

TURNING POINT

San Antonio Missions World Heritage Art Collection

Grand Scale Historic Documentation

www.worldheritagemissions.com



KEVIN G. SAUNDERS
PHOTOGRAPHY

San Antonio Missions' New Role: World Heritage

UNESCO World Heritage inducted the San Antonio Missions in 2015 to be included and honored within protected global historic sites. This defines and dignifies the Catholic Church's outreach to the New World. As the bedrock of San Antonio's (and United States') initial development and early culture, the World Heritage honor anchors a complete revitalization of San Antonio. The upcoming 300 years of infrastructure development is personified with this beginning, this Turning Point. This highly accurate portrayal honors the pioneers. Their civic pride and generational responsibility caused them to lead San Antonio with strength, persistence and dignity.



How do you want to be remembered in 100 years?

The Missions are almost 300 years old, and we are ramping up a world-class celebration for San Antonio's Tricentennial. Parts of the festivities are fleeting like the fireworks. The Collection is long-term, standing for our future generations. They will examine, engage with, and wonder at the human workmanship in the stone missions. The Missions still stand, bringing true inspiration and pride to our children, and their children.

Those who become patrons of The Collection by purchasing or donating a set, or both, will have their legacy memorialized for multiple future generations. A commemorative art piece accompanies each set, to tell the story of the patron and generate goodwill in a subtle, reserved and elegant manner. This dignified likeness of the Missions, exactly as they were at the time of World Heritage induction, becomes a priceless piece of historic legacy.



Nine years of work, a turning point for San Antonio

Achieving World Heritage status required a lengthy and technical nomination process, begun in 2006. It was a massive community-wide effort. The San Antonio Missions are now the first World Heritage Site in Texas and only the 23rd in the United States.

Major Economic Impact

A UNESCO designation is a catalyst for socio-economic change, with increased visitation and tourist spending. According to the U.S. Travel Association, \$928 billion was generated by domestic and international travelers in 2014, placing tourism as one of our nation's largest economic generators and spurring an additional \$1.2 trillion in other industries.

For San Antonio, the impact will be even more significant, as tourism is one of the city's top five

industries, providing one in eight jobs and more than \$12 billion annually. By 2025, the World Heritage site economic impact on San Antonio and Bexar County is expected to generate an additional \$44 million to \$105 million in economic activity, with over 1,100 newly created jobs.





Honoring Nine Years' Efforts

Photo and Video Credit: David Hughes

Judge Nelson Wolff had a meeting with Kevin in early fall 2015, the importance of a historic collection of five large images of the Missions, commemorating the UNESCO induction was the basis of the discussion. Kevin left that meeting with an epiphany. The Missions had never been photographed in his Grand Scale hyper realistic process. There was a small time window between the July UNESCO announcement in Bonn, Germany and the actual Inscription Ceremony at Mission San Jose in October. The decision was made to create the definitive historical documentation of the Missions, coinciding with their induction into UNESCO World Heritage, in order that complete accuracy would be professionally captured for all time.

[Click the play button for video link.](#)



"I spent months visiting the Missions daily, to capture the perfect light, perfect sky, and perfect composition for a collection that would have permanence and dignity. I imagined the native inhabitants working with the Franciscan Friars, building the Missions stone by stone, and the carvings, chisel stroke by chisel stroke. I gazed at the magnificent, old world carvings and had deep appreciation for the care and craftsmanship that went into each stone. I considered the generations of families who lived here, were buried here and whose memories live on. This two-month phase of capturing the images gave me confidence that this was indeed an important work. The next months involved the painstaking combination of hundreds upon hundreds of images, creating a massive mosaic for each Mission view. I knew that each scene would be breathtaking, and I also knew that in a few short years, the scene would look much different. San Antonio is a world class city. We attract new businesses and a diverse workforce which brings us to preeminence in the United States. The Southside is evolving into a force to be reckoned with."

Kim Barber



Grand Scale Hyper Realistic Contemporary Art

Each element of the Art Collection is a composition, containing up to 100 images. Using an 80-megapixel medium format technical camera with a custom gimbal and mounting rig, rows of overlapping images are created from a single point of view. The result is an image that is composed like a single photograph or painting, yet has no loss of detail, and is massive in size. The viewer doesn't perceive the art piece as a photograph, rather, a perfect painting, or a window opening up to the scene.



The challenge in a composition is to place the camera in the right place, at the right time, and then to capture all the images quickly enough before the light changes or the wind blows. Since all the images have to overlap perfectly, even a gust of breeze can render the set of images unusable

for a big print. Afterwards, weeks of painstaking combining of images has to occur, and we must use a state of the art computer to make it possible in this time frame. Once the image is perfect, it is ready to be printed.

For the smaller two collections, we use the finest canvas, mounting, and custom frames available. Everything is museum grade, built to last for centuries. Finally, each of the smaller images receives a custom 22kt gold leaf nameplate attached to the frame.

The Grand Scale images are able to be printed and mounted on a myriad of surfaces, from glass to granite to steel, engineered for more industrial exhibits. These are perfect for public spaces as they have the durability to remain pristine in a more challenging environment than a museum or corporate lobby.

These are true artisan works of art, leveraging the composition of a master, and state of the art technology. Standard photographs, even in high resolution, do not possess the detail of hundreds of images combined in one composition. They cannot be blown up into a Grand Scale format; as one completely loses the image. This is obvious in banners or big posters.



“Grand Scale” images range from 23’ to 35’ feet wide

“Public Scale” images range from 10’ to 6.5’ feet wide

“Private Scale” images are all 48” inches wide.

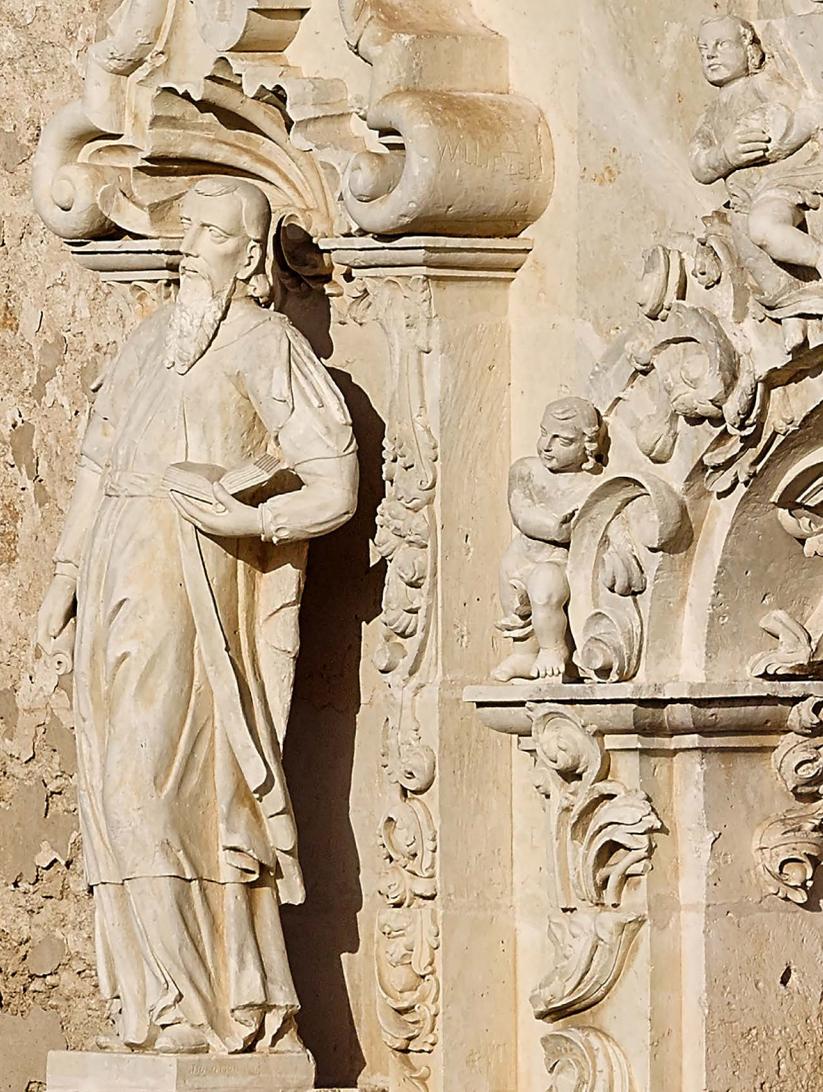
There are six Limited Edition sets of each size in this Historic Art Collection.

Hon. Nelson Wolff, Bexar County Judge

“The San Antonio Missions are now the first World Heritage Site in the state and the 23rd in the nation. This community is known for protecting its heritage and I have no doubt we will continue sharing our heritage with the world.”

-Hon. Nelson Wolff, Bexar County Judge





Leo Gomez Makes Brooks City Base First Patron

When a company or individual purchases a set for donation or display, they also get a 40 x 66 framed commemorative art piece. This shows all the Mission images and includes language to document the event and the civic leaders who made it happen. Here is the text that will be on Brooks City Base's art piece:

January 21, 2016

President and CEO Leo Gomez announced that Brooks City Base became the first patron of the Historic Missions World Heritage Collection: Turning Point. The announcement was made to attendees of the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Installation Event.

The 9-year effort of Judge Nelson Wolff brought about the inclusion of The Missions of San Antonio into UNESCO World Heritage. The criteria included:

outstanding universal value to humanity, representing human genius, monumental arts, and architecture. In recognition of Judge Wolff's success, master photographer Kevin G. Saunders created a Grand Scale Historic Collection in his signature style. The result is a limited edition collection in three sizes, commemorating the Missions' entrance into the World Heritage Family.

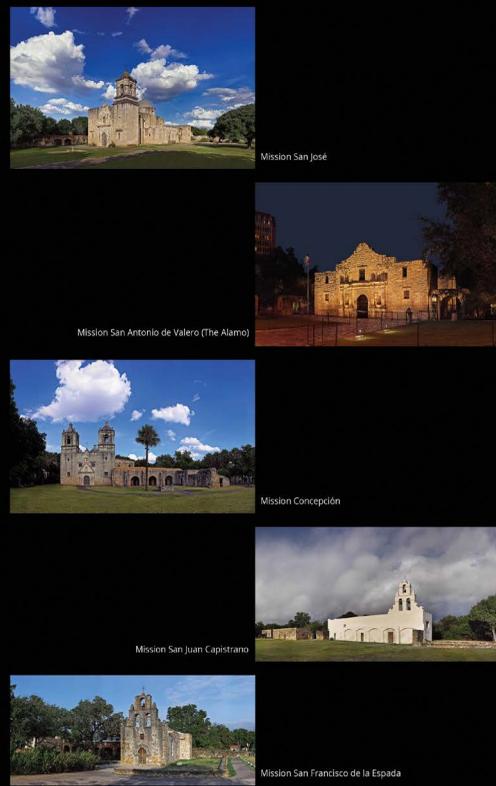
“ These prints will outlast every living person in San Antonio, as well as their offspring. Our Patrons and civic leaders will have their legacy memorialized with dignity. ”



Tweet from Brooks City Base

This time next year we expect for the @embassysuites to be completed at #brookscitybase, the first full-service hotel past Cesar Chavez. Check out the first artwork going up on the walls (@missionsofsanantonio) thank you @kevingsaunders!

Did you know??? We are the first to own this special set of 5, what an honor!
#worldheritagesite



Mission San José

Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo)

Mission Concepción

Mission San Juan Capistrano

Mission San Francisco de la Espada

Brooks
CITY BASE

January 21, 2016

President and CEO Lee Correy announced that Brooks City Base became the first project of the historic Missions World Heritage Site. The announcement was made in partnership with the South Texas Heritage Center of Commerce Street in San Antonio.

The State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation announced that the Missions of San Antonio are UNESCO World Heritage Site. The site includes five missions: Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo), Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan Capistrano, Mission San Francisco de la Espada, and Mission San José. The site is a National Historic Landmark and is located in the heart of San Antonio, Texas.

KAS
KAYE SAUNDERS

The South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

“The South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce is to be commended for inviting us to the event at the Pearl Stables that resulted in the collection being seen by many. Thanks to this exposure, a set was commissioned by Leo Gomez for Brooks City Base. It shall be hung in the new Embassy Suites Hotel being built at Brooks City Base. Chamber President Al Arreola is one of our up and coming leaders and his vision will never be forgotten.”

Kim Bowler





Strategic Branding using Targeted Donations

While many corporations prefer to purchase a set of prints for display, others consider the strategic branding potential of donating sets. Since the patron will receive the large commemorative art piece for local display, the public and media goodwill is possible even if they don't have the space to display a set themselves. Here are some ideas that can raise the level of exposure to the corporation as well as the collection itself:

The Vatican – With one of the largest art collections in the world, The Vatican is the most significant potential recipient of this collection. They have the size to accept multiple sized sets, and we have an opportunity to create international press with a delegation presenting the collection to Pope Francis.

Texas General Land Office, Commissioner George P Bush – The Alamo is now owned and managed

by the GLO. It is a logical recipient, and a donor who has ties to the Bush family could find this a good way to honor the contributions of that family and to recognize the GLO in its role with The Alamo.

Metropolitan Museum of Art MOMA

Library of Congress

Texas Historical Commission

Archdiocese of San Antonio

Witte Museum

McNay Art Museum

Institute of Texan Cultures

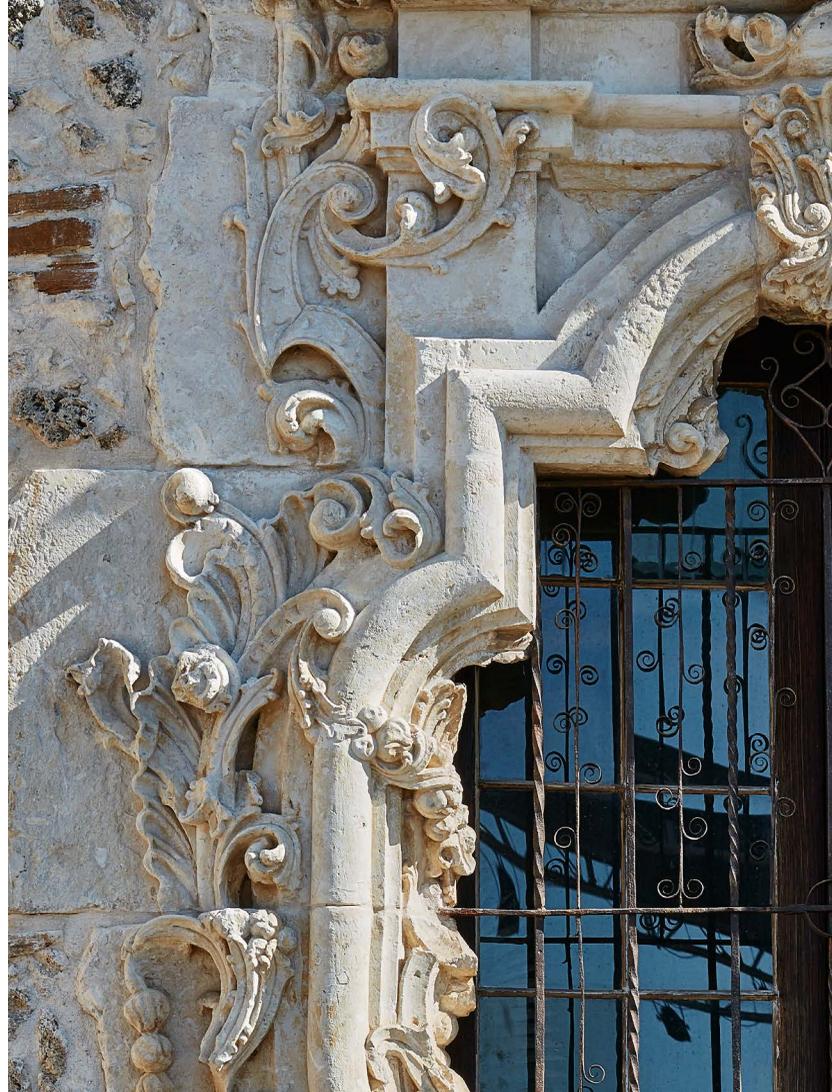
San Antonio Museum of Art

San Antonio Convention and Visitors' Bureau

City of San Antonio
San Antonio Airport
County of Bexar
University of Incarnate Word
Texas A&M San Antonio
UTSA
Trinity University

“ Each stroke of the chisel, each intrinsic artistic breath from these sculptors is shown in this historic collection because of the process I have perfected. ”

Wm. B. ...



The Science of Projecting the Digital Art Composite

One significant technological difference between a single, wide angle image and a composite image is the ability to render the final image with different types of projections. While an architect would insist on a strict rectilinear projection, the sides can get horribly distorted with very wide angles, depending on the point of view of the camera. One solution is to use a cylindrical projection that allows the viewer to see a scene that can exceed 180 degrees in a more pleasant perspective. The distortion shifts from increasing size at the edges, to curving horizontal straight lines. Due to the physics of camera lenses, all images have distortion. Kevin's technological options provide the ability to change the perspective to tell a different story.

The images in this collection are displayed using both techniques, depending on the composition

The Alamo is shown with a rectilinear projection, and all the others have a cylindrical projection. Since these are contemporary art rather than renderings to construct a building, artistic license is used. In a similar way, Michelangelo distorted the faces of the cherubs on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. He wanted to tell a particular visual story, and Kevin did as well with these artistic choices.



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

A World Heritage Site is a place (such as a building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, or mountain) that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as being of special cultural or physical significance. The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the General Assembly.



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