

Art Museum of Southeast Texas

500 Main Newsletter

Summer 2024



José Luis Serrano Carillo, *Mexico Sampler: Tree of Life*, no date, polychromed clay, PC 2017.04.422, Gift of John Gaston Fairey



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

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



American
Alliance of
Museums

SUMMER 2024 EXHIBITIONS

Main Galleries

07.20.24 **MUNDOS PEQUEÑOS** 09.15.24

MINIATURES FROM THE JOHN GASTON FAIREY
COLLECTION OF MEXICAN FOLK ART

Mundos Pequeños: Miniatures from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art continues AMSET's annual summer tradition of exhibiting works from the permanent collection. It is on view in tandem with a second permanent collection exhibition titled *Dreams, Screams & Fantastical Things*. *Mundos Pequeños* includes over 20 miniature artworks made from a variety of materials, including miniature masks, nativity scenes, trees of life, and micro-woven textiles. Large versions of these objects, such as masks and trees of life, are exhibited alongside the miniatures to demonstrate size differences. Creating miniatures is a time honored tradition in Mexico and predates Spanish colonialism. Miniatures are often modeled after every-day functional items, but can also include non-functional art objects. Miniatures demonstrate the high quality of Mexican craft, as well as a whimsical element of Mexican culture.

The exhibition will continue to add scholarly research to the museum's Fairey Collection, as well as provide insight to visitors about the long tradition of making miniatures in Mexico. It includes a free gallery guide handout with an essay written by Curator of Exhibitions, Caitlin Clay, about the history of Mexican miniatures, and an installation in the Conn Take pART Education Gallery showcasing miniatures created by and owned by local artists and collectors.



Unknown artist, *Small Devil Mask with Serpents in the Mouth*, no date, wood, paint, and enamel, PC 2017.04.048, Gift of John Gaston Fairey

Opening Reception: Friday, July 26, 2024, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Family Arts Day: Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mundos Pequeños: Mexican Miniatures from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art and *Dreams, Screams & Fantastical Things* are generously funded in part by awards from the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Jefferson County and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

Additional funding for *Mundos Pequeños* provided by: Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Honorable Marcia & Seth Crone with matching funds from BNY Mellon.

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

DREAMS, SCREAMS & FANTASTICAL THINGS

July 20 - September 15, 2024

D*reams, Screams & Fantastical Things* draws from the museum's permanent collection of over 1,700 artworks. It showcases fine art objects next to folk art objects, including works from our Contemporary Texas, Regional Folk Art, American Folk Art, and Mexican Folk Art collections. The exhibition spotlights artworks in the collection that depict one or more of the themes of dreams, horror or fantasy. Folk art in particular fits well within these categories. American folk art can often be classified into sub-categories, including visionary and religiously inspired. Mexican folk art is also often inspired by religion, as well as a general, overarching interest in the macabre.

The exhibition include works from the collection that have rarely been exhibited or that have not been exhibited at all since their acquisition. Several of these works are newly framed so that visitors can enjoy them. There is a free gallery guide handout with an essay written by Curator of Exhibitions, Caitlin Clay, as an overview of the exhibition.

Michael Hasted, *A Public Outcry*, 1980, lithograph, PC 1984.04.01, Gift of L.T. Ellis



Opening Reception: Friday, July 26, 2024, from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Family Arts Day: Saturday, August 10, 2024, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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Main Galleries

Harry Ahysen

October 5 -

December 8, 2024

AMSET is excited to present the first survey of Harry Ahysen's work since his passing in 2006. Ahysen (1928-2006) was born in Port Arthur, Texas, the son of Harry J. and Lillian May Witherup Ahysen. He lived most of his life in Texas before moving to Washington Court House, Ohio. He was a graduate of the University of Houston and received an MFA from the University of Texas. He retired from his full professor position in 1994 from Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX) after teaching for 31 years in the art department. He held the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus and was the first Professor of Art to be awarded the title. Following his retirement, he taught at Southern State Community College (Hillsboro, OH) from 1994 to 1995.



The 67th Legislature of Texas named Ahysen "State Artist of Texas" in 1980. He is also one of ten official Coast Guard artists and seven of his works are a part of the Coast Guard Collection. He has more than a dozen murals in various locations throughout Fayette County, Ohio, and his art can be found in museums and collections around the world. In addition to his artistic achievements, Ahysen was a talented musician. He played trumpet with the Harry James' Band and traveled extensively with the band during the mid-1940s. For many years, he was a member of the Washington Court House local community band and served as a bugler with the Honor Guard of the Veterans of Fayette Co. He was also a veteran of the United States Navy and served during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of Paul H. Hughey Post #25 of the American Legion, as well as the Veterans of Fayette Co. Honor Guard.

This exhibition will include landscapes and seascapes drawn from private collections and institutions throughout Texas. A section of the exhibition will be devoted to showcasing Ahysen's compositions featuring ships and ports. A free gallery guide handout with an essay by Donna Tennant, art critic for the *Houston Chronicle*, *Arts and Culture Texas*, *Visual Art Source (LA)* and *Glasstire*, will be available to the public.

Harry Ahysen, *untitled landscape*, no date, oil on canvas, image courtesy of the Sturm Family

Opening Reception: Friday, October 11, 2024, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

This exhibition is generously funded in part by awards from the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Jefferson County and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

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CURRENT CAFÉ EXHIBITION

Sue Mann Weisenfelder Café



JEROME CABEEN: EVERYDAY PEOPLE

CAMERA CLUB 2ND JURIED EXHIBITION BEST OF SHOW WINNER

05.02.24 - 07.28.24

AMSET's current café exhibition is a solo show of local photographer Jerome Cabeen. Cabeen's work has been featured prominently in the museum's café space, including in a previous solo show in 2019 and in both of the Beaumont Camera Club's annual juried exhibitions (2021 and 2023). The 2023 Camera Club group exhibition was juried by Houston-based appraiser Melanie Modica. She selected Cabeen's photographs *Caminando Hacia la Refriega* and *The One Eyed Jack Fleeing His Demons* as best in show winners. As the Best in Show winner, Cabeen was awarded a fully funded solo exhibition in the café for the following year. Funding is provided by philanthropists Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker.

Cabeen is well-known in the Southeast Texas community for his photography. He is often seen at local festivals, rallies and art events with camera in-hand. It was in 2004, when he began teaching art and directing Catholic missions internationally, that he took up photography, capturing images of the many people and cultures who became friends, neighbors and passersby. This exhibition, *Everyday People*, features new digital photographs of the people and places that Cabeen has experienced in his recent travels.

A free Meet the Artist program will be held in the museum's café on Sunday, July 28th from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit with Cabeen and enjoy coffee and cookies on the last day that the exhibition is open to the public.

THOMAS VEILLON

08.01.24 - 10.27.24

The late summer 2024 Café Arts exhibition will feature recent paintings by artist Thomas “Tom” Veillon. This will be Veillon’s first solo exhibition at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

Born in Vidor, Veillon moved away from Southeast Texas for a decade before returning to Vidor four years ago. His love of art was fostered by his grandfather, who taught him perspective and color theory at a young age. Veillon would often sit and draw on the floor of his grandfather’s painting studio when he was a child, as well as read books about woodblock illustrations. His love of art was rekindled while taking art classes at Texas State University, where Veillon was encouraged to pursue painting seriously.

While he is primarily a landscape painter who works in oils, Veillon has investigated a variety of mediums and subject matter over the years. This exhibition will feature acrylic paintings, since the medium dries quickly and allows for easily building up layers of texture and color. This series of works draws heavily from Aurignacian and Salutrean era cave paintings as well as literary, mythological and film references, narrating human history through present day. Veillon is fascinated by pictorial storytelling and the shared experiences of humankind across vast expanses of time. He hopes that his works will foster a similar interest in visitors.



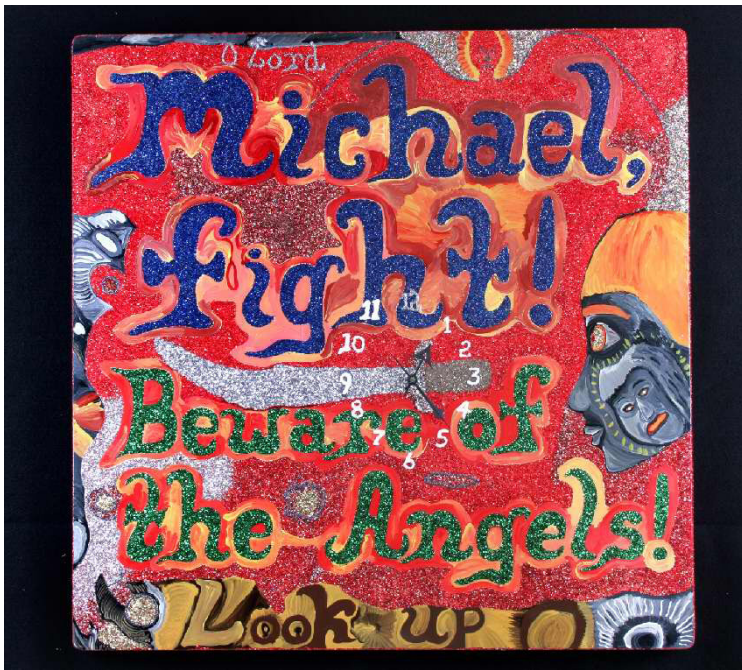
THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

06.01.24

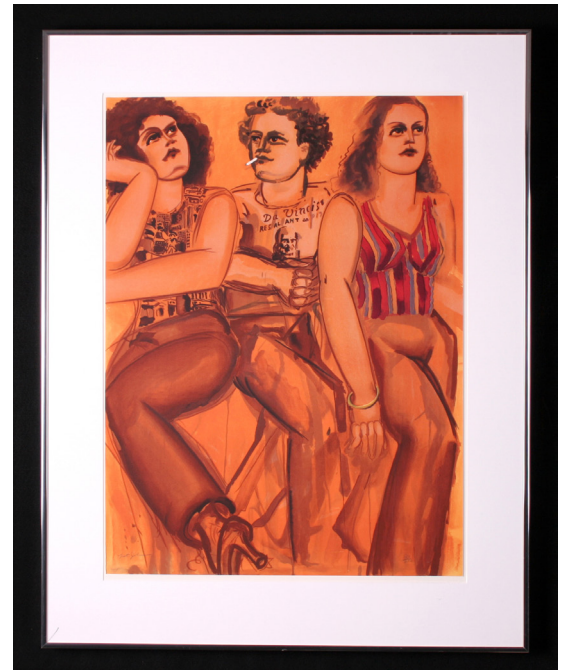
IN COLOR

08.14.24

Experience the permanent collection in rainbow this summer as you walk down AMSET's West Hall. Drawn from AMSET's collection of over 1,700 objects, thirteen artworks have been selected for the brilliant colors in their compositions. Well-known artists in the show include Jasper Johns, Jim Dine, Teresa Baker, Mamie Deschillie, and more. Beat the heat and celebrate summer at AMSET with the exhibition, *The Permanent Collection in COLOR*, on view from June 1 through August 14, 2024.



Xmeah ShaEla'ReEl, *Michael Fight*, 1995-1998, mixed media,
PC 1998.03, museum purchase



Lester Johnson, *City Scene*, 1980, lithograph,
PC 1980.04.d, Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hastings



Lynn Sweat, *Maya*, 1999, lithograph, PC 2001.05.05, museum purchase

COLLECTOR'S CLUB

2024 Marfa Trip

The Collector's Club went to Marfa April 23 through April 28. Two Chrysler mini-vans full of 9 AMSETTERS embarked on this adventure stopping in San Antonio on the way there and on the way back. Featured highlights included a tour of Hotel Emma in San Antonio, tours of the La Mansana/The Block (Judd Foundation), Donald Judd's studio in downtown Marfa, a studio visit with Julie Speed, a Star Party at McDonald Observatory and a visit to the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio. Plenty of good food and laughs were shared by all.



Collector's Club members attending dinner at Mon Chou Chou,
Pearl Brewery District, San Antonio

Please mark your calendars for the next Collector's Club event. The Collector's Club's, popular and entertaining Show n' Tell (our version of Antiques Road Show) will take place on Thursday, August 22 at 5:30 p.m. in AMSET's Lecture Hall. Participants are asked to bring an artsy item or antique with an interesting provenance to share with the group and be prepared to talk for 5 minutes about it. If you don't have anything you want to bring – join us anyway! It is always fun! We will have light refreshments with this event.

Interested in joining AMSET's Collector's Club and attending the next event? 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 \$75 for an individual or \$150 for two. Memberships are good for one calendar year.

Interested in hosting Collector's Club Home Tours? Contact Caitlin Clay, Curator of Exhibitions, at 409-832-3432 or at cclay@amset.org. If you are selected as a Home Tour location, you could receive a complementary one year Collector's Club membership.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Permanent Collection

AMSET is excited to share the news that several artworks have been presented for acquisition into the Permanent Collection.

The first artwork is a mixed media drawing on paper by Christopher Troutman. It is titled *Two Pandemics 100 Years Apart*. Drawn in his characteristic style that evokes graphic novels or comic books, it depicts Troutman's family living through the COVID-19 pandemic as well as references to his grandmother who lived through the Spanish Flu pandemic. It is a beautiful reflection about family life, as well as a touching tribute to the shared burden of living through a public health crisis. This outstanding work was exhibited at Lamar University's Dishman Art Museum for the 2023 faculty show and will be the second artwork by the artist in AMSET's Permanent Collection.

The second artwork is a work on paper by Daniel Johnston, titled *Tell Me About It*. It comes as a gift from his sister Marjorie Johnston through Redbud Arts Center in Houston, TX. Johnston was a prolific self-taught artist and independent musician from Austin, TX. While his influence is most notable in the alternative music scene, many of his works have reached mainstream acclaim.



Daniel Johnston, *Tell Me About It*, watercolor on crescent paper, PC 2024.05, Gift of Marjorie Johnston



Christopher Troutman, *Two Pandemics 100 Years Apart*, 2021, digital pencils, physical brush and ink on watercolor paper, greys added with charcoal, PC 2024.04, Gift of the artist

This includes the illustrated alien creature with the caption "Hi, How Are You?", which is well beloved in the city of Austin. Even though Johnston passed away in 2019, his work was featured in a retrospective at the Austin Contemporary titled *Daniel Johnston: I Live My Broke Dreams* (September 2021 - March 2022). It will be the first artwork by the artist in AMSET's Permanent Collection.

AMSET would like to acknowledge the generosity and support of our patrons and artists, without whom these acquisitions would not be possible. We look forward to sharing these works with our community for many years.

2024 Summer ArtVentures Camp

The 2024 Summer ArtVentures Camp is wrapping up! This year's campers enjoyed a lineup of week-long, half-day workshops, from June 3 through July 19, with watercolor, mixed media, woodwork, clay and much more. Summer ArtVentures is offered Monday through Friday with two workshops per day: morning classes are from 9 a.m. - 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 p.m. Thank you to all the Summer ArtVentures Scholarship Donors, we appreciate your generous contribution.

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

Young ArtVenturers

Children ages 5-7

Young ArtVentures sampled clay, paint and mixed media through simplified projects formatted for their age group. These classes were augmented with art-related story times and outdoor activities.



Children attend ArtVentures Camp.



Children attend Young ArtVentures Camp.

ArtVenturers

Children ages 8-11

ArtVentures had many exciting courses to choose from including clay, woodwork, mixed media, watercolor, and the art of melting. Campers experimented with acrylic pouring, collaborative murals and much more.



Teens attending Teen Week ArtVentures Camp, 2023.

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 16-July 19, just for teens interested in exploring more advanced artmaking practices. This year's instructor, Tina Novelli, will be teaching teens the foundations of ink, pastel, watercolor and jewelry making. Teens will explore several classic mediums while developing their drawing skills through the daily use of ink, pastel, and watercolors. Teens will be also exposed to many processes, as well as technical skills necessary to make jewelry.

At this time, all camp sessions are full. Join us next year for new classes and art projects. Registration for next summer will open in Spring 2025.

2023-2024 Odom Junior Docents

Hooray, to the Odom Junior Docents program on wrapping up another successful year! The 2023-2024 Odom Junior Docents completed their 12 visits to the museum that included meeting the AMSET staff, viewing the permanent collection, and giving their fellow schoolmates a grand tour of the art museum. The OJDs met with all the exhibiting artists including Shawne Major, Earlie Hudnall, Jr., Maestra Angélica Delfina Vásquez Cruz, Alicia Eggert, and Executive Director of the Mnemosyne Institute, Philip Collins. The OJDs prepared questions and comments for the visiting artists to prepare themselves for the docent lead tours. As a part of the program, OJDs were required to volunteer their time for 3 of the 4 Free Family Arts Days that are held each year. A framing workshop was held at Odom Academy Middle School, teaching the docents how to properly frame their artwork. Artworks of the OJDs were exhibited in the Quinn Lecture Hall and toured by their friends and family.



OJDs tour their fellow students in C-Space

On May 14, the Education department held an Odom Junior Docent Reception and Awards Ceremony to acknowledge their achievements and to thank their teachers and families for encouraging them. Thank you to the OJD's Art Teacher Madison Stelly and administration at Odom Academy. We will miss the '23-'24 OJDs and expect to see their artworks submitted in the 2028 Protégé Competition.



OJDs tour their fellow students in the sculpture garden

Upcoming Event

FREE FAMILY Arts DAY

Don't Mess with Texas,
Mess with ART!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

FREE ADMISSION

Don't Mess with Texas, Mess with Art! Bring your family and friends to AMSET's Free Family Arts Day, August 10th, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Families will create artworks inspired by our summer exhibition, *Dreams, Screams and Fantastical Things* and *Mundos Pequeños: Miniatures from the John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art* while also recycling to clean our community and planet.



iRule Dance Studio performing at the May Family Arts Day



Volunteers assist kids at the May Family Arts Day



Raffle basket winners at the May Family Arts Day

There will be two live performances from Gator Country at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and 3 raffle drawings throughout the day for a chance to win a backpack full of art and school supplies to kick off the 2024 – 2025 school year. The galleries will be open for viewing to gain an understanding of the art projects and to feed your appetite for art! This event is FREE and open to the public. See you soon!

This program is made possible in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Edaren Foundation, Carla & Josh Allen, American Valve and Hydrant, Anonymous Donations, the Bequest of Bessie Fisher Chisum, Helen Caldwell Locke & Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Trust, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, the City of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Regina Rogers – In loving memory of Julie & Ben Rogers, Heather Herndon, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the Moody Foundation, Sam's Club, and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas.

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FUNDRAISER FOLLOW UP

3rd Annual Attic Art Sale



Visitors browse at the 2024 Attic Art Sale

The third annual Attic Art Sale took place on Thursday, June 6. Guests were treated to a number of fabulous art bargains. These were comprised of art donated to AMSET that was not accepted into the permanent collection for various reasons such as not in our focus of collecting or we already have superior representation by the artist. This sale made over \$2600 this year in only two short hours. This was \$1,000 more than last year. Special thanks to Charlotte Fontenot, Betty Moody and Kim Steinhagen who helped make this event a great success through the donations of expertise, artwork and frames!

Albert Nolen and Charlotte Mains attend the 2024 Attic Art Sale



UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

Save the Date

37TH ANNUAL
ANNIVERSARY GALA
AN ARTFUL
EVENING 

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

AMSET is busy preparing for An Artful Evening which is sure to be a creative adventure. The 37th Annual Anniversary Gala will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 20 at AMSET. So, come prepared to engage in an artistic gala masterpiece of epic proportions. Time to start pulling your table reservation together with your favorite artsy friends and your creative, painterly evening attire (i.e. think the Met Gala)! Chaired by the collective artistic crew: Charlotte Mains, Lee Mann, Albert Nolen, Shelley Tortorice, and Paige Windham. Honoring Patron Dr. Mark Kubala and Artists Tina Novelli and Mike Cacioppo. Please watch your mail for the invitation.



Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET)

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AMSET would like to extend a special Thank You to:

Kathé and Jim Hendricks

who made a memorial
contribution
in Honor of
Charles Locke

UPCOMING EVENTS

Exhibitions

*Mundos Pequeños: Miniatures from the John Gaston Fairey
Collection of Mexican Folk Art
Dreams, Screams, and Fantastical Things
Opening Reception*

On view July 20 - Sept. 15, 2024
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Friday, July 26, 2024, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

*Harry Ahysen: A Survey
Opening Reception*

October 5 - December 8, 2024
Friday, October 11, 2024, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Café Arts Series

*Jerome Cabeen: Everyday People
Meet the Artist*

On view May 2 - July 28, 2024
Sunday, July 28, 2024, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thomas Veillon

On view August 1 - October 27, 2024

West Hall

The Permanent Collection in COLOR

On view June 1 - August 14, 2024

Education / Around the Museum

Summer ArtVentures Camp
Book Club Meeting
Art of Flowers
Summer Family Arts Day
Collector's Club Show n' Tell
37th Annual Anniversary Gala 'An Artful Evening'

June 3 - July 19, 2024
Tuesday, July 30, 2024, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 1, 2024, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 10, 2024, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Thursday, August 22, 2024, 5:30 p.m. - until
Friday, September 20, 2024



Art Museum of Southeast Texas
500 Main Street Beaumont, Texas 77701
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