This exhibition will feature works by Prince Varughese Thomas, a multidisciplinary artist who is part of what has come to be known as the Indian Diaspora. Thomas is Indian by birth, naturalized in the US, and raised primarily between India and the United States. His work reflects his sense of the world growing up outside of the dominant culture in which he exists. Thomas’s immersive multimedia exhibition will fill the entire gallery space of the museum including brand new works of photography, video, drawings, and three-dimensional installations. The Legacy of Narcissus explores the intersection of Social Media, Art, and Politics that speak about our collective Narcissism as a culture.

Thomas received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Arlington, and his M.F.A. from the University of Houston. He is currently a professor at Lamar University. He is an Art Prize 7 award recipient in time-based media, and is a Texas Biennial Artist. His work has been included in over 200 solo and group exhibitions at museums, galleries and alternative spaces nationally and internationally. His recent exhibitions include a solo exhibition of charcoal drawing at Hooks-Epstein Galleries in Houston, a multimedia exhibition at the Asia Society Texas Center, and video at the CICA Museum in South Korea. He is currently represented by Hooks-Epstein Galleries in Houston, Texas.

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by Kathé and Jim Hendricks, Kim and Roy Steinhagen, Alexandra Irvine, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.
EMILY PEACOCK: 
Awake and Breathing Hard 

On View December 14, 2019 through March 1, 2020 
Opening Reception Friday, December 13 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 
Family Arts Day, Saturday, February 15, 2020 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

EMILY PEACOCK: 
Awake and Breathing Hard will welcome visitors into the world of multimedia artist Emily Peacock, whose work explores issues of identity, intimacy, loss, motherhood, protection and safety. She also addresses her battles with Postpartum depression, a public health issue that affects 10 to 15 percent of mothers. By talking with new mothers and making visual work for a public audience, Peacock encourages women to open up about their experiences without fear or shame and start to de-stigmatize this disorder. This exhibition will be driven by autobiographical explorations through photography, sculpture, and video works.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, Peacock earned her degree at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, and her Masters at the University of Houston. Her work has been exhibited in exhibitions at galleries and art spaces including the Houston Center for Photography, Art League Houston, Lawndale Art Center, Anzenberger Gallery in Vienna, Austria, the Galveston Arts Center, and Blue Star Lab in San Antonio, among others. She is currently a professor at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas and lives in Houston, Texas. Her work is included in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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

Emily Peacock, Safety Suit #2, 2018, archival inkjet print mounted to aluminum, 30 x 20 in. Loan Courtesy of the Artist
This exhibition is generously funded in part by 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.
CAFÉ ARTS SERIES
FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

CRAIG ODLE: Experiments and Evolution

On View August 29 - November 17, 2019

Craig Odle, I Don’t Want No Water Ma!, 2019, mixed media on canvas, 16 x 20 in.

Artist Bio
Craig Odle was born in Houston, Texas in 1987 and grew up in Beaumont, Texas. He is a pop-surrealist/lowbrow painter who finds inspiration in day-to-day life. The concepts he uses in his paintings come to him from conversations, music, movies, dreams and sometimes just odd thoughts. The titles used for his pieces generally speak to whatever idea that was used in the conception of the piece. Sometimes his pieces have a deep or dark meaning while other times the piece may seem like a riddle or a pun.

Artist Statement
If we look at life and the world all around us, we can see evolution firsthand. I believe that my experience and progression with my passion to create is no different. I had an experience around four years ago that changed my outlook on art and what it would take to move forward with my craft, and since then I have, one day at a time, moved further away from my comfort zone. Over time I have begun to believe that my art is a living thing—when it is pushed and nourished it evolves like every other living being in the universe. These pieces showcase many of the experiments that took place to help my painting practice grow into what it is currently. Only time, and the evolution that takes place during that time, will tell as to what the future holds for me and the canvases that cross my path. - Craig Odle
ON VIEW
IN THE CONN GALLERY:
CHARMAINE LOCKE & JAMES SURLS

Charmaine Locke and James Surls live and work in Carbondale, Colorado, although their roots are planted deep in Southeast Texas. They both attended college in Texas, and lived for many years in Splendora. They have exhibited their work in numerous state and national institutions, and have been key figures in promoting awareness of Texas Arts and Artists. Their public installations can be seen throughout Houston, New Orleans, Corpus Christi, and their work is included in private and public collections all over the world. This year, AMSET is proud to honor both Charmaine Locke and her husband James Surls at its 32nd Annual Anniversary Gala, not only for their inimitable works of art, but also for their monumental contributions to the Texas arts.

Through abstracted gestures, language and symbols, or recognizable imagery, Charmaine Locke’s paintings awaken visions of space and our place in our environment. In *Synaptic Potential*, a space is revealed to us in the lower portion of the painting. It seems to try and connect with the space above it, though the space seems almost immeasurable. Non-traditional materials like micro-crystalline wax are combined with language in *Tears,*
evoking associations that lead to a deeper message in the piece; a contemplation and response to the fact that over 200 million people were killed at the hands of other humans in the 20th century for religious reasons, territorial disputes, world wars or regional, ethnic atrocities. Charmaine Locke sheds light on this darker side of human nature, with an emphasis on altering those impulses. We are led into a peaceful offering by a female figure in Night Wonders, leaving us with thoughts of the possibilities of peace in the space we occupy. Charmaine Locke utilizes her background in psychology to portray human behavior and motivations in a visual format, translating through an art lens so that her sense of human life may be read through visual symbols.

James Surls creates sculptures, drawings and prints which reflect his unique sensibility towards fluid and evocative natural form. Using gestures that are seen reflected in nature such as leaves, flowers, and ripples, we are transported to a world where nature takes over how we translate our own world. Wood is transformed into an object in motion in Walking in Abstract, marked with eyes, the artist’s symbols acknowledging the object’s being. In Standing Water Flowers, the newest addition of the artist’s work into AMSET’s permanent collection, a string of flowers is seen
suspended in time as they seem to spiral and roll as one collective. Similarly, patterns emerge from unified symbols in the drawing *We Walk in Abstract*. Below it is an object which is at once inviting and also threatening with its soft edged thorns attached to a playfully spotted core. *Small Dragon* recalls the dichotomy of nature, as creator and destroyer.

Upon entering the museum, there is a large, suspended sculpture in the foyer. *Look and Listen* is made of wood and steel and invites one to spend time in its presence, looking at and listening to the surroundings. This piece is in the permanent collection of AMSET, and will be here to visit and enjoy for years to come.

*Standing Water Flowers*, 2006, stainless steel and bronze, gift of Barbara and Michael Gamson, PC 2019.07

*Look and Listen*, 1987, pine and steel, museum purchase, PC 2013.02.01

*Installation photo from the Conn Gallery, Fall 2019*
The work of John Alexander reflects nature in its true forms, depicting undisturbed beauty and vibrant natural wonders. Many of the works throughout the artist’s career have been inspired by the Southeast Texas region that the artist called home for many years. Born in 1945 in Beaumont, Texas, Alexander remained in southeast Texas until entering graduate school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1969. Upon completing an MFA in 1970, he moved to Houston, established a studio and became a member of the art faculty of the University of Houston. In the late 1970s, Alexander left Texas for New York where he currently resides, although he often revisits the Southeast. Alexander has exhibited extensively in the United States and around the world and has had major retrospectives at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is honored to have six works by John Alexander in our permanent collection. Four of these are on display along the walls of the West Hall, along with two works currently on loan to the museum. We are proud to have Beaumont native John Alexander as our honorary chair for this year’s annual Gala.
The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) hosted “In the Eye of the Beholder: An Evening of Art & Hors D’oeuvres,” an art sale and museum fundraiser, on Thursday, June 27, 2019. The event was chaired by Jan Fulbright and Kathy Gober and was a huge success.

Over 100 pieces of artwork were available for purchase. Most of the artwork included those that were a part of John Gaston Fairey’s collection of Mexican Folk Art. Fairey donated over 1,000 objects from his collection with the intent of offering some pieces for sale. Proceeds from the Fairey sale items are helping to offset the expenses of caring for the objects designated for the permanent collection. There was a wide selection of ceramics, textiles and mixed media objects.

The sale also included works on paper by the late George Wentz, a local Beaumont artist, as well as original drawings by the late Ruth Orr, a Beaumont-area artist and art teacher, as well as a selection of international posters. There was also a silent auction comprised of 20 pieces of artwork, including premier selections from the Fairey Collection.
Help AMSET celebrate its 32nd anniversary as we are Dancing on the Water at the Event Centre on Saturday, September 28th this year! Cocktails will begin at 7:30 p.m. with dinner provided by Bandos Catering at 8:30 p.m., followed by dancing to the Flava band. There will also be exciting live and silent auctions.

The gala will feature honorary gala chair John Alexander and recognize our gala honorees, internationally recognized artists, James Surls & Charmaine Locke, and the extraordinary museum patron Albert E. Nolen. A powerhouse gala committee of Judy Black, Sandra Clark, Sandy Fertitta, Karen Fuljenz, Kathé Hendricks, Aggie In, Janey Phelan and Kim Steinhagen will oversee the logistics of this fundraiser party.

Led by emcee Roy Steinhagen and auctioneer Gary Moncla, a talented auction committee of Nikki Albanese, Karen Babineaux, Lisa Coon and Candice Walters will be sure to delight party goers with some amazing and creative live and silent auction packages.

Please join us in raising funds to support exhibition and education programming. Shimmery attire optional/cocktail chic.

Contact AMSET at (409) 832-3432 or visit www.amset.org for further details.
The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is launching an exciting new program called AMSET: First Thursdays with Jazz. The museum will stay open until 7:30 p.m. each first Thursday evening of the month, except in January when it falls on January 2, and in July, due to the July 4th weekend. From 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday, we will provide live jazz musical entertainment and light refreshments. This programming is in response to the new Downtown Beaumont Cultural Arts District designation that was recently recognized by the Texas Commission on the Arts. First Thursdays aim to grow into a downtown collaborative event and eventually a city-wide event. This new program targets audiences of art and jazz lovers and evening event participants while generating further interest in the museum. It is always free to the public!

AMSET: First Thursdays with Jazz Calendar

October 3, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
November 7, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
December 5, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
in conjunction with the Holiday Tree Lighting
No January event due to New Year’s
February 6, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
March 5, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
April 2, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
May 7, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
June 4, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
No July event due to July 4th
August 6, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
September 3, 2020, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Admission: FREE
Sponsored by Goodyear Beaumont Chemical
& Chisum Resources Management

First Thursdays began at Katharine and Company, a local lunch-time restaurant, a few years ago. Katharine and Company started staying open late the first Thursday of every month to serve dinner. To enhance the evening crowd, they also invite area local artists to sell their art on the sidewalk around the restaurant with live music. Since then, other businesses in their area have joined in. AMSET’s First Thursdays will act as a catalyst to entice people to AMSET to see the current exhibitions and to hear great jazz and then to go out for dinner.

Musician Toby Castro is scheduling the jazz programming with a different featured jazz artist each month accompanied by talented bands. The line-up of musicians include Rick Condit – director of jazz studies and professor of saxophone at Lamar University, Kelly Dean – a saxophone player and vocalist, Dennis Dotson – a trumpet player and Jimmy Simmons – acclaimed saxophone, clarinet and piano player.
Grab your Freakster Friday friends and float on over to The Monster Mash...an AMSET Bash from 8 – 11 p.m. on Friday, October 18 to enjoy the groundbreaking spooky sounds (music) by Still Cruisin. Chaired by Lisa Coon, this event is for ages 21 – 210. There will be spirited libations as well as Octoberfest and pumpkin brews from Del Papa and Giglio Distributing Co., including the popular hard ciders. Grub good enough for goblins will come from the cauldrons of Two Magnolias. A creative costume contest will ensue with prizes for the scariest, most creative, and best couple. Pre-sale tickets are $35 and $40 at the door. Tickets can be had in a myriad of mystical ways such as...bought on the AMSET website, contacting your favorite “Boo-ya” board member or by going on-line www.amset.org, or by calling (409) 832-3432.
A ttention! Boot Camp comes to AMSET, graphic novel style. In partnership with Lamar University, AMSET will be hosting a Comic Boot Camp one Saturday every month from September through December!

Enlistees will learn to professionally create an 8 page Mini-Comic, from the beginning stages all the way to final printing. Comic Boot Camp drill sergeants, Christopher Troutman and Zachary Dubuisson, will demonstrate tips and techniques such as drawing, inking and layout. Throughout the camp, comic enlistees will play drawing games, learn about comic artists and have fun creating their own unique visual narratives!

Comic Boot Camp reservations were open to the public and filled quickly.

Session 1 – September 14th 1-4pm
Session 2 – October 12th 1-4pm
Session 3 - November 2nd 1-4pm
Session 4 - December 14th 1-4pm
*all sessions currently filled

About the Drill Sergeants:
Christopher Troutman received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in drawing and painting from Bradley University in 2003 and his Master of Fine Arts in drawing and painting from California State University, Long Beach in 2008. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Lamar University where he teaches all levels of drawing.

Zachary Dubuisson received a Bachelor in Arts in General Studies from Lamar University in 2005 and a Master of Fine Arts in Photography from Indiana University Bloomington in 2011. Dubuisson is currently an Instructional Designer at Lamar University and has previously taught Art Appreciation and Design classes at Lamar University.
“Eat a Bug!” Family Arts Day is one of AMSET’s most popular events, where children and their families are tempted to eat fried crickets. Hands-on art activities will focus on the many cultures of our region and the current exhibit on view, *Prince Varughese Thomas: The Legacy of Narcissus*. Entertainment includes Latin American music and dancing. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

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

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**Holiday Tree Lighting Party**

It’s almost time to get your family’s Santa hats and holiday sweaters ready, because the 2019 Holiday Season will begin Thursday, December 5th at 4 p.m. with the traditional Downtown Museum District’s Holiday Tree Lighting.

Bring your children to meet representatives of AMSET 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 our tree, one for yours - with the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. Don’t miss this child and family oriented holiday season kick-off!!!
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 7th to create your very own gingerbread house to add to your home’s holiday atmosphere.

Sign up early! Gingerbread is prepared and decorations are customized especially for this tasty workshop. Because advanced preparation is required, space is limited and registration is required.

Registration begins November 4, 2019. Visit amset.org for more information or call (409) 832-3432 for more details and to register.
Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET)
2018 - 2019 Contributors of $250+

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