of art history and visual culture. He earned his Ph.D. in Art History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979. He received a Master's degree in Art History from Vanderbilt in 1974, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in European History from the University of Mississippi, where he graduated magna cum laude in 1972. Fluent in Spanish, German and French, David traveled the world as a visiting professor to give lectures in more than 100 universities and museums in the United States and internationally including Russia, Mexico, Spain, Germany, England and France. He was preparing for the publication in 2012 of six new articles on art history subjects in the United States, Mexico and England when he died.

His art history books are respected as authoritative including the most widely read, *Art and Revolution in Latin America, 1910–1990*, which was nominated for a 2004 Mitchell Prize, as well as *Diego Rivera as Epic Modernist*, *The New Concept of Art and Popular Culture in Nicaragua Since the Revolution in 1979*, *Poetics and Politics in the Life of Rudolph Baranik*, *Abstract Expression as Cultural Critique: Dissent During the McCarthy Period*, which received broad critical acclaim, and *Dialectical Conversions: Donald Kuspit's Art Criticism*. Among the numerous awards and recognitions David received during his career included a *Medal for Excellence* by the state of New York in 1991 for his work at State University of New York/Cortland College, a *Faculty Acknowledgement Award* at the University of New Mexico in 2003, and in 2007 he was chosen to be the *Rudolf Arnheim Professor* at Humboldt University in Berlin and was elevated to the rank of *Distinguished Professor* at the University of New Mexico. David won more than fifteen major national and international Fellowships and Grants from organizations including the *American Council for Learned Studies*, the *National Endowment for the Arts*, the *National Endowment for the Humanities*, the *Rockefeller Foundation*, the *Ministerio de Cultura de Espana*, and the *Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes de Mexico*.

Born in Alexandria, Louisiana, on March 22, 1951, to Peggy and Albert Craven, David lived with his family in Houston, Texas and then in Clinton and Oxford, Mississippi, where his father taught at Ole Miss. His parents recognized an early aptitude for art and David began art lessons in the fourth

grade, leading to his decision to pursue art history as his career. Also an avid sportsman and athlete, David was the quarterback of the Oxford High School football team and won MVP honors in the 1969 season. He also helped his high school basketball team earn a place in the state championships.

DAVID L. CRAVEN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

A Fellowship in memory of Dr. David L. Craven has been established for graduate Art History students at the University of New Mexico Department of Art and Art History.

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