

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE TO INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTIST ED MCGOWIN AS THE  
3 RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR LIFETIME  
4 ACHIEVEMENT.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2023 recipients, which include internationally renowned painter  
7 and conceptual artist Ed McGowin as the recipient of the 2023  
8 Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement; and

9 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are  
10 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding  
11 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community  
12 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are  
13 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify  
14 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, Ed McGowin is an internationally renowned artist who  
16 has traveled to more than 100 countries, but his roots run deep in  
17 south Mississippi. The director of the Lowe Art Museum in Miami  
18 says that the first time Ed McGowin meets anyone, he tells them he  
19 was born in Hattiesburg; and



20 WHEREAS, McGowin was born in Hattiesburg in 1938. He  
21 graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi and earned  
22 his master's degree from the University of Alabama. McGowin moved  
23 to Washington, D.C. in 1962 where he worked on his art while  
24 serving as an aid to Mississippi Congressman William M. Colmer.  
25 During the 1970s, McGowin lived in the nation's capital along with  
26 fellow Mississippi-born artists William Dunlap and Sam Gilliam.  
27 Together they witnessed and steered a revolution in American  
28 painting known as the Color Field Movement; and

29 WHEREAS, from 1970 to 1972, McGowin created his best-known  
30 series: *Name Change*. Mr. McGowin legally changed his name twelve  
31 times and created a body of work under each new name. McGowin  
32 says the name changes freed his approach and creative position,  
33 resulting in a remarkably diverse series of works. For example,  
34 under the name "Thornton Dossett," he carved wood hangings, made  
35 prints and memorialized folk heroes. "Nicholas Gregory  
36 Nazianzen," on the other hand, made detailed paintings depicting  
37 dark scenes of chaos which are surrounded by hand-carved frames.  
38 In 1976, McGowin moved to New York City where he continues to live  
39 and work with his wife, artist Claudia DeMonte; and

40 WHEREAS, though he trained as a painter, McGowin has created  
41 paintings, sculptures, conceptual art projects, films, writings  
42 and public art installations. He pioneered the use of  
43 vacuum-forming to create distinct abstract forms in a variety of



44 new materials. While deeply ensconced in the cosmopolitan art  
45 world of New York, his work often reveals his Southern roots; and

46 WHEREAS, McGowin's works are in the collections of many  
47 leading institutions, including the Whitney, the Hirshhorn, and  
48 Guggenheim museums, and the Mississippi Museum of Art, among  
49 others. The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and the  
50 American Cultural Center in Paris, France, have hosted some of his  
51 many solo exhibitions; and

52 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
53 express appreciation for the talent of a Mississippi-born artistic  
54 leader who has made Mississippi a better place and exemplifies the  
55 artistic traditions of our great state:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
57 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
58 Mississippi Senate to internationally renowned artist Ed McGowin  
59 as the recipient of the 2023 Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime  
60 Achievement and extend our congratulations to a Mississippi-born  
61 lifelong artistic leader on this auspicious occasion.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
63 Ed McGowin as part of the Governor's Arts Awards presentation and  
64 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

