

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

500 Main Newsletter

Summer 2023



Unknown artist, *Black Shawl*, n.d., black tatted lace,
PC 2017.04.130, Gift of John Gaston Fairey

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Permanent Collection Exhibitions

July 1 - September 10, 2023

After re-scheduling many exhibitions due to Covid, AMSET presents the return of its annual summer tradition of permanent collection exhibitions. *Summer Days* includes works solely selected from AMSET's permanent collection of over 1,700 objects. The show is comprised of paintings, drawings, sculptures, and folk art depicting how people partake in summertime activities such as visiting parks, conversing with neighbors, sunbathing, and going to the beach. It also includes several Mexican toys from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art.

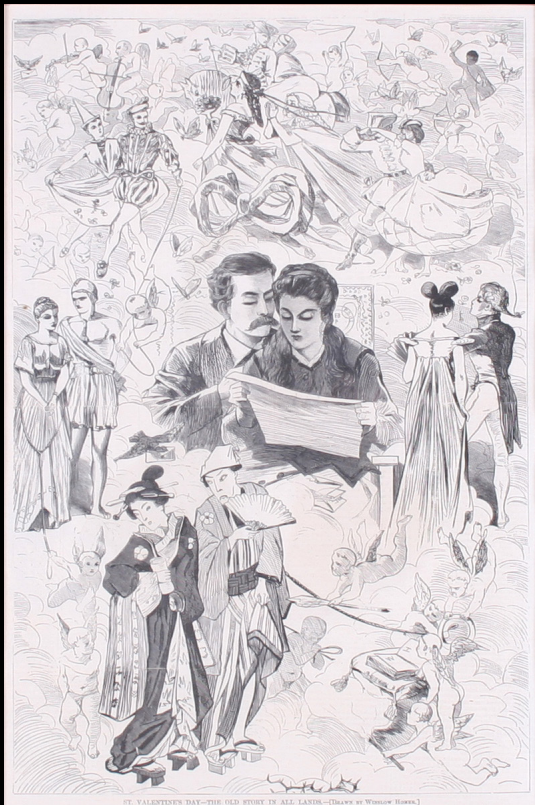


Opening Reception:

Friday, July 7, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Family Arts Day:

Saturday, August 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Winslow Homer, *St. Valentine's Day*, 1868, wood engraving on paper, PC 1978.17, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Mavis Kelsey

CONVERSATIONS & CONNECTIONS

Conversations and Connections consists of unique pairings of artworks from the permanent collection and is on view alongside *Summer Days: Selections from the Permanent Collection*. Pairings emphasize similarities and differences in subject matter, elements of art or overall form, drawing connections between artworks. Well-known artists such as sculptor James C. Watkins, painter Paul Manes, and collagist Julie Speed will be paired with regional and folk-art artists such as Robert Madden, Moises Rodriguez, and Mimi DuBois Bolton. The exhibition includes recent acquisitions, works beloved by the community, and works drawn from collections storage that have not been viewed in several decades.

These exhibitions are 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, Anonymous, the City of Beaumont, and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

SHAWNE MAJOR: FORCE MAJEURE AND OTHER COMPULSIONS

SEPTEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 3, 2023

This fall, AMSET will exhibit the works of artists Shawne Major and Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz. Shawne Major (b. 1968) is an American mixed media artist, who creates two-dimensional hangings and three-dimensional sculptures. Through her mixed media collages, she explores our perceptions of reality and how they are influenced by dreams, memory, superstition, religious bias, prejudice and fear. These influences overlay an individual's belief systems to create personal paradigms. Major uses a variety of materials, a combination of kitsch, ersatz, craft materials, junk and personal objects, to subvert the hierarchy of high art. These objects of popular culture are transformed through collage and intense manual labor into elite fine-art objects. This exhibition will include collages and drawings.

Shawne Major received her BFA in Painting from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (Lafayette, LA) in 1991 and her MFA in Sculpture from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers, University (New Brunswick, NJ) in 1995. Her awards include a Joan Mitchell Center Artist in Residency (2016, New Orleans, LA), a Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Residency Fellowship (2015, Captiva Island, FL) and a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Artist Grant (2008). Her work is collected by the Francis Greenburger Collection



Shawne Major, *Dactyl*, 2017, mixed media, image courtesy of the artist

(New York, NY), the Ogden Museum of Southern Art (New Orleans, LA), the US Art in Embassies (Los Angeles, CA), the New Orleans Museum of Art (New Orleans, LA) and the Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum (Washington, D.C.).

Opening Reception:
Friday, October 6, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Family Arts Day:
Saturday, October 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Shawne Major, *Lucid Dreamer*, 2018, mixed media, image courtesy of the artist

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UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS CONT.

CERAMISTA DEL PRECIOSISMO: ANGÉLICA DELFINA VÁSQUEZ CRUZ FROM THE JOHN GASTON FAIREY COLLECTION OF MEXICAN FOLK ART

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 - MARCH 30, 2024

Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz, also known as the Ceramista del Preciosismo (b. 1958), is a potter from Santa Maria Atzompa, Oaxaca, Mexico. Her parents, Delfina Cruz Díaz and Ernesto Vásquez Reyes, taught her how to create toys, jars, pots and pans. She also studied with Mexican artist Teodora Blanco. In 1978, Cruz began creating her own work based on Oaxacan mythology, culture and folklore. Early in her career her father-in-law Antonio García Reyes (father of Irma Blanco and wife of Angelina Reyes) took credit for her work and sold it as his own. She is now an advocate for the rights of women, and many of her works celebrate women. Cruz has taught her daughter and granddaughter how to create ceramics, continuing the familial



Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz, *Man Who Doesn't Want to Die*, n.d., fired terra cotta, PC 2017.04.053, Gift of John Gaston Fairey

genealogy of artists. Cruz does not paint her work, but instead developed a process using “agobes,” her term for natural colored substances, such as stone or volcanic ash, which she uses to add different hues to her pieces. Vásquez has exhibited at the Mexican Fiesta at Millville, New Jersey in 2004, the Popular Art Museum of Oaxaca in San Bartolo Coyotepec in 2003, the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. in 1999, the Eyes Gallery of the Mexican Fine Arts Center in Philadelphia in 1998, the Chicago Museum's Celebrating Life exhibition in 1993, the annual Day of the Dead exhibitions in Oaxaca de Juárez, the International Ceramics Festival in Aberystwyth Arts Center, Wales and at the Museum of the Cats in California in 2008. She was awarded her SNCA (National System of Art Creators) designation of “Creator Emeritus” on March 2009. She also received the National Arts and Sciences Award in the “Arts and Traditions” category in 2008.



Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz, *Mexican Revolution 1910*, n.d., fired terra cotta, PC 2017.04.054. a-b, Gift of John Gaston Fairey

Opening Reception:

Friday, October 6, 2023, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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CAFE ARTS SERIES

BEAUMONT CAMERA CLUB: 2ND ANNUAL JURIED GROUP EXHIBITION

MAY 11 - AUGUST 13, 2023

On Sunday, June 4, the Beaumont Camera Club enjoyed the opening reception for their 2nd annual group juried exhibition. Visitors had a chance to enjoy light refreshments while listening to juror Melanie Modica briefly share her thoughts on each of the 13 artists' artworks before announcing the top five winners. The winners were:

- 1st Place and Best in Show – Jerome Cabeen
- 2nd Place – Dennis Moncla
- 3rd Place – Michelle Esclovon
- 4th Place – Anne Roberts
- 5th Place – Jim Turner

As the 1st Place recipient, Jerome Cabeen won an all-expenses paid solo café exhibition in May 2024. The exhibition is graciously underwritten by local art collectors Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker.



L-R, Dennis Moncla, Jerome Cabeen, Melanie Modica, Caitlin Clay

KIM WILLARD: EFFLORESCENCE

AUGUST 17 - NOVEMBER 12, 2023

This fall's Café Arts exhibition will showcase the work of local photographer Kim Willard. Kim was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas, and attended Kelly High School before transferring to Charlton Pollard High School. She is a graduate of the Art Institute of Houston with a degree in Visual Communication and Graphic Design. Kim also attended the Glassell School of Fine Arts where she studied painting and photography, as well as attending classes at Lamar University to study photography and graphic design.

Kim will exhibit a new body of work that focuses on images of flowers taken with her cell phone and transformed through filters. She embraces the saying "the best camera is the one you have with you." By manipulating the colors and backgrounds of her images, she creates surreal, over saturated images that assume a painterly quality. She has recently begun experimenting by adding hand-drawn white ink lines to the photographs after printing them. Kim is inspired by many great artists, including Frida Kahlo, Ansel Adams, Georgia O'Keeffe, Salvador Dali and Kehinde Wiley. Her father, Harlan "Billy" Taft supported her artistic aspirations throughout her youth and young adulthood, encouraging her to pursue art academically. She hopes that visitors will be equally inspired by her own work to appreciate the beauty of nature around us.



Kim Willard, *Purple Plum-Spring*, 2022, digital photograph on paper, image courtesy of the artist

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

KEITH CARTER & BASILOS POULOS

AMSET proudly announces that the Acquisitions Committee and Board of Trustees have approved the acquisition of several artworks into the museum's permanent collection.

A beautiful black and white photograph by Keith Carter has been generously donated by Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker. It depicts a man holding a large, dark, shiny sphere which covers his chest and face. The title of this work, *Atlas*, references the Greek myth of the titan Atlas who was condemned to hold up the sky for eternity.

This photograph will join the other 43 works by Keith Carter already in the collection. Carter has had a long and successful career, which earned him international acclaim, and this photograph is a remarkable example of his work.



Keith Carter, *Atlas*, 1996, gelatin silver print on paper,
Gift of Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker



Basilos Poulos, *Drossia*, 1975, oil on canvas,
Gift of Betty Moody in memory of Clint Willour and Reid Mitchell

An abstract painting by Basilos Poulos has been acquired by AMSET through a generous donation by Gallerist Betty Moody, executor of the Clint Willour and Reid Mitchell Estate.

This large, abstract oil painting on canvas consists of gestural brushstrokes reminiscent of the Abstract Expressionists of the early 20th century New York City artists. Poulos, the son of Greek immigrants, came to Houston in 1975 as an artist-in-residence at Rice University. He continued teaching there until his retirement in 2008.

AMSET is grateful for the generosity of our donors and our community. These acquisitions will further the museum's mission by expanding its permanent collection, and we look forward to sharing these works with the public for many years.

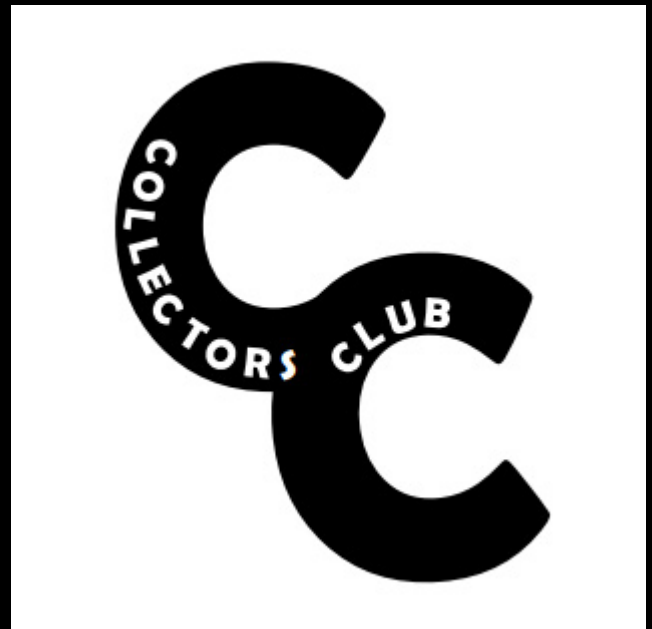
COLLECTORS CLUB

SHOW N TELL

It's summer time, which means...it is time for the Collector's Club Show and Tell program! This annual event is well-loved by Collector's Club members and is always a lot of fun. Club members are invited to bring an artwork, object, or other interesting item to the event. Each member has 7 to 10 minutes to talk about the work in front of the group. Don't want to present in front of a crowd? No worries! Club members are welcome to attend without an item to display.

Complimentary light refreshments and a signature cocktail will be available during the program. Please RSVP by contacting Caitlin Clay, Curator of Exhibitions, at 409-832-3432 or at cclay@amset.org, by 5:00 pm on Monday, August 14th. We hope to see you there!

If you are interested in becoming a Collector's Club member, please visit amset.org. Memberships are \$100 for an individual or \$150 for two. Memberships are good for one calendar year.



Collectors Club members attending an exclusive tour of the IAH's airport's art collection in February 2023.



Collectors Club members during a tour of the Houston Printing Museum

Contact Lynn Castle or Caitlin Clay for more information on joining the Collector's Club.
Call (409) 832-3432 or visit amset.org.

2023 SUMMER ARTVENTURES

Summer ArtVentures 2023 is in full swing here at AMSET and there is still time to join us! This year's lineup of week-long, half-day workshops, from June 5 through July 21, is more exciting than ever, with textile arts, mixed media, kinetic art, clay and much more. *Summer ArtVentures* is offered Monday through Friday with two workshops per day: morning classes are from 9 a.m. to noon; afternoons are 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. One week, an all day workshop is offered for TeenVentures from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Children ages 5-14 choose from many class options for a high quality, intensive art education experience. All courses are taught by artists and art professionals, and the participants work closely with these respected artists in a variety of mediums.

Campers are divided into three age groups, with each course designed for age-appropriate art activities:

• Young ArtVenturers

Children ages 5-7

will have the opportunity to sample clay, paint and mixed media through simplified projects formatted for their age group. These classes will be augmented with art-related story times and outdoor activities.



Children attend ArtVentures Camp



Children attend Young ArtVentures Camp

• ArtVenturers

Children ages 8-11

have many exciting courses to choose from including clay, textiles, mixed media, printmaking and even kinetic art.



Teens attend Teen Week ArtVentures Camp

• TeenVentures in Art

Teens ages 12-14

Keep active and engaged in making art – a valuable life skill. TeenVentures in Art is a special week, July 18-July 21, just for teens interested in exploring more advanced artmaking practices. This year's instructor, Yolanda Perez will be teaching teens Textile Art. In this week-long course, campers will create innovative fiber and textile art by pushing the boundaries of ancient artisan traditional methods. Teens will explore unconventional methods to fully encourage artistic expression. Projects will include a mix of modern and traditional techniques for surface design, embroidery, sewing, silk painting and sculptural basketry.

The cost for Summer ArtVentures is \$80 for each child and/or each class. Non-members must purchase a one-year family membership, if not already a member, that will cost \$60 in addition to classes. Register online at amset.org.

EDUCATION CONT.

FREE FAMILY ARTS DAY

Join us from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 5, 2023, for Family Arts Day! This fun, Don't Mess with Texas, Mess with Art themed day will be about creating works of art inspired our summer exhibitions, *Summer Days: Selections from the Permanent Collection* and *Conversations & Connections* while also recycling to save our planet. There will be two live performances from Gator Country at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This popular event is FREE and open to the public. So don't miss it and bring your friends! August 5, 2023 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission: Free

Saturday, August 5, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



SPECIAL EVENTS

36TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Save the Date: September 15, 2023

AMSET is busy preparing for a celestial evening with Light Up the Night, its annual anniversary gala that will be held on Friday, September 15 just ahead of the Autumnal Equinox. So, align your planets for a starstruck evening of epic proportions and rocket at the speed of light down the Milky Way to AMSET. Plan to come with a twinkle in your eye (a twinkle outfit would be cute too!) as you gather your solar system of friends who are starstruck to join in the festivities. Co-chaired by supernovas Charlotte Mains and Albert Nolen, we don't want anyone lost in a worm hole by not attending as we enter an alternate universe in the gallery of galaxies. Further details will eclipse soon!



SPECIAL EVENTS CONT.

SUMMER FUN WITH FIRST THURSDAYS

AMSET has two fun First Thursdays coming up this summer on July 6 and August 3. These are the first Thursdays of the month when we stay open late from 5:30 -7:30 p.m. with adult beverages and complimentary appetizers.

Back by popular demand, we are having the AMSET Attic Art Sale on Thursday, July 6. This year, members will receive a 10% discount on the first item purchased and a 20% discount on any additional items purchased. Prices will be marked to sell, sell, sell. If you aren't a member, we'll be happy to sign you up that night or you may join by logging onto our website www.amset.org.

Back by even MORE popular demand on August 3 is the Music Studio, Art of Flowers show. This evening pairs local visual artists and florists together. Local talented florists interpret works of art by local visual artists with floral arrangements. Members will receive one complimentary drink ticket.



2023 TREASURE AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who supported our biannual summer fundraiser, the Double Take - Treasure Auction held on Thursday, June 8. It was an exciting evening, thanks to lively bidding on the amazing artwork made and donated by 25 local artists including: Casey Smith, Caitlin Clay, Mike Cacioppo, Annie Green, Marilyn Bell, Sandi Laurette, Amy and Albert Faggard, the late Darrell Troppy, Susie McDermid, Donna Meeks, Paige Windham (who donated items), Lynn & Kris Castle, Cat Holtzclaw, Thomas Ashworth (who donated items), Andy Coughlan, Hannah Persia-Smith, Gayle Pugh, Jamie Paul Kessler, Melody Montero-Ortiz, Tina Novelli, Kristian Koengeter, Rob Clark and Sheri Hood Callahan.



Our chairs, Lou Huber and Cat Holtzclaw, did a tremendous job organizing the event and decorating the tables with beautiful sunflower bouquets. Emcee Albert Nolen worked the audience and they, in turn, responded with enthusiasm. A delicious shrimp etouffee/boudin stuffed chicken dinner with banana pudding and Key lime shooters for dessert was provided by Two Magnolias. The event was a huge success! Our net income was \$8,410.36, having surpassed the bottom lines of 2021 and 2018! We raised much needed funds for AMSET's exhibition and education programs.

Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET)

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who made a donation
in Memory of
Natalie Greenberg

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who made a donation
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Janet & Samuel Wine

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Exhibitions

Summer Days: selections from the permanent collection

Conversations & Connections

Summer Exhibitions Opening Reception

Shawne Major: Force Majeure and other Compulsions

Ceramista del Preciosismo: Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz

from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art

On view July 1 - Sept. 10, 2023

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Friday, July 7, 2023, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

On view Sept. 30 - Dec. 3, 2023

On view Sept. 30 - March 30, 2024

Café Arts Series for Local Artists

Beaumont Camera Club 2nd Juried Group Exhibition

Kim Willard: Efflorescence

On view May 11 - Aug. 13, 2023

On view Aug. 17 - Nov. 12, 2023

Education / Around the Museum

Summer ArtVentures

First Thursday "Attic Art Sale"

Book Club:

Leon Schulman Gaspard The Real Story by Elena Ivanova

First Thursday "Art of Flowers"

Summer Family Arts Day (FAD)

36th Anniversary Gala "Light Up the Night"

June 5 - July 21, 2023

Thursday, July 6, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15, 2023



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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