

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

500 Main Newsletter

Fall 2023

Shawne Major: Force Majeure and other compulsions September 30 - December 3, 2023



500 Main St. Beaumont, TX 77701
(409) 832-3432 | www.amset.org

Museum Hours
Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sunday 12-5
Closed major holidays



American
Alliance of
Museums

Shawne Major: Force Majeure and other compulsions

September 30 - December 3, 2023

This fall, AMSET is exhibiting the works of artists Shawne Major and Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz. Shawne Major 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. Shawne 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 recent collages and drawings. This will be the first time Shawne has exhibited her drawings.

Shawne will be in attendance for her exhibition's opening reception on Friday, October 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. She will give a brief artist talk in the galleries at 7:15 pm.



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

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

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

These exhibitions are generously funded, in part, by 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, Jefferson County and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

Additional funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and SouthArts.

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

Main Galleries

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, is a ceramicist from Santa Maria Atzompa, Oaxaca, Mexico. Angélica creates her own work based on Oaxacan mythology, culture and folklore, as well as personal challenges and experiences. She has exhibited internationally and has won prestigious awards for her sculptures, including the SNCA (National System of Art Creators) designation of “Creator Emeritus” on March 2009 and the National Arts and Sciences Award in the “Arts and Traditions” category in 2008.

Angélica will visit AMSET for the January 12, 2024 opening reception of Earlie Hudnall Jr.’s photography exhibition from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. She will give a gallery talk that night at 7:15 pm.



Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz, *Arcangel con Nacimiento (Archangel with Nativity Scene)*, 1999, terracotta with slip and piping application, PC 2017.04.056, Gift of John Gaston Fairey

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UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Main Galleries

Earlie Hudnall, Jr.: *Homeward*

December 16, 2023 - March 30, 2024

Earlie Hudnall Jr. is a Houston-based photographer whose subject matter focuses on documenting the everyday life of African American communities in the South. Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Earlie has lived for years in Houston, Texas. He began photographing while serving as a Marine in the Vietnam War in the 1960s. In 1968, he relocated to Houston to attend Texas Southern University (TSU) and received his Bachelor of Arts in Art Education. There he found the encouragement to continue photographing his subject matter of local African-American communities from well-known TSU faculty members, art professor John Biggers and professor of philosophy Dr. Thomas Freeman. After graduating, Earlie made Houston his permanent home and worked as the university photographer at Texas Southern University from 1990 until his retirement in 2019.

Hudnall's work is influential in the portrayal of the African-American community and culture. The cinematographer, James Laxton, an Academy Award winner for Best Picture in 2017, *Moonlight*, mentioned Earlie as visual inspiration on how the film should depict African-Americans both aesthetically and symbolically. A Time Magazine article written by Paul Maokley in August 2020 spotlighted Earlie's 40+ year career as a documentary photographer. He was also awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Visual Arts from Art League Houston in 2022. An exhibition and catalog, both titled *Earlie Hudnall Jr.: Drawn to Communities*, was organized as a part of the award process. Earlie's photographs are in many notable public and private collections across America, including the Smithsonian, Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



Earlie Hudnall, Jr, *Street Champion, 4th Ward, Houston, TX, 1986*, gelatin silver print,
image courtesy of the artist

Opening Reception:
Friday, Jan. 12, 2024
6:30-8:30 p.m.

FREE Family Arts Day:
Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by 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, Jefferson County and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

KIM WILLARD: EFFLORESCENCE



Artist Kim Willard, image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier

August 17 - November 12, 2023

This fall's Café Arts exhibition showcases the work of local photographer Kim Willard. Kim is exhibiting 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's Café Arts exhibition reception on Sunday, August 20th, was well-attended, with over 140 visitors! Visitors enjoyed live music, gelato and sorbet from the local Rao's Bakery, and drinks provided by the museum while viewing the exhibition. The exhibition has provided a bright pop of color in an otherwise dry and hot summer. Enjoy lunch at the museum's local café and see the show before it is gone!



David Willard, Kim Willard, Lynn Castle, and Caitlin Clay (L-R),
image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier

AMY TOLBERT-FAGGARD:
CHASING REALISM

November 16, 2023 - February 4, 2024

This winter, AMSET will present an exhibition of new and recent paintings by local artist Amy Tolbert-Faggard in the museum's café. Amy was born in Sidney, New York, but has lived in Southeast Texas since the age of two. She has always had a passion for painting, drawing and art history since she was young, and pursued an art degree at Lamar University, graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies and a minor in Art in 1994. After several years, she returned to Lamar to work towards her master's degree and graduated in 2013 with her Master of Arts in Visual Art degree.

Amy uses a variety of techniques to represent a wide range of subject matter, but her favorite medium is oil paint. For this exhibition, *Chasing Realism*, she is exhibiting a selection of realistic paintings focusing on the representation of light through still-lives and interior scenes. Amy believes that "the basis of realism is to represent a truthful rendition of a particular subject or object" and that realistic art "awakens all your senses". She hopes that visitors will feel as if they can reach into her paintings, pick-up and feel the objects depicted, and then place them back into the paintings.

Amy's work has been included in group and solo exhibitions throughout Southeast Texas and the United States. Her goal is to continue producing quality artwork that moves and inspires the viewer.



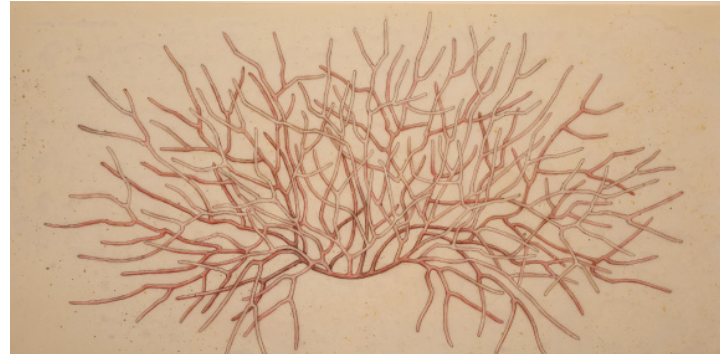
Amy Tolbert-Faggard, *Study in Color and Pattern*, 2023, oil on canvas,
image courtesy of the artist

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

West Hall

AMSET proudly announces that the Acquisitions Committee and Board of Trustees have approved the acquisition of several artworks into the museum's permanent collection. These artworks are currently on view in the West Hall through November 26, 2023 alongside a selection of works from 2023 Gala Honoree Jamie Kessler.

Sporadic Growth 2, study (2019) was donated by artist Margaret Smithers-Crump. This work was displayed in the Conn Education gallery during her exhibition at AMSET titled, *Margaret Smithers-Crump: Kinship*. Margaret's mixed media works bring attention to nature, the environment, and the fragile symbiotic relationships between all living creatures.



Margaret Smithers-Crump, *Sporadic Growth 2, study*, 2019, acrylic paint and pencil on Plexiglas, Gift of the artist, image courtesy of the artist



Phyllis Lee, *Untitled (Mother and Child)*, n.d., oil on linen, Gift of Charlotte and Jimmy Fontenot

Charlotte and Jimmy Fontenot have generously donated a painting by Phyllis Lee, *Untitled (Mother and Child)*. It is the first painting by the artist to join the permanent collection. Phyllis was a founding member of the Beaumont Art Museum, now the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. She was a board member, art instructor, art juror, and accomplished artist.

The Distance (1985) by Fort Worth-based artist Billy Hassell was generously donated by Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker. This painting is characteristic of Billy's earlier style, and it is reminiscent of *Red Boat* (1987) from the permanent collection. This painting by Billy will be his fourth artwork to be added to the permanent collection.



Harry Ahysen, *Tug*, n.d., oil on canvas, Gift of Robert "Bob" Russell

Harry Ahysen's painting *Tug* was kindly donated by his stepson, Houston-based artist Robert "Bob" Russell. Harry was born in Port Arthur in 1928. He received two art degrees from the University of Houston and the University of Texas. In his paintings, Harry presents his mastery of composition and color theory. Many of his paintings convey his love of the sea, a result of his work as a ship captain.

COLLECTOR'S CLUB

Show n' Tell Highlights

Collector's Club members had a fabulous time for the annual Show n' Tell program on Thursday, August 17. Over 25 members attended the event to share stories about objects or artworks from their personal collections. Some of the delightful works included ceramics by local artist John Alexander, a painting by Joan Steinman, a set of crocheted mini dresses, a stuffed plushie chicken from a designer fabric store, and a miniature set of French furniture made from wire and porcelain.

Complimentary light refreshments included salmon bites with tarragon sauce and mixed berry cobbler with ice cream, as well as cookies, chips and dips, and an assortment of wine, sodas, and sparkling waters to drink. Overall, it was another great Show n' Tell! We can't wait for next year's event!



Collector's Club members during the Collector's Club Show n' Tell



Lynn Castle presents an artwork for the Collector's Club Show n' Tell

Upcoming Events: Houston Trip & Home Tours

A Collector's Club Houston Trip is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 26 and the annual Home Tours are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9. Tours will include the homes of Kathryn & Tony Chauveaux, Susie & Wayne McDermand, and Kim & Roy Steinhagen. We hope to see you there!

Interested in joining AMSET's Collector's Club? Contact Caitlin Clay, Curator of Exhibitions, at 409-832-3432 or at cclay@amset.org. You can also visit the museum's website at amset.org. Memberships are \$100 for an individual or \$150 for two. Memberships are good for one calendar year.

UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS

'Eat-a-Bug' Family Arts Day

FREE FAMILY Arts DAY

Crawl out and join us for our annual “Eat A Bug” Family Arts Day, Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hands-on activities will be inspired by the fall exhibition, *Shawne Major: Force Majeure and other compulsions* and *Ceramista del Preciosismo: Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art*, so make sure to view the galleries. Bill Clark Pest Control will serve you something delicious, maybe seasoned fried crickets! The Mexican Heritage Society will entertain families with their vibrant costumes and storytelling performances. Families are encouraged to wear their costumes and children can participate in the Halloween costume contest. This event is in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Museum Madness Weekend. We hope to see you there!



Bill Clark Pest Control handing out fried crickets

Saturday, October 21, 2023
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION



Mexican Heritage Society Folk Dancers

UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS

Holiday Events

The Downtown Museum District presents

2023

Holiday Tree Lighting

It's about time to start breaking out your holiday sweaters, hot chocolate and making a wish list for Santa and his elves, because Holiday Tree Lighting will be held Thursday, December 7th at 4 p.m. Bring your children to AMSET, located in Beaumont's Downtown Museum District, to enjoy many activities with our neighboring museums and organizations. Children will create tree ornaments to place on our tree or their own, visit with Santa and write him a letter to remind him of their wish list, decorate cookies and more. Families will gather around at 6 p.m. to watch the most beautiful tree come to life with bright lights. For up-to-date details on Holiday Tree Lighting, visit amset.org or follow AMSET on social media @amsetx.

Thursday, December 7, 2023, 4 - 6 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Gingerbread House

WORKSHOP

Do you know the gingerbread man? Well get ready to build him a house this holiday season at AMSET's annual Gingerbread House Workshop on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call your friends and family to join you as you build a masterpiece to add to your home's holiday atmosphere. This annual workshop is guided by gingerbread house expert and pastry chef, Paige Neyland, and will include all materials and candy! We have limited space, so sign up early because you don't want to miss those gum drop buttons.

Registration will open November 13, 2023. Call (409) 832-3432 for more information or to register.

COST:

Members: \$50 for one house, \$70 for 2 houses

Non-Members: \$60 for one house, \$80 for 2 houses



Vivianne and Kit Ohmstede (L-R)
attend the Gingerbread House Workshop

SPECIAL EVENTS

2023 Gala - Light Up the Night

AMSET celebrated its 36th Annual Anniversary Gala, "Light Up the Night" on Friday, September 15, 2023. This highly successful star-bright event was co-chaired by Albert Nolen and Charlotte Mains with Gala committee members Kit Ohmstede, Camille Ohmstede, Paige Windham, Jan Fulbright and Shelley Tortorice, with decorations created by Sarah Wells and Janey & Michelle Phelan. "Light up the Night" was catered by Two Magnolias and The Seafood Lover with delicious "out of this world" beef tenders and sumptuous Captain "Stevie" Kirk's signature smoked salmon. Guests were also treated to a signature drink, the Shooting Star! Live entertainment during cocktail hour featured vocal performances by the Starlets: Genevieve Brassard, Lydia Seay and Lara Strawther accompanied by Jordan Williams on piano. Dinner entertainment featured Jimmy Simmons on sax and Jeff Simon on guitar.

"Light Up the Night" honored beloved artist and art educator Jamie Kessler as well as museum patrons and past museum presidents Sandra Clark and Gerald Farha. After honoring the patrons an auction took place selling 10 live packages and 21 silent auction items. A huge thank you to all our generous donors, buyers and organizers who helped the museum raise a whopping \$37,780 at this auction! All contributions benefit AMSET exhibition and education programs and are fully tax deductible to the extent of the law.



Julie Casanova and Gala Patron Honoree Gerald Farha,
image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier



Carol Butner, Keaton O'Neal, and Gala Patron Honoree Sandra Clark (L-R),
image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier



Mike Cacioppo, Gala Artist Honoree Jamie Kessler, and Greg Busceme (L-R),
image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier

SPECIAL EVENTS CONT.

2023 Gala - Light Up the Night



Co-Chair Charlotte Mains and Emma Boudreaux,
image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier



Co-Chair Albert Nolen and Executive Director Lynn Castle,
image courtesy of Brandon Gouthier

THANK YOU TO OUR CO-CHAIRS
ALBERT NOLEN AND CHARLOTTE MAINS!

Annual Meeting

A BIG THANK YOU TO KIT, LINDA, AND J. MITCHELL FOR THEIR SERVICE TO AMSET!

The Board of Trustees and staff are very grateful to two outstanding board members who will have fulfilled two terms on September 30, 2023. Over the past six years, Carolyn “Linda” Foutz and J. Mitchell Smith have worked tirelessly supporting AMSET as it navigated through the COVID crisis and assisted in enabling AMSET to become accredited through the American Alliance of Museums. Kit Ohmstede will also be leaving after serving a term. Thank you to Kit who was an outstanding gala auction chair the past three years, making it a monumental success.

AMSET will present new board nominations at the annual meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. According to the bylaws, nominees must be approved at a public forum. We look forward to presenting new individuals whose talents and fresh enthusiasm will help us make AMSET even bigger and better!

Join us at the annual meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3 as we honor Kit Ohmstede, Carolyn “Linda” Foutz and J. Mitchell Smith.

Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET)

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AMSET would like to extend a special Thank You to:

Sandi & Richard Laurette
who made a donation
in Memory of
Kathleen Boudreaux

UPCOMING EVENTS

Exhibitions

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Café Arts Series

Kim Willard: Efflorescence
Amy Tolbert-Faggard: Chasing Realism

On view Aug. 17 - Nov. 12, 2023

On view Nov. 16, 2023 - Feb. 4, 2024

Education / Around the Museum

Annual Meeting
Book Club Meeting
'Eat-a-Bug' Family Arts Day
Collector's Club Houston trip
Collector's Club Home Tours
Holiday Tree Lighting
Gingerbread House Workshop

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023
Thursday, Nov. 9, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



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