

Houston artist, teacher Lowell Collins dies of cancer at 79

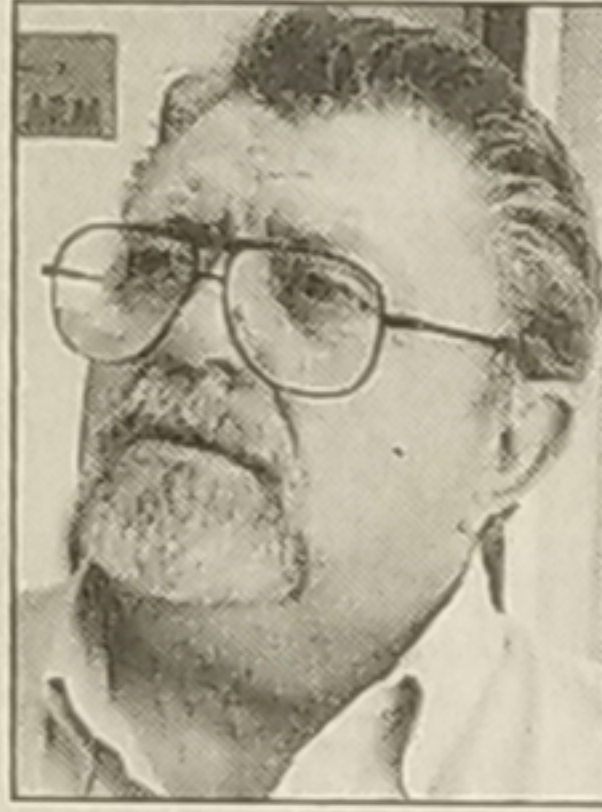
By **PATRICIA C. JOHNSON**
Houston Chronicle

Lowell Collins, artist, teacher, appraiser and specialist in pre-Columbian and African art, died Thursday of cancer. He was 79.

Born in San Antonio but raised in Houston from the age of 15 months, Collins began studying art at the Houston Museum School, now the Glassell School of Art. He also trained with Otis Dozier, renowned Regionalist artist at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and at the Art Students League in New York. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in fine arts from the University of Houston.

Collins returned to the Museum

School in the mid-1940s, eventually retiring as its dean in 1966. A few years later, he opened the private school and art gallery that bear his name. He showed the work of young regional artists, but over the decades his name and gallery became synonymous with pre-Columbian and



Collins

tribal art.

Collins' passion for the ancient art of Meso-America led to an appointment as honorary curator at the Houston Museum of Natural

Science. He donated many ancient artifacts to the museum and was an expert appraiser in the field and lectured extensively.

Collins occasionally turned the gallery over to contemporary artists, with the assistance of his son

and business partner, artist Michael Roque Collins.

Lowell Collins is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Gayle Kreft Collins; two grandsons, Christen and Michael Collins; and Harriett Goodman, his partner

and companion of more than 20 years.

A private graveside ceremony officiated by the Rev. Edward Bader, CSB of St. Thomas University, will be Sept. 13, followed by a public celebration of Collins' life

at 2 p.m. in his gallery, at 2903 Saint.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Cancer Society or the Friends of Archaeology at St. Thomas University.

