



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Allie Victoria Tennant. Then, answer questions about it.

Allie Victoria Tennant 1898?–1971

Visitors entering the Hall of State in Dallas's Fair Park pass under a gilded bronze sculpture of an archer with a drawn bow preparing to fire. The piece, titled *Tejas Warrior*, is a masterpiece of line, muscle, and potential energy—and is the best-known work of one of the least-known major Texas artists.

Born in the late 1890s, sculptor Allie Victoria Tennant grew up in Dallas. After studying art in New York and Europe, she returned to her hometown and joined a community of artists inspired by the history and culture of the Southwest. Her *Tejas Warrior* was commissioned for the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition. In a career that lasted through the 1960s, Tennant gained national recognition for her work while advancing Texas artistic culture.

In the early forties, she served as the first president of the Texas Sculptors Group. She helped establish the Women's Building at Fair Park to highlight women's cultural contributions. Tennant also taught at the Art Institute of Dallas and advanced civic institutions such as the Dallas Museum of Art. As a committed member of the Dallas Garden Club, Tennant championed several civic beautification projects, reflecting her dedication to public art.

Tennant died in 1971. Her legacy includes not only her own expressive works but also institutions that continue to support Texas art and artists.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Allie Victoria Tennant. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What is Allie Victoria Tennant's best known sculpture?
2. Besides her work as an artist, what else did Tennant do to support Dallas's artistic community?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** Tennant was dedicated to public art, which makes art accessible to people by putting it in easily accessible places. Where would you put a work of public art in your own community? Why?