

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

500 Main

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Fall 2021

De Aquí el Más Allá: Arte Popular de la Colección Privada / From Here to the Afterlife: Folk Art from the Permanent Collection

Collecting a Master/ Coleccionando la obra de un maestro: Carlomagno Pedro Martínez from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art

**Saturday, October 2, 2021-
Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**Saturday, October 9, 2021-
Sunday, March 12, 2023**

On October 14th, AMSET celebrated the opening reception for our two fall exhibitions, *Collecting a Master: Carlomagno Pedro Martínez from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art* and *From Here to the Afterlife: Folk Art from the Permanent Collection*. Through grant-funding and underwriting, the museum was able to fly Carlomagno from Oaxaca, Mexico, to Beaumont for the reception. While in town, Carlomagno met with local students, including Lamar University undergraduates and the eighth-grade Odom Junior Docents. He visited local organizations and institutions, including the Art Studio, the Dishman Art Museum, the Museum of the Gulf Coast and the Stark Museum of Art. He also took time to film an interview with AMSET's staff, as well as create a brand new sculpture for the museum using



Carlomagno Pedro Martínez, *Wake (detail)*, n.d., Oaxacan black clay and wood. Gift of John Gaston Fairey, PC 2017.04.063.01-07

some locally mixed clay from the Art Studio. He was very busy! The museum was also privileged to host Marta Turok, Curator for the Ruth D. Lechuga Center for Folk Art Studies at the Franz Mayer Museum in Mexico City, for the opening reception. Marta wrote the gallery guide essay for Carlomagno's exhibition and gave an incredible presentation during the opening reception on the historical development of black clay objects. Hard copies of her essay are available in the museum's main galleries,

and a recording of her presentation will soon be available on our Youtube page. If you haven't had a chance to visit the museum recently or missed the opening reception, come by and see two fantastic exhibitions showcasing the museum's permanent collection. Carlomagno Pedro Martínez is a Mexican artist from San Bartolo Coyotepec, Oaxaca, Mexico, who specializes

in "barro negro" or black clay ceramics. Martínez was trained by his parents in the Zapotec pottery tradition, and began formal artistic training at the age of 18. Martínez draws his inspiration from the cultural wealth he observes within daily life in Mexico, as well as the history of pre-colonial Mexico. Although the majority of the sculptures he creates are inspired by traditional Oaxacan characters and imagery, he also includes humorous portrayals of present-day personalities and events.

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, the City of Beaumont, and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Additional funding provided by Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker.

To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

Collecting a Master/ Coleccionando la obra de un maestro: Carlomagno Pedro Martínez from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art

De Aquí el Más Allá: Arte Popular de la Colección Privada / From Here to the Afterlife: Folk Art from the Permanent Collection

His work has been exhibited in Mexico, the U.S. and Europe, and he has been awarded national and international awards, including Mexico's National Prize for Arts and Sciences in the popular art category. Today, he is also the director of the Museo Estatal de Arte Popular de Oaxaca (MEAPO) in his hometown. *Collecting a Master* features some of Carlomagno's most extensive sculptural installations – all from

the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art. The works drawn from the Fairey Collection represent one of the largest holdings of Martínez's work in a public collection in the United States.

From Here to the Afterlife features a selection of permanent collection artworks from AMSET's American Folk Art Collection and the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art with a focus on objects

depicting celebrations, rituals, and day-to-day activities associated with the afterlife. It includes works from well-known and unknown Mexican and American artists, including Southeast Texas locals Johnny Lamar and Xmeah ShaEla'ReEl. A gallery guide essay giving an overview on folk art was written by Curator of Exhibitions, Caitlin Clay. Printed copies are available for free in the main galleries.

AMSET thanks its underwriters for their continued support and funding of exhibitions. *Collecting a Master* and *From Here to the Afterlife* would not be possible without the support of the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker, the City of Beaumont, and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

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Xmeah ShaEla' ReEl, *Apocalypse*, 1989, wood, paint and glitter, PC 1997.13.06, Gift of Sylvia & Warren Lowe

FRANCESCA FUCHS: Serious and Slightly Funny Things

December 18, 2021 - March 13, 2022

This winter, AMSET will present *Francesca Fuchs: Serious and Slightly Funny Things*. Fuchs utilizes a soft color palette to create paintings and sculptures that give careful attention to family relationships, objects of the everyday, quiet moments, and feelings of nostalgia. Fuchs' careful consideration of the ordinary and the everyday underscores her rigorous investigation into the significance and

traditions of painting. Born in London and raised in Münster, Germany, Francesca Fuchs moved to the U.S. in 1996 for the Core Program at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Fuchs' work was featured in the 1992 New Contemporaries and has been shown in venues including The Whitechapel Art Gallery, London; The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; The Suburban, Illinois; and in a solo exhibition at

the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston. She was the 2017 Josephine Mercy Heathcote Fellow at the MacDowell Colony, New Hampshire, and was Art League Houston's 2018 Texas Artist of the Year. Fuchs lives in Houston, Texas, and is represented by Inman Gallery (Houston) and Talley Dunn Gallery (Dallas). An exhibition catalog will be available.

Upcoming Exhibitions

We would like to thank everyone who visited the museum on Thursday, September 2nd, for *Tina Novelli: Reflections* opening reception and for the September First Thursday. It was a night that was filled with plenty of food, wine and music. Visitors enjoyed viewing some of Tina's newest watercolors and drawings in the café while sampling brownies and red wine.

Tina Novelli began making art when she was six years old. She began by drawing her pets, working in pencil, charcoal and pastels. She then progressed to pen and ink, widening her subject matter to include architecture, the human figure and fashion design with an emphasis on realism. In this exhibition, she included landscapes, seascapes, and architectural studies of European

cities, each with an emphasis on personal and physical reflections.

If you missed the exhibition, you may contact Tina at tinaoriginals@gmail.com or at 409-656-5603 about purchasing an artwork for yourself or as a holiday gift for a friend or family member. Smaller works on paper, custom notecard sets, beautiful jewelry, and prints – all made by Tina – are for sale in the museum's gift shop and will be available throughout the holiday season.

To view her work visit:
Instagram @tinaoriginals
Pinterest.com/tinaoriginals
Facebook.com/tinaoriginals
Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TinaOriginals>



Tina Novelli, *Big Thicket Swamp*, 2020, watercolor, image courtesy of the artist

UPCOMING | *MELODY MONTERO-ORTIZ: ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL*
November 18, 2021 - February 13, 2022

Opening reception: Sunday, January 9, 2022, 2:00- 4:00 p.m.

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is pleased to present a new café exhibition, *Melody Montero-Ortiz: All Things Bright and Beautiful*, for the winter quarter. Born in Tampa, Florida, Melody Montero-Ortiz has called Beaumont, Texas home since 1993. She did not pursue painting until after her children were born. She studied under the tutelage of Jerry Newman, Judy Crowe and Colley Whisson and has taken workshops from nationally known artists such as Qiang Huang, William Jameson, Robert Liberace and Suzie Baker. All these artists have helped her take her art to the next level. Melody says that her goal as

an artist is to be able to communicate visually in such a way as to stimulate the viewer's imagination to see not only with their eyes but also with their hearts. She hopes to evoke a mood to which viewers will respond and

works to have the commitment, self-discipline and perseverance that will take her further in her artistic career. Melody can often be found at art shows exhibiting her works and also learning from other artists. She enjoys the Plein



Melody Montero-Ortiz, *Blossom I*, 2010, oil on canvas, 18 X 24

Air setting for painting and is inspired by the environment around her. She also likes to paint different subject matters, including still life, figurative works and landscapes. "My brush is just an extension of how I see the world. I paint whatever moves me at the moment. My paintings are a reflection of what I find beautiful in the world around me. Painting has always been my passion and my way of relaxing. It fills me up with joy."

OFRENDAS IN THE CONN GALLERY

Celebrating Dia de los Muertos at AMSET

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a day of celebration for the people of Latin America, particularly in Mexico and Central America, and more recently for Mexican Americans. Rather than grieve over the loss of a beloved family or friend, they choose to commemorate the lives of the dearly departed and welcome the return of their spirits. The history of Day of the Dead is embedded with Pre-Historic and Spanish customs. These customs shaped the common elements of traditional Mexican Dia de los Muertos. In recent years, Day of the Dead has been increasingly popular with Latinos in the United States. Though many of the traditional elements have remained, how and where Day of the Dead is celebrated has changed.

The Art Museum celebrates Day of the Dead by commemorating those who have recently passed who have had

a significant impact on the museum either through service, donations or both. This year we remember **Bessie Fisher Chisum, Nell McCallum Morris, WL Pate and Clint Willour**. If you would like to add items to the ofrenda of any of these four people, through the month of November, please contact Lynn Castle at lcastle@amset.org.

Bessie Fisher Chisum (1945-2020) was very involved at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET). She was Art Chairman for the Kaleidoscope Arts Festival in 1986-87, she served on the board of trustees from 1987-1992 and was board president from 1991-1992. Bessie utilized her marketing talents for AMSET as she was instrumental in fundraising efforts for the museum. Upon her passing, she bequeathed a generous gift to AMSET to be directed towards the quarterly Family Art Days and an

annual scholarship for the first place winner of Protégé Senior High School competition and exhibition.

Nell McCallum Morris (1938-2021) supported programs for children in multiple capacities from Buckner Children and Family Services to public schools to universities. Her volunteerism and commitment also focused on health, where she concentrated particularly on underserved people of Southeast Texas. Nell was deeply committed to the Gift of Life serving as the president for 23 years. Gift of Life provides many services to Southeast TX residents, including breast and prostate cancer screenings. She served on the board of trustees at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas and later on the museum's advisory board. She was a strong supporter of AMSET's education programs.



OFRENDAS CONT.

Wilbur Lee “WL” Pate, Jr. (1948-2021) was born in Beaumont. He was a U.S. Army Reserve Veteran who served for 27 years. He retired in 1994 as a Lieutenant Colonel. Following his honorable discharge he served on the Congressional Military Academy Selection Board for 3 congressmen, serving several years as Chairman. WL served 14 years as city councilman and was a two-time mayor pro tem where he was an advocate for economic development. WL was an ardent supporter of Lamar University, the Babe Didrickson Zaharias Foundation and Museum and for downtown Beaumont. As a city councilman he served as the City Liaison on the Board of Trustees for the Art Museum of Southeast Texas from 2013 – 2021. He will be remembered by the museum board and staff for his conflict resolution skills and his unflinching optimism. **Clint Willour (1941-2021)** championed Texas’ artists. In 2006 he was named Texas Patron of the Year by Art League Houston and in 2007 he was named Best “Art Guru” by the Houston Press. The Houston Art Fair presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 and the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft named him a Texas Master in 2013 and honored him with its 2019 fundraiser. Clint was also recognized for his gifts to Texas museums. He began collecting art in 1960 and donated art to many Texas museums such as the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Menil Collection and, of course, AMSET.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A big THANK YOU to Sandra Clark and Sandy Fertitta

The Board of Trustees and staff are very grateful to two outstanding board members who fulfilled their term limits on September 30, 2021. Sandy Fertitta was instrumental to the success of numerous galas and other special events during her six years as board member. Sandy is recognized for her organizational skills, her kindness, generosity and wonderful sense of humor. Sandra Clark served as Board President, on the gala committee and on the finance committee. Sandra’s knowledge and skill set is so comprehensive in multiple facets of museum operations, it would take a 1,000 pages to give her due credit. She is highly respected for asking the difficult questions and is a woman of action. She is generous to a fault and an unflinching loyal AMSET supporter. Luckily for AMSET both Sandy and Sandra have agreed to continue their service to AMSET as Advisory Trustees.

AMSET is pleased to welcome Gaylord “Rocky” Chase, Heather Petkovsek and Kathé Hendricks as new board members.

CHANGES IN STAFF

After four years with the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, Kayleigh Thompson, Public Relations Coordinator, has departed the museum. Kayleigh was the Administrative Assistant for three years and the P.R. Coordinator for one year. After a year as Administrative Assistant, Kasey Clay has been promoted to the P.R. position. Kasey received her B.A. in English with a Marketing minor from Stephen F. Austin State University in May 2020. Karisa Norfleet is the new Administrative Assistant. Karisa graduated from Lamar University in December 2017 with a B.S. in Communications-Journalism. She also has an Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts from Ranger College.

AMSET is excited to welcome Karisa to the staff and Kasey to her new position.

HAVANA NIGHTS GALA 2021

Havana Nights, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas' 34th Annual Anniversary Gala, took place on Friday, September 17 this year. It was a huge success with 160 people in attendance. AMSET honored artists Señora Cat Holtzclaw, Señor Robert Madden and Señor Jerry Newman (posthumous) with Lee Ann and Terry Garth as our honored Fine Arts Patrons. AMSET is very grateful to our hard working committee of Co-Chairs, Albert Nolen and Sandy Fertitta, Food Chairs Sandra Clark and Gerald Farha, Live Auction Chairs Michele and J. Mitchell Smith, Silent Action Chair, Kit Ohmstede, and Michelle and Janey Phelan – Decorations Chairs.

A Cuban inspired dinner was provided by Katharine and Company. Music was provided by DJ Jonathan Martin/JAM DJ Productions and decorations were provided by JP Decodesigns. The auction was conducted by professional auctioneer Scott Drodgy.

Our net income was \$99,462.58 this year. The silent and live auction made \$32,340.00 this year and we made \$55,195.00 in ticket sales. We sold 20 tables. We received \$41,369.70 in underwriting donations, setting an all-time record in the area. It just goes to show the abundance of generosity in our community!

We were also very pleased with our attendance, especially considering the pandemic. It helped to have the event outside under a tent in the museum's café courtyard. AMSET wishes to thank all those who donated and supported the gala and the auction in all its various capacities.

Gala Donations In Honor:

Keith Carter in honor of David Cargill

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Gala Donations In Memory:

Mr. & Mrs. Michael S. Kirkpatrick in memory of
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Dr. & Mrs. Frank A. Giglio

Ms. Andrea Karlin in memory of Mr. Jerry Newman



L-R Albert Nolen, Jamie Taylor, Lynn Castle, Stacey Taylor

FREE FAMILY Arts DAY

For more info, visit amset.org
or www.facebook.com/amsetx.

Join us from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 12, 2022 for Family Arts Day! This fun day will be about creating works of art inspired by our winter exhibition, *Francesca Fuchs: Serious and Slightly Funny Things*.

This popular event is FREE and open to the public. So don't miss it and bring your friends!

February 12, 2022 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Admission: Free

Holiday Tree Lighting

It's almost time to get your family's Santa hats and holiday sweaters ready, because the 2021 Holiday Season will begin Thursday, December 2nd at 4 p.m. with the traditional Downtown Museum District's Holiday Tree Lighting. Bring your children to visit the AMSET craft table and our neighboring museums and organizations.

Children will enjoy the holiday atmosphere, make an ornament for the most beautiful holiday tree in downtown, visit with Santa, write a letter to him to remind him about toy and clothing wishes and decorate a cookie to eat.

And most of all, children will delight in creating Spin Art Ornaments - one for this tree, one for yours - with the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Don't miss this child and family oriented holiday season kick-off!!!

For up to date details on the Holiday Tree Lighting, visit amset.org or follow AMSET on social media.



Gingerbread House WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 4, 2021

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Circle the date! Clear your calendar! Call your friends! AMSET invites you to join us for our Annual Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop.

Make plans to join us from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th to create your very own gingerbread house to add to your home's holiday atmosphere.

Sign up early! Participation is limited to fully allow for safe distancing. Face coverings and other Covid19 precautions are strongly recommended.

COST:

Members: \$40 for one house, \$60 for 2 houses

Non-Members: \$50 for one house, \$70 for 2 houses
(Maximum two people per house)

Registration begins November 15, 2021.

Call (409) 832-3432 for more information or to register.

Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET)

2020 - 2021 Contributors of \$250+

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Café Arts Series for Local Artists – *Melody Montero-Ortiz*

On view November 18 - February 13, 2022

Fall Exhibitions-

*Collecting a Master/ Coleccionando
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Winter Exhibition-

*Francesca Fuchs: Serious and
Slightly Funny Things*
Winter Exhibition Opening Reception

On view December 18, 2021- March 13, 2022

Friday, December 17, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

Education/ Around the Museum-

Holiday Tree Lighting
Gingerbread Workshop
First Thursday
Book Club | *The Lost Notebook of Edouard Manet*
Winter Family Arts Day

Thursday, December 2, 2021 @ 4 p.m.

Saturday, December 4, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 6, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 13, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 12, 2022 @ 10 a.m.



Art Museum of Southeast Texas
500 Main Street Beaumont, Texas 77701
(409) 832-3432 www.amset.org
Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5, Sun Noon-5



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