



## Conn Take pART Gallery

### ***Contemporary Texas Women Artists: Abstraction Here and Now*** **October 8 – December 23, 2022**

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is proud to present, *Contemporary Texas Women Artists: Abstraction Here and Now*, as its fall 2022 exhibition. This group exhibition showcases 11 women artists working in abstraction and living within a 200 mile radius of Beaumont. The exhibition aims to demonstrate that abstraction is still a creative form of art-making and that it is actively being used by Texas artists living not far from Southeast Texas.

Artists in this exhibition include:

Erika Alonso  
Adela Andea  
Claire Ankenman  
Emma Balder  
Pat Colville  
Orna Feinstein  
Liz Gates  
Abhidnya Ghuge  
Bethany Johnson  
Melinda Laszczynski  
Leila McConnell

These 11 artists work in a wide range of mediums to create abstracted art that speaks about nature, light, motherhood and the human condition. Many of these artists work in 2-D and 3-D, and this exhibition includes multiple works by each artist. Two site-specific installations were created specifically for AMSET by artists Adela Andea and Abhidnya Ghuge.

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: the Honorable Marcia and Mr. Walter "Seth" Crone. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).



Abhidnya Ghuge, *Looking Above the Thunderstorm*, 2022, site-specific installation using 5,000+ hand dyed, woodblock printed and embossed paper plates, fabric, hex netting, nylon thread and acrylic, loan courtesy of the artist

## Artist Statement

John Donne said “no man is an island”. This installation is an all-inclusive space to come together to create a positive change in our physical and psychological space. It is not the external differences that keep us apart, in my view, but it's the myriad inward differences that cause the disruptions - the thunder in the calm. Contemporary structure of subjective truths may lead to selfishness, greed, isolation and ultimately disintegration. Would it serve us better if we came together and sought to bring about selflessness, generosity and community? Why should we merely exist in a small world within ourselves, when we could work effectively as a group, irrespective of our differences? Shouldn't we focus more on our commonalities, rather than our differences? And, ultimately, we ought to exercise inclusions that create a healthy person and healthy culture.

The variations and the uniformity of the prints on the paper plates allude to that same idea. The underlying hex netting structure holds paper plates in place without any other form of attachment - the invisible structure of trust and faith in each other. Let everyone be welcomed inside the space, to give strength, as we all face hardships during these times. Let us look up to the vibrant possibilities and dreams.

## **About the Artist : Abhidnya Ghuge**

Born in India, Abhidnya “Abhi” Ghuge (A-bhi-d-nee-ya Ghoo-gay) is a multidisciplinary installation artist. After graduating from The University of Bombay in Dermatology, she immigrated to the United States in 1993. A lifelong passion of art led her to art education and she completed her BFA and MFA in studio art from The University of Texas at Tyler. Ghuge taught as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Tyler for nine years.

Ghuge’s site specific installations consist of thousands of hand dyed and woodblock printed paper plates that are plugged into a wire armature on-site. The designs on her woodblocks are a reference to her Indian heritage and her previous medical education. Ghuge’s use of disposable paper plates as a metaphor for human mortality calls attention to the value for life, community participation and the human experience.

Ghuge was a participant in the Texas Biennial 2022 where she exhibited her site specific installation at the San Antonio Museum of Art titled “When He Thought She Could Never”. The installation consisted of Indian saris, a traditional garment worn by women, along with paper plates. In 2014, Ghuge worked with the Alzheimer Association Houston Chapter to create an installation made of the woodblock prints on paper plates from the unique designs created by the Early Stage Alzheimer Disease patients and their caregivers. Her largest installation of over thirteen thousand paper plates was at the Tyler Museum of Art in 2018. She has also exhibited her site specific installations at the Crow Museum of Asian Art in Dallas, Women and Their Works in Austin, Asia Society Texas Chapter Houston, Fort Worth Community Art Center, Galveston Arts Center, and several other places in Baltimore, Colorado, Louisiana and group shows throughout the United States. Ghuge’s work can be found in collections in the US, India and UK.