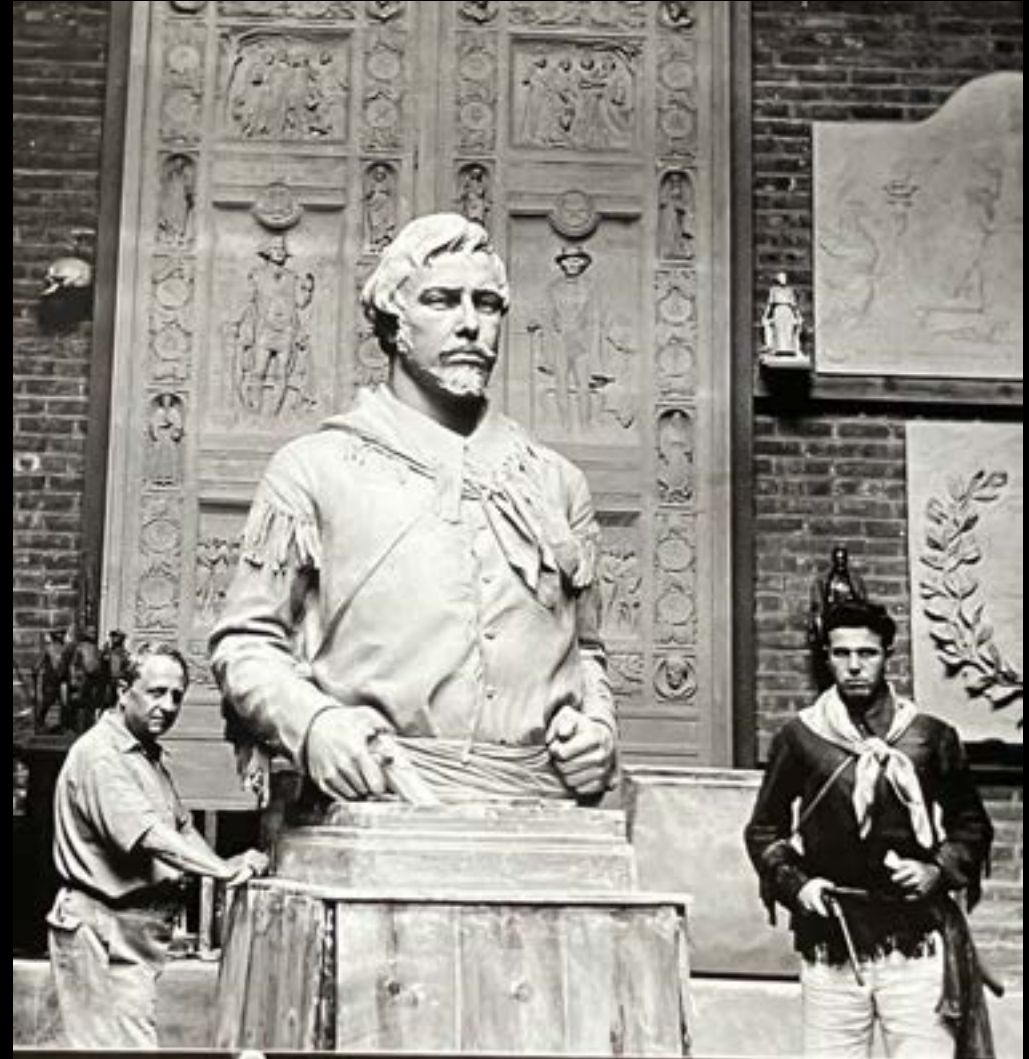


MONUMENTS MAN

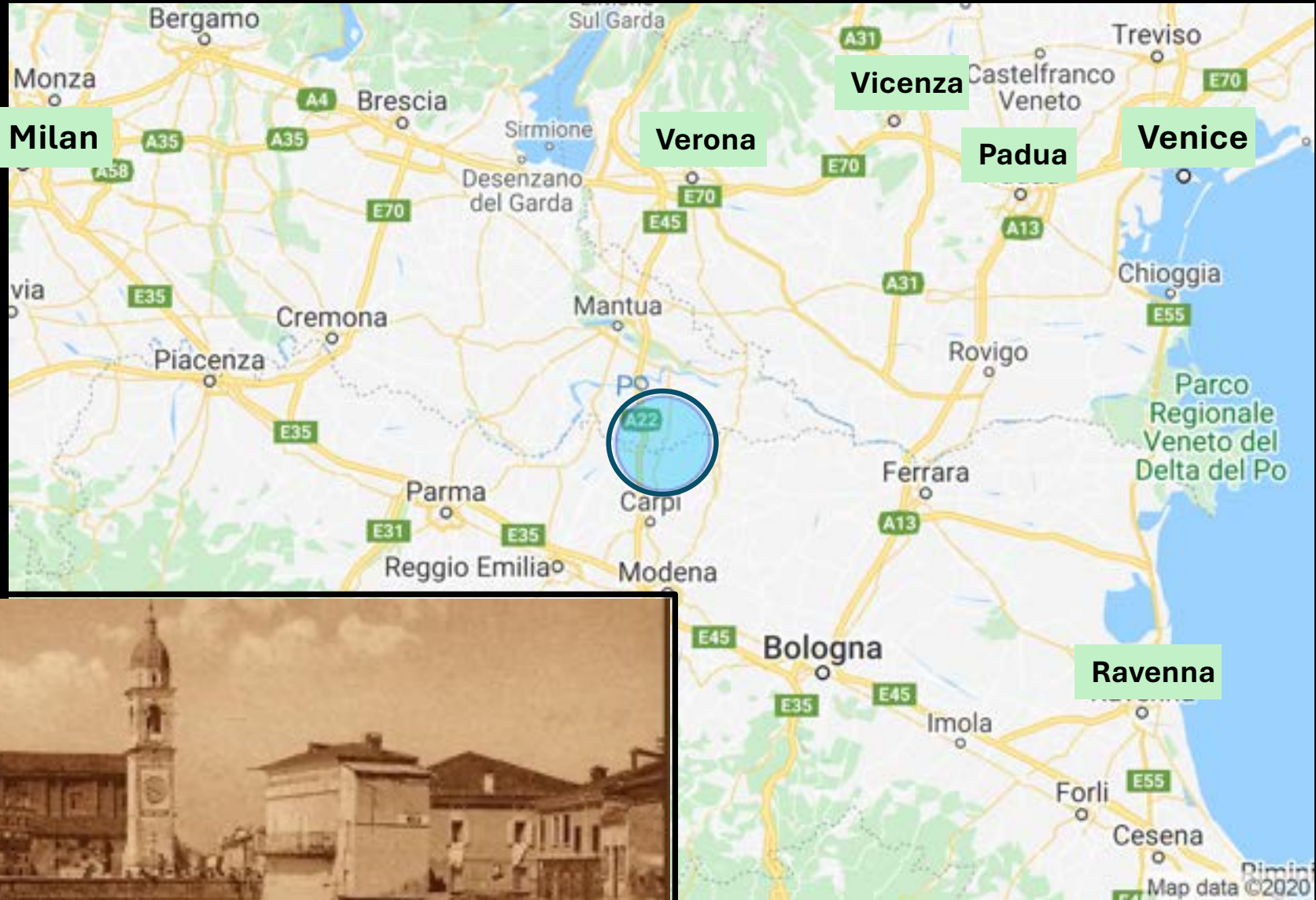
Pompeo Coppini and Epic Sculpture for Texas



Karen Pope for Austin Woman's Club, June 2025

A Study of Myself, June 1915
Artist + Prospero Bernardi + model, 1936

1870 • BIRTHPLACE: Moglia, Veneto (1870 population 600)



1889 • EDUCATION : Florence, Accademia di Belle Arte course completed
f. 1563 by Cosimo I de' Medici and Giorgio Vasari



PLASTER CASTS

SCULPTURE: SUBTRACTIVE, involves carving, cutting, removal from a block

Product can be free-standing or RELIEF

Marble: durable, light in color



Bernini, *Apollo & Daphne*, 1625



FRIEZE

(horizontal band of figures in relief)

H H Armstead, *Painters*
Albert Memorial, 1860s



SCULPTURE: ADDITIVE

CLAY > PLASTER > BRONZE

Product can be free-standing or RELIEF

Durable, casting allows for multiples



Anna Hyatt Huntington, 1915
Joan of Arc

1895 • CONTEXT: Prevailing Sculptural Ethic — “Moral Earnestness”

- Demand for war commemorations
- Centennial Fair, 1876 > retrospection
- Attraction of Paris studios, Ecole des Beaux-Arts
- Popularity of Columbian Exposition, 1893
- Daniel Burnham’s Plan for Chicago, 1909
- City Beautiful Movement, 1920s



Daniel Chester French, *The Republic*, 1893

1896 • TO AMERICA, seeking opportunity — **EARLY WORK: Collaborations**



Alexander Doyle and Pompeo Coppini
Monument to Francis Scott Key, 1897
Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick MD



Married his model for *Columbia*,
“Lizzie,” 1898 ⁷

1901 • TEXAS PROJECTS: Commemorations

* *Confederate Monument*
1903
Texas Capitol

Figures:

- Jefferson Davis
- Infantry
- Cavalry
- Artillery
- Navy

cements his career



Victims Heroic, Galveston Monument, 1903, plaster exhibited @ St Louis 1904



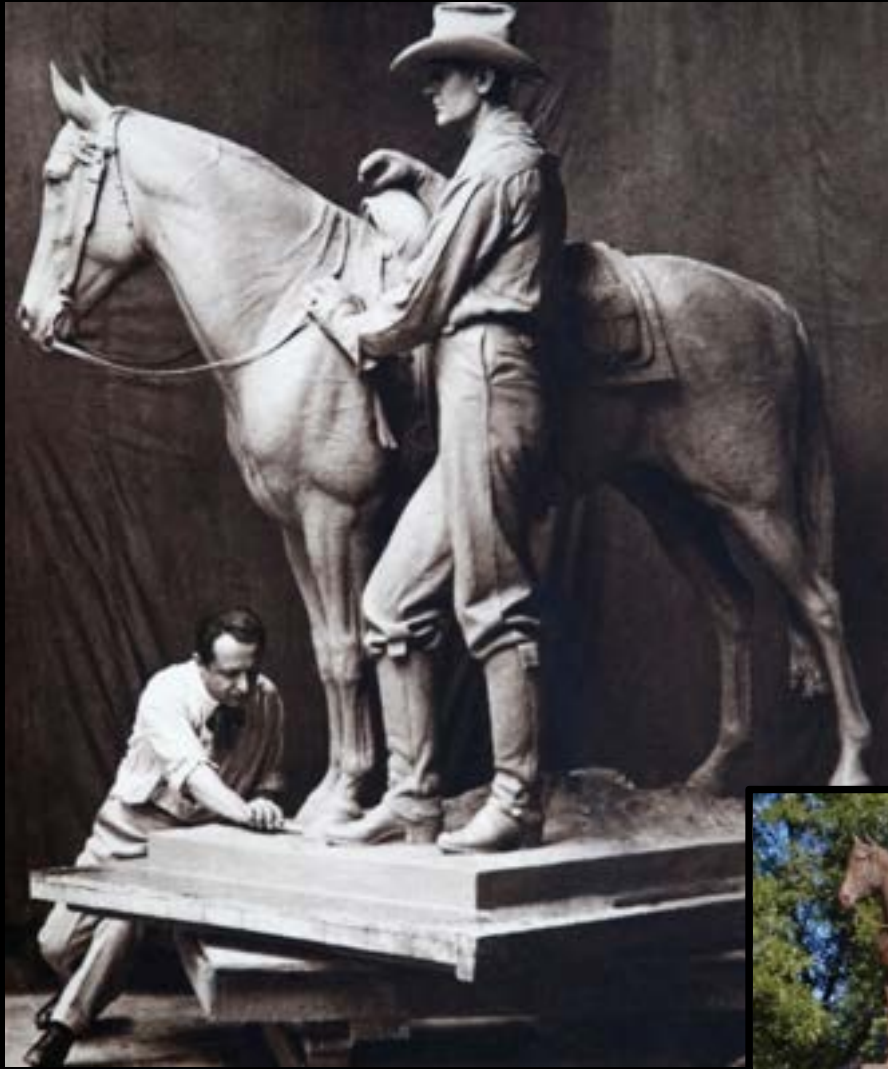
Reconstruction:
Doug McLean
Victims of Galveston
"Hope"
2016



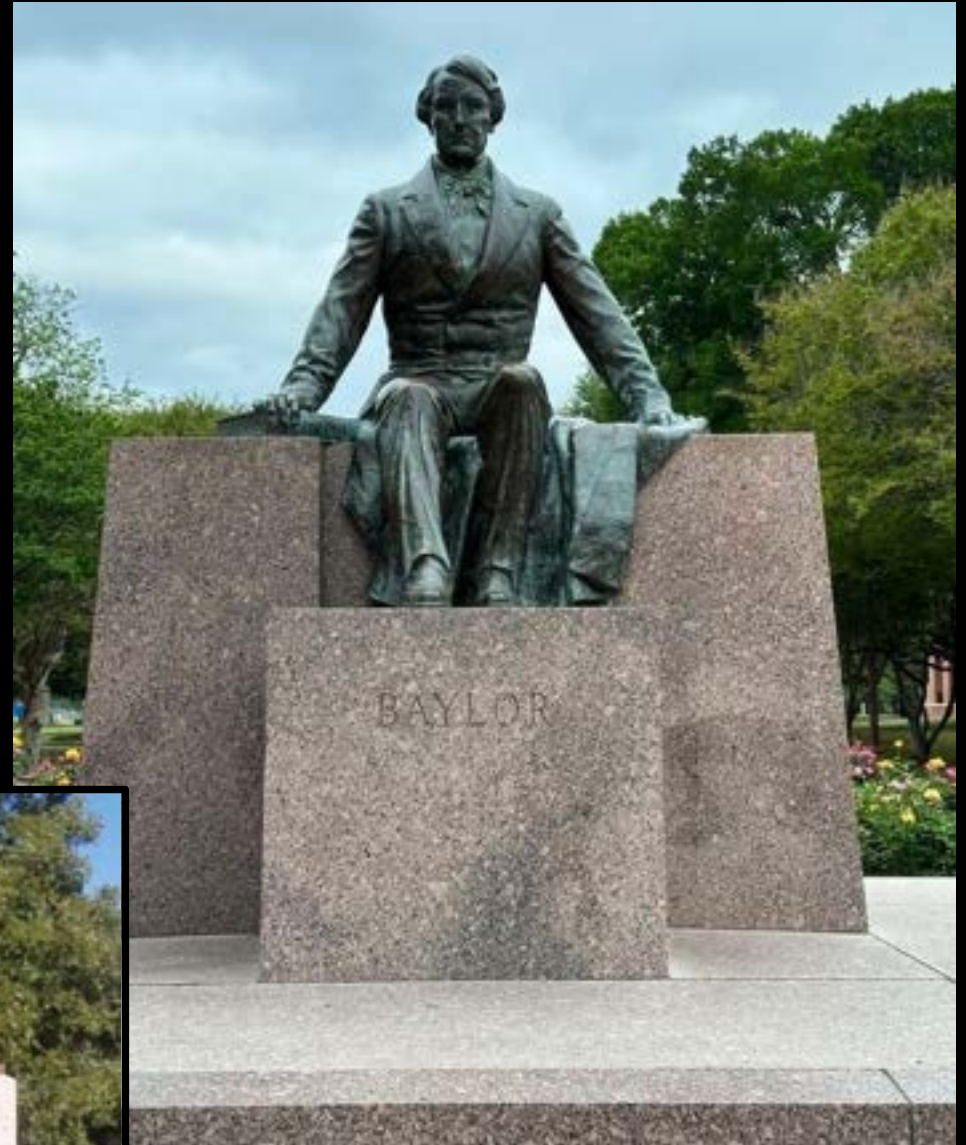
Galveston City Park between
City Hall and Fire Station



LONG CAREER OF PORTRAITS -- recognized this as route to success, 1898



*Charles Noyes
Ballinger
1919*



*Judge Baylor, Baylor University
1937*

AUSTIN PROJECTS



Terry's Texas Rangers
Texas Capitol Grounds
1907

Stephen F. Austin
Texas State Cemetery
1912



Joanna Troutman
1933



Littlefield Fountain, 1919ff

Paul Cret, UT Main Tower and South Mall = 1930s



“no service is greater than service to one’s country”



Pompeo Coppini's Modified Plan for Littlefield Fountain

Old South: Robert E Lee • Albert S. Johnston • Jeff. Davis

Woodrow Wilson • New South: James S. Hogg • John H. Reagan



Old Main scheduled for demolition



Paul Cret's Design as Dedicated at UT, 1933-1934

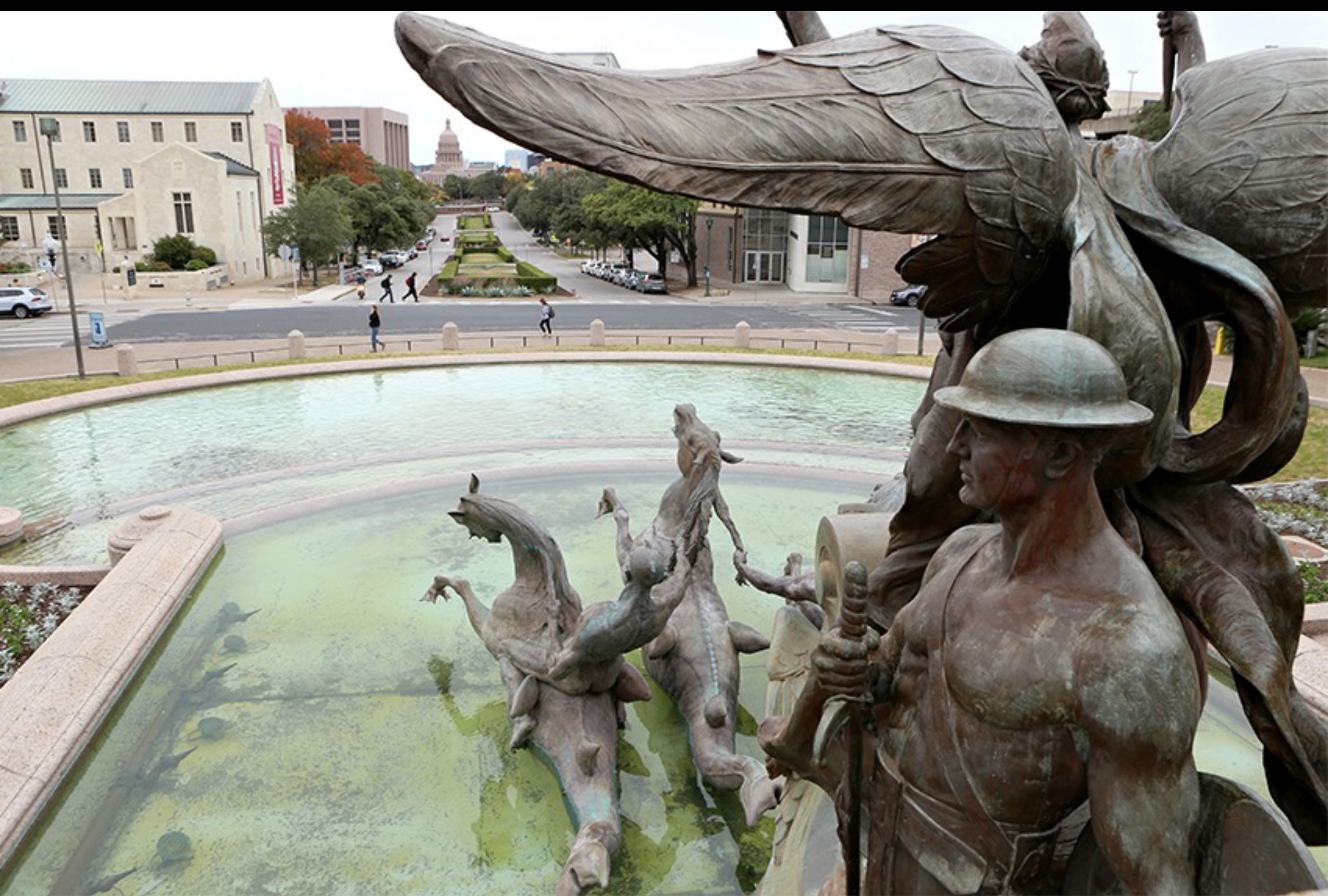


“seahorses? Trust me”



ICONOGRAPHY

“Columbia drawn across the ocean to bring victory, democracy and peace to an embattled burning Europe”



TEXAS CENTENNIAL PROJECTS



Dallas: Hall of State, Fair Park — Over-lifesize hero figures
Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar, Thomas Rusk, William Travis, Stephen F. Austin, James Fannin

The Alamo Cenotaph [Empty Tomb], 1936; dedicated 1940 Architect Carleton Adams



- *Spirit of Sacrifice* rising from funeral pyre (south face)
- *Spirit of Texas*
- *Defenders: Bonham + Bowie* (east face) and *Travis + Crockett* (west face)

(Chapel faces west)

Coppini's vision of granite base + bronze figures > design altered by architects > marble
Detested by J. Frank Dobie, who likened it to a "grain elevator"

Spirit of Texas
(faces north)

Heroes
(west side)





east side
Bowie
(Bonham)

Spirit of Texas (north side)

west side
Travis
(Crockett)

ICONOGRAPHY: Heroism and Sacrifice

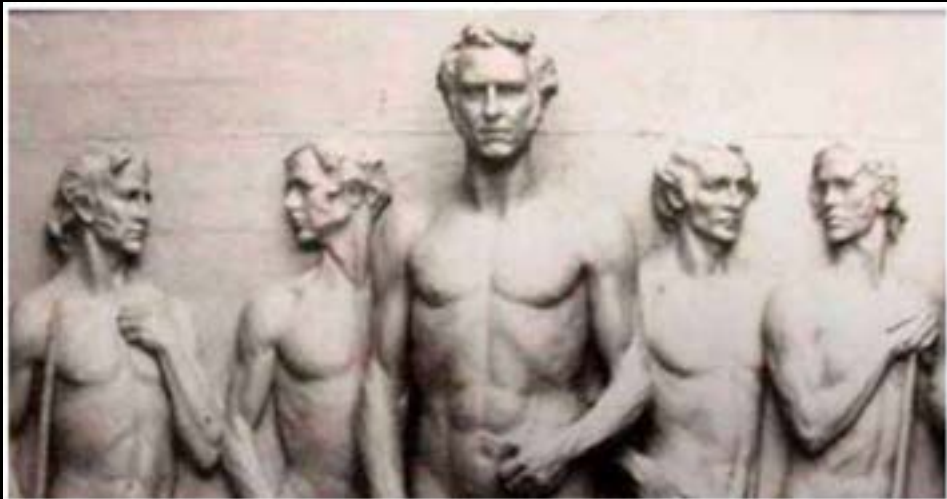


(west face)

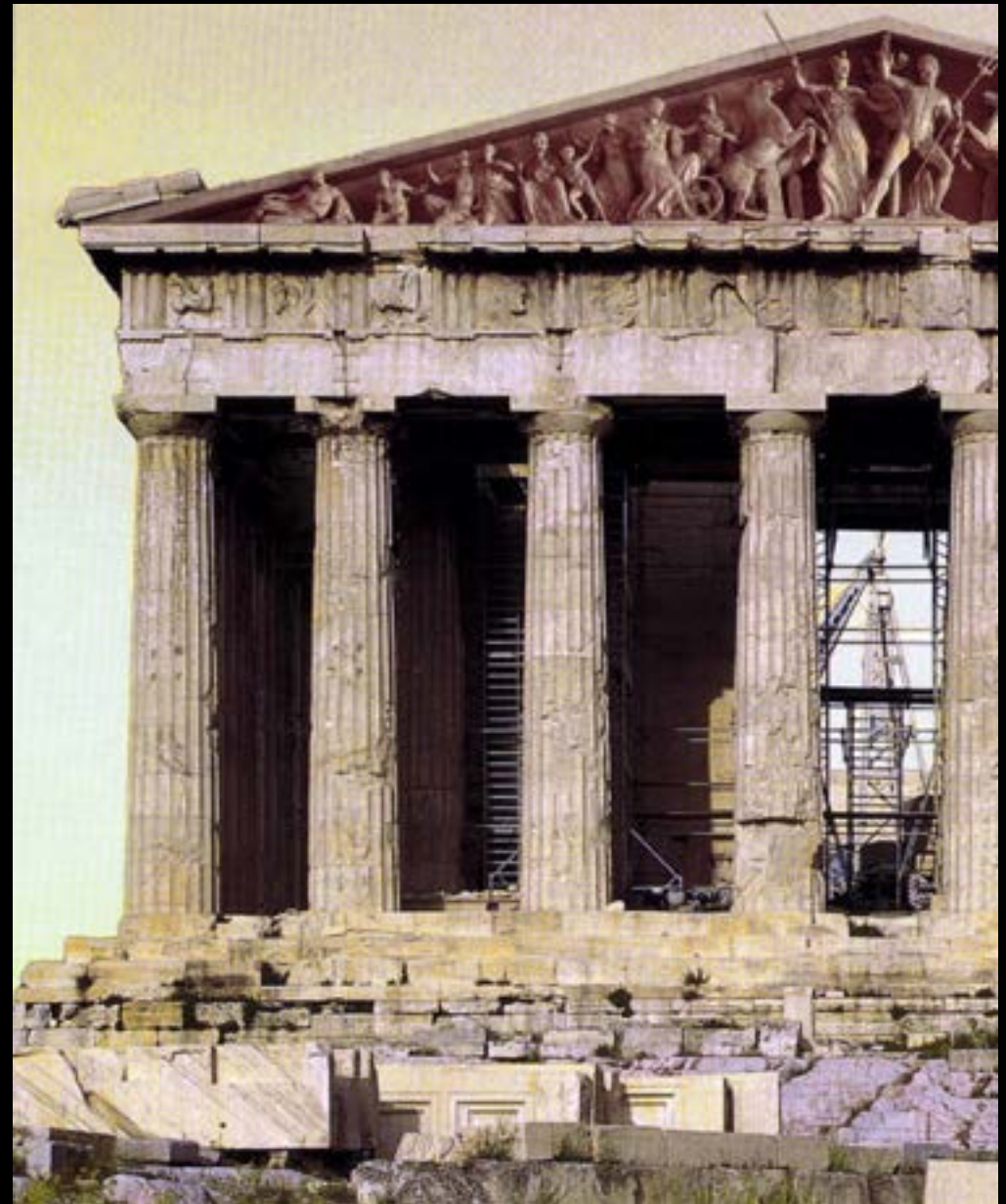
Travis

Crockett

21 Q

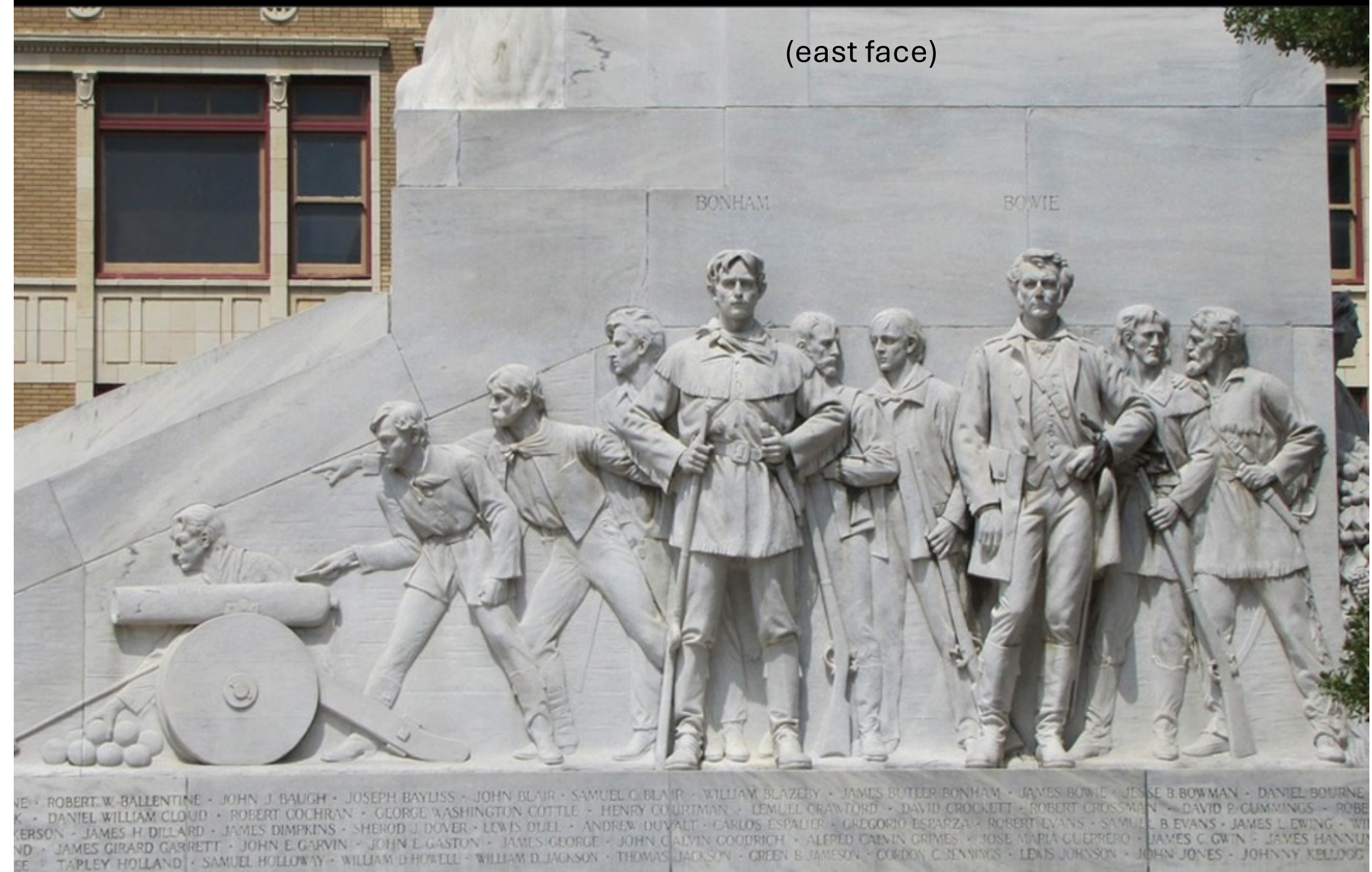


Academic process:
Study figures in the
nude first,
clothe them later



Corner solutions:
Phidias, *Parthenon*, 320 BC

(east face)



NE • ROBERT W. BALLENTINE • JOHN J. BAUGH • JOSEPH BAYLISS • JOHN BLAIR • SAMUEL C. BLAIR • WILLIAM BLAZEBY • JAMES BUTLER BONHAM • JAMES BOWIE • JESSE B. BOWMAN • DANIEL BOURNE
K • DANIEL WILLIAM CLOUD • ROBERT COCHRAN • GEORGE WASHINGTON COTTLE • HENRY COURTMAN • LEMUEL CRAWFORD • DAVID CROCKETT • ROBERT CROSSMAN • DAVID P. CUMMINGS • ROBE
KERSON • JAMES H. DILLARD • JAMES DIMPINS • SHEROD J. DOVER • LEWIS DUEL • ANDREW DUVALT • CARLOS ESPALIER • GREGORIO ESPARZA • ROBERT EVANS • SAMUEL B. EVANS • JAMES L. EWING • WI
ND • JAMES GIRARD GARRETT • JOHN E. GARVIN • JOHN E. GASTON • JAMES GEORGE • JOHN CALVIN GOODRICH • ALFRED CALVIN GRIMES • JOSE MARIA GUERRERO • JAMES C. GWIN • JAMES HANNUN
EE • TAPLEY HOLLAND • SAMUEL HOLLOWAY • WILLIAM D. HOWELL • WILLIAM D. JACKSON • THOMAS JACKSON • GREEN B. JAMESON • GORDON C. JENNINGS • LEWIS JOHNSON • JOHN JONES • JOHNNY KELLOGG

Bonham

Bowie





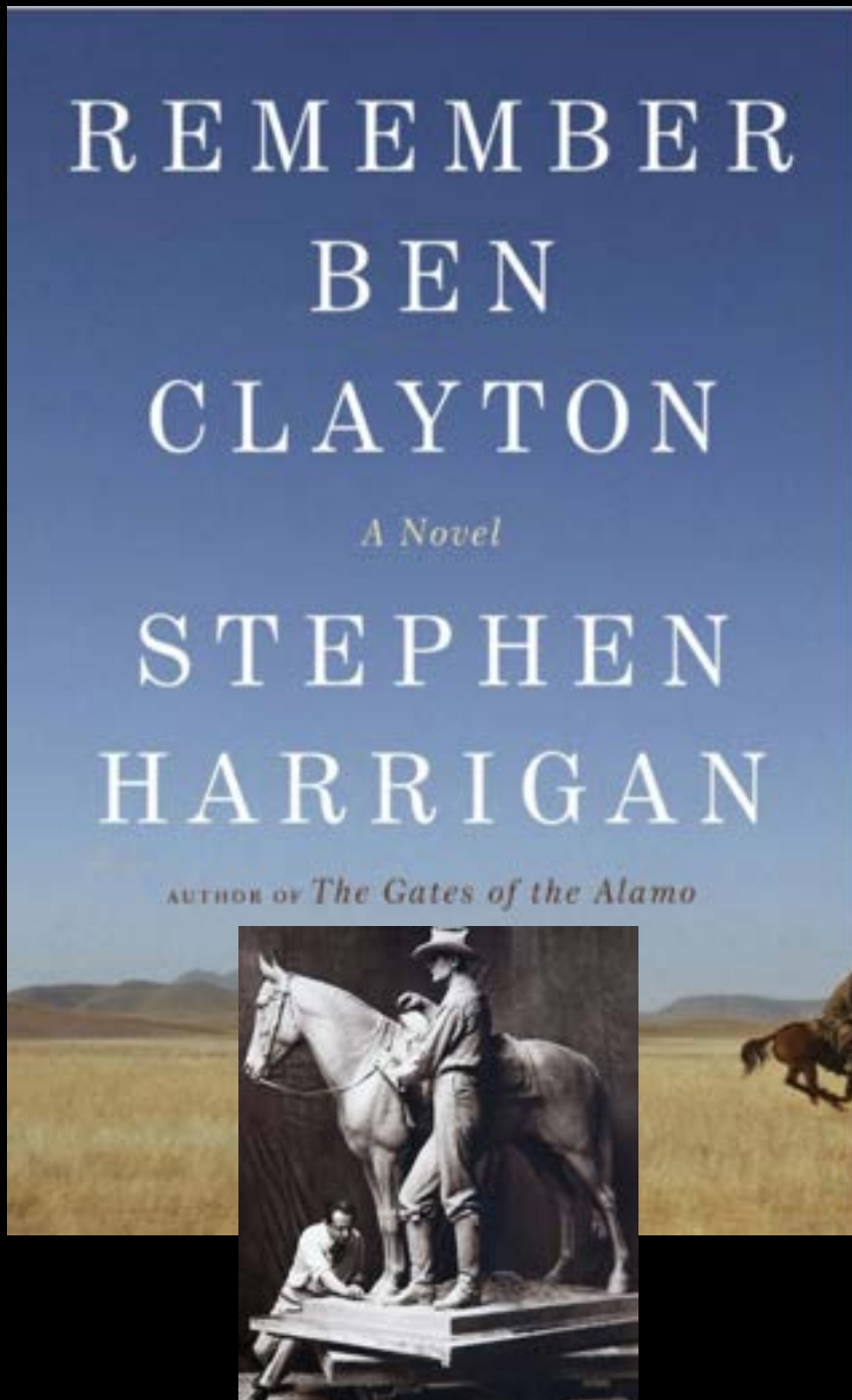
Bowie



Spirit of Sacrifice
(south side)



READING SUGGESTIONS • Stephen Harrigan



“Coppini the Great”
Texas Monthly, October 1984

From the Alamo to the University of Texas to points beyond, he left his monuments all across Texas, enraging J. Frank Dobie and a horde of other critics. Perhaps now it's time to forgive.

DEEP DIVE • Bronze Casting Process

Excellent explanation of
LOST WAX bronze casting,
beginning to end
("visualization to realization")
(46-minute film)

https://texasarchive.org/2013_05148



Charles Umlauf, *Striding Christ*, 1978, 18' tall, bronze



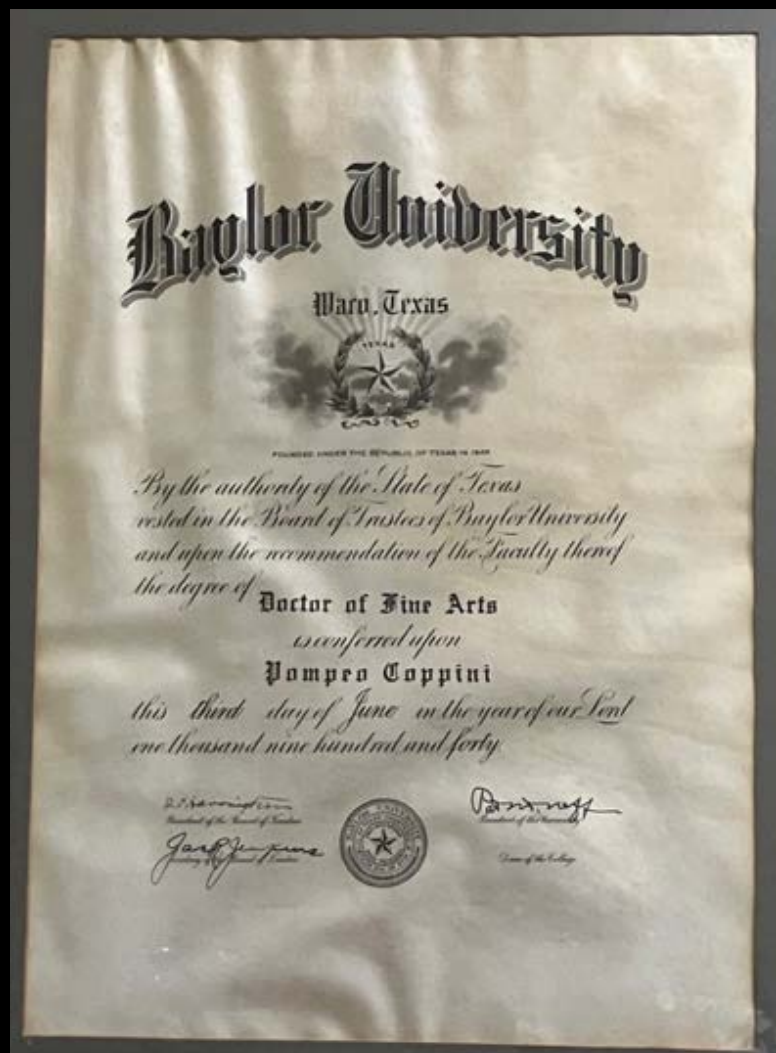
FIELD TRIP • San Antonio
Coppini Studio, f. 1930s in Olmos Park

Texas

Travis

Crockett





1941



Small Finished Works, Studies, Collection, Living Quarters, Memorabilia
Texas Centennial Half Dollars, 1934
Littlefield Fountain Merman SKETCH

Coppini in his studio, at work on his own grave monument



1957 • **END:** San Antonio
Coppini Grave
Sunset Memorial Park





Waldine Tauch, *Portrait of Coppini*, 1935



Coppini at work on *Washington* for Portland OR, 1927

THANK YOU !