



History:

Incorporated in the state of Texas on September 14, 1950, the Beaumont Art Museum was originally housed on the lower floor of a two-story rented house on Calder Avenue in Beaumont. In September of 1956, the S. Perry Brown family donated funds to build a facility on the Southeast Texas State Fairgrounds, which now houses the Beaumont Art League. In 1969, the family of J. Crooke Wilson donated their estate to the City of Beaumont for the purpose of housing the Beaumont Art Museum.

On September 10, 1987, after completing a comprehensive capital drive which brought in \$4.2 million, the Beaumont Art Museum was re-born as the Art Museum of Southeast Texas and found its current home at 500 Main Street in downtown Beaumont.

AMSET's collection consists of approximately 1,000 works of art (painting, sculpture, prints, photographs, folk and decorative arts) of the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries, with an emphasis on American art, and a growing regional collection of folk art.

Exhibitions:

AMSET hosts eight to ten exhibitions each year, some of which are organized in-house and travel on to other venues. Exhibits of note include *Oil Patch Dreams*, an exhibit designated to be the statewide kickoff event for the governor-appointed "Spindletop 2001" celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Spindletop oil boom in Beaumont. *Natural Histories: A Survey of Photographs by Keith Carter* showcased the career of internationally renowned Beaumont photographer Keith Carter. *John Alexander: 35 Years of Works on Paper* was a drawing retrospective exhibition focusing on internationally celebrated artist and Beaumont native John Alexander. In 2004, AMSET presented *Twang: Contemporary Texas Sculpture*, curated by C. Sean Horton. In 2006, AMSET presented *Paul Manes: The Big Big Picture Show*, an exhibit of works by a former Beaumont resident who has gone on to great acclaim in the art world.

In August 2007, AMSET opened a semi-permanent gallery featuring the folk art totems of Beaumont self-taught artist **Felix "Fox" Harris**. Harris' work had a colorful history at the museum – from its installations in outdoor areas, to de-installations due to hurricane threats, to criticism from the community, to many recent years in storage – finally the totems found a resting place in the newly dedicated gallery made to recreate Harris' home site.

Education:

AMSET also provides educational outreach programs that reach thousands of area children and adults.

Art-To-Go is AMSET's mobile art outreach unit. It travels to housing complexes, community and retirement centers, and meetings of youth organizations within 90 miles of AMSET.

Family Arts Days are held at the museum quarterly in conjunction with the main gallery exhibits. The FREE event encourages creative exploration of the museum and activities that correspond to the current exhibits and artists. Children participate in hands-on art activities and are entertained with musical and dance performances. All activities are free of charge and all art materials are provided. Family Arts Days serve a larger and more diversified audience, serving 500 to 2,100 people at each four-hour event.

Art After School is a very popular multi-visit program available to all fourth-grade students at selected schools. Students come to AMSET for a series of intensive art experiences. Students become familiar with the museum environment, take exhibit tours and participate in a number of hands-on art activities.

Another important educational aspect of AMSET is the **Conn Take pART Gallery**, which is always available during museum hours. In conjunction with each main gallery exhibition, AMSET organizes a hands-on educational activity for children in the Conn Take pART Gallery. This gallery helps children understand the artwork on view and create their own art that is inspired by it.

Other educational programs include Odom Junior Docents, HeadStart program for preschoolers, Summer ArtVentures Creative Kids' Camp and Protégé High School Art Competition and Exhibition.

AMSET's focus continues to be on providing education, inspiration and creative vision to the diverse community it serves. For further information, call (409) 832-3432 or log onto www.amset.org.