

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kasey Clay, PR coordinator
(409) 832-3432
kclay@amset.org



AMSET Spring Exhibition emphasizes need for conservation in SETX

(Beaumont, TX; March 11, 2022) The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) will exhibit *Billy Hassell: Topography* on view March 26, 2022 through June 19, 2022.

Billy Hassell is well-known for his depictions of Texas flora and fauna, and his work often emphasizes the need for conservation of these species. This exhibition will focus on works from Mr. Hassell's oeuvre that depict animals and plants that are local to Southeast Texas communities, as well as extinct animals that were once native to the area. The exhibition will emphasize to viewers the importance of conservation and preservation on the local and state-levels, as well as include programming that introduces community members to ways they can participate in these efforts.

An opening reception will take place on Friday, April 1, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Light drinks and refreshments will be served, and a brief gallery talk with the artist will take place at 7:15 p.m.

AMSET is excited to partner with the Big Thicket to present a one-hour presentation on the wildlife of East and Southeast Texas at our next First Thursday on April 7, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. This presentation will be led by Community Outreach Manager for the Big Thicket National Preserve, Heidi Dietze.

A Taste of the Arts Lecture is currently scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2022 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lamar University Professor of Painting and Drawing, Donna Meeks, will be speaking. Meeks will give a 30-minute gallery talk about Hassell's work. Visitors are encouraged to join Meeks and the AMSET staff for a Dutch-treat lunch in the café after the gallery talk has ended.

The catalogue for this exhibition will be released at AMSET's May First Thursday, May 5, 2022 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. This full color catalogue includes an essay by Susie Kalil. All events are free and open to the public.

AMSET's Gift Shop is excited to offer fun souvenirs related to this exhibition. Puzzles, box sets of notecards and individual notecards with reproductions of Billy's paintings are on sale now. For more information on this exhibition, visit www.amset.org or call (409) 832-3432.

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by the Edaren Foundation, 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 Patti and Floyd McSpadden, and Sheila and Jerry Reese in honor of Lynn Castle.

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

www.arts.gov.

###