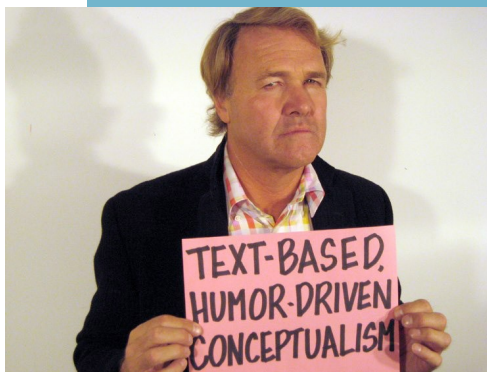


Texas Art Education Association

presents

**Artist**

# Gary Sweeney



Recently retired from a 35-year career as a baggage handler at the San Antonio airport, Gary Sweeney enjoyed what many artists dream of—a regular, paying gig. In February of 2013, Sweeney was featured in a one-man show at Blue Star Contemporary Arts Center entitled *Gary Sweeney: A Forty Year Overview*. Always tongue in cheek about language, he shied away from the term retrospective because “I’m not dead yet,” he quipped. Sweeney appropriates commercial signage, vintage photographs, and found objects to create paintings, sculptures, and installations that humorously confront controversial topics. In his text-based compositions, he often uses linguistic puzzles and famous quotations to question the progress of society. Part comedian, the artist mocks the patterns of social Darwinism and exposes the discrepancies and contradictions in pop culture, politics, and current events. Simultaneously ironic and nostalgic, Sweeney’s art invites snickers, titters, chuckles, and serious reflection.

Sweeney received an MFA from the University of California at Irvine in 1975, and he names artists John Baldessari and Ed Ruscha as early influences. While living in Denver, he was commissioned to create work for the International Airport. In 1994, he moved to San Antonio and has made an impression on the local art scene through his exhibitions and permanent installations, including a commission at the San Antonio International Airport. Solo exhibitions of his work have been held at Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas (2003); Robischon Gallery, Denver, Colorado (2002); and Tokyo Project, Japan (2002). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions, including *New American Talent*, Art-House, Austin, Texas (2004); Word, University of Dallas, Irving, Texas (2003); and *Texas Biennial* (2001).



## **General Session:**

Friday, November 7, 2014

2:00—4:00 pm

Ballroom A

## **Inside the Studio:**

Friday, November 7, 2014

5:00—7:00 pm

Room 001