

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AMSET Opens Two New Exhibitions for Fall 2023

(Beaumont, TX; September 27, 2023) The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) is proud to present *Shawne Major: Force Majeure and other compulsions* on view Sept. 30 – Dec. 3, 2023 and *Ceramista del Preciosismo: Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art* on view Sept. 30, 2023 – March 30, 2024 as its fall 2023 exhibitions.

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. Major uses a variety of materials, a combination of kitsch, ersatz, craft materials, junk and personal objects, to subvert the hierarchy of high art. This exhibition will include collages and drawings on view for the first time.

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. As a young adult, Cruz began creating her own work based on Oaxacan mythology, culture and folklore. Cruz has taught her children and grandchildren how to create ceramics, continuing the familial 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.

Join us for the opening reception of *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 Friday, October 6, 2023, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Drinks and light refreshments will be served, with a brief gallery talk at 7:15 p.m. with artist Shawne Major.

AMSET’s famous ‘Eat-a-Bug’ Family Arts Day will take place in conjunction with these exhibitions on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. This event will also be part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Museum Madness Weekend. For more info on this exhibitions and upcoming programs, please visit [amset.org](http://amset.org) or call (409) 832-3432.

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.

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](http://www.arts.gov).

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AMSET is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.  
Hours: M-F: 9am-5pm Sat.: 10am-5pm Sun: Noon-5pm Closed Major Holidays  
Admission: Free Suggested Donation: \$5.00  
Wheelchair and stroller accessible