

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AMSET's spring exhibition showcases renowned artist, José Arpa

Opening reception: 6-8 p.m., Friday, March 17  
On view: March 11, 2017 – May 28, 2017

(Beaumont, TX; February 13, 2017) The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) is pleased to announce our upcoming exhibition, *José Arpa: A Spanish Painter in Texas*. This exhibit will be on view March 11 through May 28, 2017 in the main galleries of AMSET. This exhibition has been organized by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.

An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, March 17 in the main galleries of AMSET. Guest lecturer, Michael Grauer will be present to give a gallery talk about Arpa's work. Grauer is the Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs and Curator of Art and Western Heritage at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.

Born in Carmona, Spain, José Arpa y Perea (1858-1952) began studying part-time at the Academia des Bellas Artes (Academy of Fine Arts) in Seville. In 1876, he became a full-time art student studying with history painter, Eduardo Cano de la Peña.

In 1893, following the Impressionist era, Arpa sent paintings as part of the Spanish contingent to the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Arpa journeyed to San Antonio and showcased his work at the San Antonio International Fair in 1900. He then traveled between Mexico, Spain, and, finally, San Antonio where he founded his painting school in 1923. Arpa began teaching en plein air classes in Bandera, Texas, in 1926, assisted by his nephew and artist, Xavier Gonzales.

Arpa's use of black hues is a nod to his Spanish heritage, while the mixture of other cultures such as European countries, Mexican and American influenced his work. Texas culture, especially, provided Arpa with an abundance of inspiration making his work vibrant and diverse.

"Texas Impressionism" was greatly impacted by Arpa's style, and his teachings transformed this movement in south-central Texas. Arpa exhibited his artwork in museums and galleries throughout Texas, with viewings in New York and Spain. In 1931, Arpa returned to Spain where he remained until his death in 1952.

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by the Edaren Foundation, The Honorable Marcia Crone and Seth Crone, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation.

Visit AMSET in downtown Beaumont to explore Arpa's work. For more information on the exhibition or opening reception, visit [www.amset.org](http://www.amset.org) or call (409) 832-3432.

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*Through unique collections, exhibitions, public programs and outreach in the visual arts, the mission of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas is to provide education, inspiration and creative vision throughout Southeast Texas.*

AMSET is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.  
Hours: M-F: 9am-5pm Sat.: 10am-5pm Sun: Noon-5pm Closed Major Holidays  
Admission: Free Suggested Donation: \$2.00  
Wheelchair and stroller accessible



José Arpa, *Grand Canyon*, 1925, oil on canvas, 24x20 in., Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, James D. Hamlin Collection



José Arpa, *A Mexican Wash Day – Tierra Caliente*, circa 1900, oil on canvas, 14x20 in., Collection of Beverly and George Palmer