

## ARTS &amp; THEATER

## Art League Houston names Texas artist of the year

By Molly Glentzer

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Amy Blakemore's "Boy in the Woods," 2010, chromogenic print. Photo courtesy the artist.

Art League Houston has named Amy Blakemore its 2015 Texas Artist of the Year; also announcing honoring Forrest Prince with a Lifetime Achievement Award and naming Mayor Annise Parker the Texas Patron of the Year.

Blakemore, a Houston artist who celebrates the everyday in poetic photographs of friends, family and local landscapes, has resisted digital technology; she hand-develops and prints her images from color film.

Prince, whose career spans more than 40 years, creates sculpture, assemblages and installations that reflect his spirituality and commitment to a life of compassion as well as his strong feelings about food consumption and government corruption.

The Patron of the Year award often goes to a major collector. Parker's involvement has been much broader than that since her days as a council member, when she shepherded the percent-for-art ordinance that has brought a huge influx of public art to city-owned spaces. She's focused even more big-picture recently, launching a large public engagement and planning process to create a long-range arts and culture plan for the city.

Works by Blakemore and Prince will be exhibited at the league Sept. 25-Nov. 7, and all three honorees will be lauded at a gala on Oct. 16.