

news THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT DALLAS

southwestern medical school ■ graduate school of biomedical sciences ■ school of allied health sciences

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******Major fresco will be done on
Health Science Center campus.*

DALLAS--A major work of art has been commissioned for The University of Texas Health Science Center here, President Charles C. Sprague has announced.

David Novros, a widely acclaimed painter from New York, will execute a 99-foot fresco on the front foyer wall of the Gooch Auditorium at the center. The fresco, probably the only one of its kind done for a public building by an artist of note in recent years in Texas, was made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Eugene McDermott.

The artistic method, which dates back at least to the Minoans, involves the application of paint to wet plaster. The colors then become part of the wall, rather than being a coating on it. Michelangelo chose this method for the works done on the ceiling of the Sistine chapel in the Vatican.

Novros is expected to begin work on the huge abstract painting around the first of June. Workmen already are preparing the three-section wall with plaster.

Robert Murdock, curator of contemporary art at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, was one of the earliest to identify Novros as a good choice for the UTHSCD project.

"He'd done several fresco projects in the past, and fresco seemed right for a shallow space like that (the Gooch Auditorium foyer)," said Murdock.

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The artist, who has had major exhibits around the world in his career, seemed particularly adept in the "way he can control color--the way he can control the relationship of several different hues," added Murdock.

Novros' previous fresco in Texas is in the reception area of United Gas Pipeline's executive office in the Pennzoil Building in Houston. One critic termed him "a modernist mural painter demanding that the viewer respond to the environment rather than to its parts, much in keeping with the European cathedral tradition to which he philosophically relates."

Another critic feels that Novros is able to "infuse geometric design with lyric feeling."

The 36-year-old artist has had one-man shows in Los Angeles, New York, Stuttgart, Hamburg, London, Minneapolis, Houston, San Francisco, and Dusseldorf.

UTHSCD President Charles Sprague said that Novros had agreed to meet with faculty, students and patrons at the center to explain the complexities of the demanding art method prior to the beginning of the project.

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