



Robert Levers, *Man Calling His Dog*, 1979, oil on canvas, PC 2019.06.06, Gift of Wallace Wilson

Whether you partake in any or all of these summer activities, summer is a time to be with friends and family and enjoy the longer, sunnier days. Maybe you pick up a book, like the young woman in the Jim Dine etching, *Nancy Reading* (1973), play with your dog, or catch up with a friend. Summer can seem to fly by with sports, camps and vacation trips or stretch into slow days, when lounging in the sun, eating ice cream or spending time with friends. Whatever you decide to do, I hope you have fun!

Caitlin Clay is the Curator of Exhibitions at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. She creates, organizes and installs the museum's exhibitions, as well as assists with collections care and management. She holds a BA in Art History with a Business Concentration from the University of Dallas and a MA in Art History from Texas Christian University. Ms. Clay grew up in Beaumont and is proud to work for a museum that was a part of her childhood memories.

*Summer Days* is on view in tandem with *Conversations and Connections*, a separate permanent collection exhibition that pairs artworks together and emphasizes similarities and differences in subject matter, elements of art or overall form.

Front: Charles Bell, *Little Italy*, 1979, silkscreen, PC 1980.03.b, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. H.F. Byrd

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.

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Art Museum of Southeast Texas  
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Museum Hours  
Mon-Fri 9-5 Sat 10-5 Sunday 12-5  
Closed major holidays



*SUMMER*  
DAYS

Art Museum of Southeast Texas  
July 1 - September 10, 2023



# SUMMER DAYS:

## SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

Caitlin Clay, Curator of Exhibitions

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) presents a return to the annual summer tradition of exhibiting works from its permanent collection with the exhibition, *Summer Days: selections from the permanent collection*. AMSET's permanent collection is always growing and currently includes over 1,700 objects representing over 430 artists. This 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. AMSET's Curator of Exhibitions, Caitlin Clay, reflects on this year's exhibitions and her own memories of summer days:

I love the summer! Despite the heat and the humidity, my favorite season is summer because there are so many wonderful things to do. I grew up splitting my summers between Beaumont, Texas, and Newark, Ohio, and although the towns are over 1,189 miles apart, there are quintessential activities to celebrating the months of June through early September no matter where you live.

Outdoor swimming has always been a popular summer pastime, whether it is at a city pool, local watering hole or at the beach. Maudee Carron's painting, *In the Cold Blue Translucent Air* reminds me of my family's trips to Galveston or to Sea Rim State Park. The bird on top of the child's head makes me laugh and think of the many



Maudee Carron, *In the Cold Blue Translucent Air*, n.d., acrylic on board, PC 2002.06, Gift of Mary Anne Martínez and Willa W. Hunter

times the sea gulls would try to steal our bags of chips. What is greater than a slightly sandy ham and cheese sandwich and salty chips after a swim? Not much. Maybe a nap.

Outdoor games and sporting events are also an important part of enjoying the long sunny days, whether it is watching an evening baseball game, fishing, playing with toys or making paper airplanes. I was recently introduced to *lotería*, a Mexican game of chance that is similar to bingo but uses 54 images printed on a deck of cards. You can see some of the cards in the sculpture *La Lotería Dish of Frida and the Moon* including a crown, watermelon, cactus and drum. The game was first played in Italy in the 15th century, but the version most popular today was created by Don Clemente Jacques in 1887. I have spent a lot of my summer Sundays playing bingo with my grandmother; maybe if we played *lotería*, I would be more lucky.



Salvador Dalí, *A Miserable Flat*, 1967, lithograph, PC 2005.06.01, Gift of Rob Clark



Jim Dine, *Nancy Reading*, 1973, etching, PC 2009.01, Gift of Sue Mann

Evenings can be spent going to the theater to see plays, watching movies or finding a place to dance. The Salvador Dalí lithograph *A Miserable Flat* brings to mind the many summer plays I attended with my theater-going aunt. Each year, we waited with anticipation to see what the new seasonal line-up would be, and I was delighted to sit in the cold, dark theater and watch young theater majors act out *South Pacific*, *Rent*, *The Pajama Game* and so many more. The Southeast Texas area is fortunate to have several theaters, including: the Jefferson Theatre, Julie Rogers Theater, Beaumont Community Players and Lutchter Theater. If you haven't had a chance to visit them, consider attending one of their many plays, movie screenings, comedy line-ups or dance shows. It is a great way to escape the summer heat.