

News Release

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AMSET Opens New Exhibition with World Champion Fish Carver

(Beaumont, TX; February 14, 2024) The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) presents PHIL BRANNAN: *Artistry in Wood* on view from January 24 – March 17, 2024 in AMSET’s Café Arts series for local artists.

Phil Brannan is a local Southeast Texas woodcarver, specializing in realistic fish sculptures. He began his artistic career as a child, illustrating, painting and sketching as a hobby and began woodcarving in his mid-30s, teaching himself how to carve and paint. A lifelong fisherman, his love of fishing inspires his highly detailed woodcarvings depicting saltwater, freshwater and tropical fish.

Brannan quickly rose to the top of the realistic woodcarving field in local, regional and Texas State competitions, winning multiple awards for his work. He has competed in World Fish Carving Competitions, and holds three World Titles in Decorative Miniatures and Natural Finish Divisions. His work is praised for his attention to detail, particularly his development and use of a “dry brush” technique that allows him to apply layers of transparent acrylic washes. He is also highly capable of creating artworks in a variety of sizes without compromising quality, resulting in intimate miniatures to life-size replicas.

In addition to his achievements, Brannan has also judged World Fish Carving competitions and worked with the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society (BASS) to create reproductions of his carvings for sales campaigns. This is the first time his sculptures have been exhibited in a public art space outside of competitions.

An opening reception will take place on Friday, February 16, 2024, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the museum’s café. This reception is free and open to the public with light refreshments. For more information, visit amset.org or call (409) 832-3432.

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