# Art Museum of Southeast Texas

# 500 Main

# Winter 2023

# CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

# January 7 JAMES C. WATKINS March 19 REFLECTIONS MADE OF MEMORIES

e invite you to visit the museum in January to see two fantastic exhibitions. Currently on display is *Collecting a Master: Carlomagno Pe*-

dro Martínez from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art. On Saturday, January 7th, the winter exhibition, James C. Watkins: Reflections Made of Memories, will open in the Main Galleries.

James C. Watkins (b. 1951) is a ceramicist living in Lubbock, Texas. His career in the arts spans over 40 years. He is well-known for his unique and pioneering firing techniques, as well as his mastery of building large double-walled vessels. Watkins' skill was recognized by his inclusion in the 1993 White House Collection of American Crafts, a collection of 75 American artworks brought together

under the direction of President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton. His ceramic pieces are inspired by his experiences growing up in the rural south. Growing up, he assisted his mother and grandmother in their cleaning and food-making endeavors by keeping the fire burning under their cast-iron pots. Lubbock's agricultural industries,



James Watkins, *Bottle Form*, stoneware wrapped in bailing wire, gold luster, fumed with stannous chloride and etched with glass etching solution, image courtesy of the artist.

particularly in cotton-growing, also inspire Watkins.

In 1973, Watkins graduated from Kansas City Art Institute with a BFA in Ceramics and Drawing. He graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington in 1977 with his MFA in Ceramics. Watkins is currently the Paul Whitfield Horn Professor Emeritus in the College of

Architecture at Texas Tech University (Lubbock, Texas), where he taught Architectural Ceramics and Architectural Drawing for over thirty years.

His work is included in over 21 permanent collections, including the Clinton Library (Little Rock, Arkansas); the Shigaraki Institute of Ceramic Studies (Shigaraki, Japan); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (Houston, Texas); the Everson Museum (Syracuse, New York), and the Tweed Museum (Duluth, Minnesota). His work has been exhibited in 40 solo exhibitions and 164 group exhibitions. In 2019, he received the Texas Master Award from the Houston

Center for Contemporary Craft. This retrospective will include new artwork, demonstrating many of Watkins' innovative and pioneering firing techniques and processes.

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 Mr. & Mrs. James E. Payne.

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

# CURRENT EXHIBITIONS CONT.

## JAMES C. WATKINS: REFLECTIONS MADE OF MEMORIES January 7 - March 19, 2023

oin us for the opening reception of *James C. Watkins: Reflections Made of Memories* on Friday, January 13, 2023, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Light drinks and refreshments will be served, and a brief gallery talk with the artist and his essayist Joshua Green, Executive Director of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, will take place at 7:15 pm. The reception is free and open to the public.

**Opening Reception:** Friday, January 13, 2023 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **Family Arts Day:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Portrait of the artist in his studio by Bonni Oakes, image courtesy of the artist.

## On View: October 9, 2021- March 12, 2023

#### COLLECTING A MASTER COLECCIONANDO LA OBRA DE UN MAESTRO

CARLOMAGNO PEDRO MARTÍNEZ FROM THE JOHN GASTON FAIREY COLLECTION OF MEXICAN FOLK ART



Carlomagno Pedro Martínez, *Mazorca de Vida (Maize of Life)*, n.d., Oaxaca black clay and wire, promised gift of the John Gaston Fairey Estate.

# UPCOMING EXHIBITION

### MARGARET SMITHERS-CRUMP: KINSHIP

### April 1 - June 18, 2023

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas will present *Margaret Smithers-Crump: Kinship* as its spring 2023 exhibition. Margaret Smithers-Crump is a Houston-based sculptor, whose work focuses on the vulnerability and interconnectedness of the Earth's diverse life forms and ecosystems. Smithers-Crump explores natural conditions of development such as birth, maturation, procreation and death and unnatural conditions caused by human impact such as global warming, pollution and loss of habitat. Growing up on a tiny island in Canada, she witnessed the

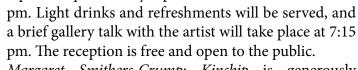
transformation of her family's lake's crystalline waters changing with obvious signs of pollution. Later on while living in the South Pacific, she saw clear evidence of invasive species and witnessed the awesome beauty of life in the coral reefs that are now affected by coral bleaching. Profoundly saddened, Smithers-Crump developed a passionate regard for the planet and its life forms. As a result, she wanted to find an art material that could conceptually evoke fragility and breakage. She wanted something that looked like glass but offered many creative possibilities.

In the late 90s, Smithers-Crump began working with recycled plexiglas and polycarbonate and found that these substances perform with amazing versatility. She is able to cut this material into hundreds of units that are shaped with heat and are chemically bonded together to create large two and three dimensional works for the wall, floor and ceiling. Many of the suspended forms rotate with the slightest air currents due to their light weight. The acrylic can receive a variety of media that is applied to the front and back of the forms. The painted surfaces are translucent and provide possibilities for greater depth and luminosity.

While Plexiglas offers diverse applications for her practice, it also offers compelling conceptual strengths that underscore her core

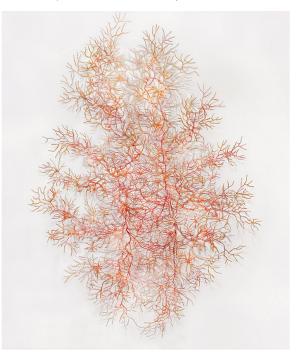
offers compelling conceptual strengths that underscore her core concerns regarding the fragile balance of life on our planet. The glass-like appearance implies the possibility of breakage and shattering. It is a powerful metaphor for the tenuous existence of all life.

Join us for the opening reception of Margaret Smithers-Crump: Kinship on Friday, April 14, 2023, from 6:30 to 8:30



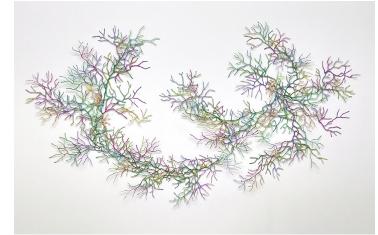
*Margaret Smithers-Crump: Kinship* is generously funded, in part, by the Texas Commission on the Arts, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, the City of Beaumont, and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

Margaret Smithers-Crump, Arctic Lichenography, 2022, acrylic on hand cut recycled translucent Plexiglas, image courtesy of the artist.



Margaret Smithers-Crump, Volcan Lichenography (in progress), 2022,

acrylic on hand cut recycled translucent Plexiglas, image courtesy of the artist.



# CAFE ARTS SERIES

November 17, 2022 - February 5, 2023

### MICHAEL LEE: FINDING MY WAY

MSET presents the work of Michael Lee for the current Café Arts exhibition. Michael is returning for his second café show after eleven years. His first café exhibition, *Second Wind: Painting again after four decades of advertising and design*, was on view in the museum's café from August 11 to October 23, 2011.

Michael Lee was born in Port Arthur in 1946 and graduated from Bishop Byrne High School. He attended Lamar University, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Commercial Art.

He worked as an art director for local ad agencies from 1969 to 1973, before he began his own design business. In 1978, Michael and his wife Tanya opened Michael Lee Advertising & Design, Inc., a full-service ad agency. With 42 years of advertising and design experience, Michael has extensive knowledge of marketing, public relations,

account service and creative direction. During his time as a designer and advertiser, he created the museum's current logo. After a trip to France in 2003, Michael began to paint, and his subject matter includes still-lifes, landscapes and outdoor scenes. Michael primarily works in oil, creating medium to large scale paintings. He is inspired by French impressionists, including Monet and Pissarro, as well as American impressionist Childe Hassam, and the American illustrators Bernie Fuchs and Robert Heidel. He hopes that viewers will feel a sense of comfort when viewing his artworks.

The exhibition will be open for public viewing through February 5, 2023. A price list is available at the front desk or by contacting Caitlin Clay, Curator of Exhibitions, at cclay@amset.org.



Installation view of Michael Lee: Finding My Way

### ANDY COUGHLAN: A CRACK IN THE WORLD

L he upcoming Café Arts Series for Local Artists will feature the debut of a new series of works by Andy Coughlan. Andy is originally from Brighton, on the south coast of England, but moved to the Southeast Texas area when he married. He has a master's degree in English and also attended art college in England. Andy keeps busy as the Director of Student Publications at Lamar University Press, participating in the Press Club of Southeast Texas, and making his own artwork. He has contributed to the Beaumont Enterprise's arts features section for over 20 years and is constantly reading and writing about art, attending museums, and visiting galleries.

This new series has been in progress for several years, but Andy began working in earnest on it during the pandemic. The compositions draw inspiration from walking down public roads. Andy typically paints using acrylic, but also enjoys drawing. He loves lines and abstraction and would gladly spend the rest of his life with a pencil, brush and black ink in hand. Andy believes art should "first and foremost, be visually appealing" and hopes that viewers see something new and beautiful in his compositions each time they view a piece.



Andy Coughlan, A Crack in the World, n.d., acrylic on canvas, image courtesy of the artist

He specifically works in several layers of paint to not only create visual depth, but to also "encompass the layers of history, much of which we will never know, that led us to where and who we are [now]". He is excited to debut this new series to the Southeast Texas community.

### February 9 - May 7, 2023

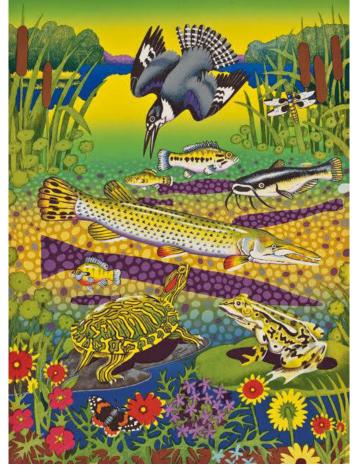
# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

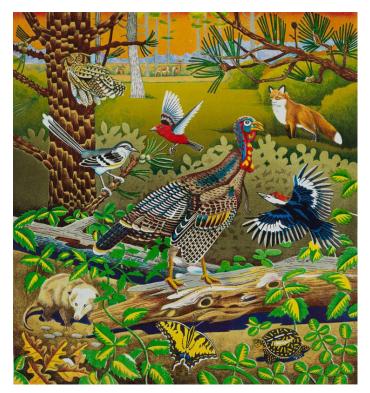
### **BILLY HASSELL LITHOGRAPHS**

**M**SET proudly announces that the Acquisitions Committee and Board of Trustees have approved the acquisition of two color lithograph prints by Texas artist Billy Hassell.

*Wild Turkey, East Texas* was donated by the artist. Billy Hassell had a solo exhibition, Billy Hassell: Topography (March 26 - June 19, 2022), at AMSET, and this work was included in the exhibition. It is currently on view in the Lecture Hall. The lithograph *Trinity River II* was donated by Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker. It is a vivid print that demonstrates the artist's mastery over the medium and it is characteristic of his style. The work will be framed to be shared with the public very soon.

These two prints will join *Red Boat* (1987), an oil painting by Billy Hassell that was donated to AMSET from the Krawitz Family Collection in 2016. This will further the museum's mission to deepen the collection by acquiring multiple works by each artist, whenever possible. AMSET is grateful for the generosity of our donors, and we are honored for the opportunity to care for and share these prints with our community.





Billy Hassell, *Wild Turkey, East Texas*, 2018, color lithograph, donated by Billy Hassell

Billy Hassell, *Trinity River II*, 2011, color lithograph, donated by Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker

# SPECIAL EVENTS

### GO FOR THE GOLD BRING ON THE BLING!

Thursday, March 2, 2023

L'is that time of year again! Time for the annual Go for the Gold: *Bring on the Bling* reverse raffle drawing event. Tickets are here, and ready to sell/buy just before the holidays. What could be a better gift for that impossible person than a Go for the Gold ticket?!? This event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2023. One ticket admits two for dinner and drinks all night, a fling a of deal in today's economy. Dress totally blinged out! This is the day to strut your stuff.

We have 3 convenient ways to purchase these tickets: call AMSET at 409-832-3432, contact your favorite board member or visit our website www.amset.org, pull down the events tab then "register" and you're ready to *Bring on the Bling!* Remember, only 500 tickets can be sold, and prizes will be given away all night long including premium wine and non-circulated silver coins. You need not be present to win but we want you in your bling here to join the fun. The last three tickets drawn are \$1,000, \$1,500, and \$10,000 winners. So don't be a ding-a-ling, get your ticket today, support AMSET exhibition and education programs and *Bring on the Bling!* 

# COLLECTORS CLUB



ART MUSEUM OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS 500 MAIN ST.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM COLLECTORS CLUB HOME TOURS

A monumental THANK YOU to Lisa & Brent Coon and Rob Clark & Jerry Thacker for hosting the annual Collectors Club Home Tour on Thursday, November 17th. Nearly 40 collectors were treated first to a tour given by Brent Coon of the couples' stunning home. It featured a collection of sculpture including works by Remington, original master prints, decorative art glass including Tiffany, antique furniture and collectible guitars. Guests dined on heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Next, everyone went to the home of Rob Clark & Jerry Thacker whose collection consists primarily of contemporary Texas artists and contemporary Mexican artists. Rob and Jerry treated guests to five types of homemade desserts accompanied with Italian sparkling rose and flavored tea. The Home Tour sparked great conversations and a number of "ooohs" and "aahhs" from Collectors Club members. Home tours offer inspiration for seasoned art aficionados as well as burgeoning collectors. Overall, nearly 40 club members joined AMSET for the 2022 Home Tours. The Coons and Rob and Jerry knocked it out of the park!

If you are interested in joining the Collectors Club, annual dues are \$150 for couple/two friends or \$100 for a single membership. For further information visit www.amset.org , look on the banner under "Join & Give" and you'll see a drop-down menu that says Collectors Club. As you scroll down you'll see the "Join Today" button. Here is where you can join, or you can just send us a check. Best of all, 100% of your donation is directed towards the acquisition fund to purchase new art for the permanent collection.

## EDUCATION

### PROTÉGÉ 2023

In its 37th year, the Protégé Competition and Exhibition, presented by Market Basket, was created specifically to encourage graduating high school seniors to begin taking the steps necessary to become a part of the world of art. This year, Keliy Anderson-Staley, a Houston-based artist and an Associate Professor of Photography and Digital Media at the University of Houston, will be the juror. Anderson-Staley has been awarded numerous national grants, fellowships and awards including a prestigious 2022 Guggenheim Fellowship. Anderson-Staley's recent solo exhibition, *Documents & Dwellings* was on view at AMSET in the fall of 2022 which included a 10 by 10-foot house structure covered in over 560 tintype portraits, a selection of antique baking pans with emulsified images



Protégé 2022, First Place Winner, Emma Hill pictured with Executive Director Lynn Castle

on their surfaces, and books and quilts made with prints and cyanotypes. Anderson-Staley's current artworks display a unique and personal investigation into the definitions of home, family, and community.

In partnership with Lamar University Friends of the Arts, AMSET is able to offer the first, second and third prize winners scholarships to committed Lamar University art majors. Those awards increased this year to the semester-renewable amounts of: \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place and \$500 for third place. Thanks to a generous bequest left by Stewart M. Chisum and Bessie Fisher Chisum in 2021, AMSET will be offering an additional \$2,500 scholarship to the first place winner should they declare art as a major in any two or four year academic art program. Requirements and materials required for entries can be found at amset.org.



Protégé 2022 Reception

If you know a budding young artist, counsel them to prepare to enter this school year's annual Protégé Competition and Exhibition. Entries will be accepted from January 9 - 23, 2023 and students may enter any work created after August 2022. Students need not be part of an organized art class to enter. Join us to see what great works of art this year's students have created at the 2023 Protégé Reception and Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 from 6 - 7:30pm. The Protégé Exhibition will be on view at AMSET until March 26, 2023. Special thanks to Market Basket, who has sponsored Protégé since its inception.

# EDUCATION CONT.

### HOME SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

**F**or months, the AMSET Education Department planned on hosting their first Home School Open House on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Reservations for the open house immediately exceeded classroom and gallery capacity so a repeat day was scheduled for Wednesday December 7, 2022. Both sessions filled quickly. Home School Open House sessions are an interactive museum experience for families with children ages 5 and above. Parents and children take a tour of the exhibitions on view and learn about works of art together in the galleries. Families also participate in a hands-on art activity in AMSET's classroom. This is a messy endeavor and parents are encouraged to dress their children for mess.



Home School Open House tour in the main gallery



Home School Open House participants



Curators of Education Andy Gardner and Christle Feagin helping children on the printing press

To meet community interest, AMSET plans to host another Home School Open House in the spring. Interested families are encouraged to become a member and/or follow AMSET on social media to be notified of this and all educational programming open to the public.

AMSET's open house sessions are free and open to all homeschool students and their families. Advanced signup is required to avoid overbooking.

# Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) 2021 - 2022 Contributors of \$250+

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Café Arts Series for Local Artists** – *Michael Lee: Finding My Way Andy Coughlan: A Crack in the World*

#### Winter Exhibitions-

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

*James C. Watkins: Reflections Made of Memories* Winter Exhibition Opening Reception

#### Education / Around the Museum-

Book Club: *Smashing Statues* by Erin L. Thompson Gift of Art Workshop #1 Collector's Club Houston Airport Tour First Thursday Gift of Art Workshop #2 Winter Family Arts Day (FAD) Protégé Matting and Framing Workshop Go For the Gold "Bring on the Bling!" Protégé 2023 on view at AMSET Protégé 2023 Reception and Awards Ceremony Spring Home School Open House On view November 17, 2022 - February 5, 2023 On view February 9 - March 7, 2023

On view October 9, 2021 - March 12, 2023

On view January 7 - March 19, 2023 Friday, January 13, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. Saturday, January 28, 2023 TBD, February 2023 Thursday, February 2, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 4, 2023 Saturday, February 11, 2023, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. February 22-23, 2023 Thursday, March 2, 2023, 6:30 p.m. - until March 3 - 26, 2023 Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 6:00 p.m. March 14-15, 2023, 10:00 - 11:30 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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