

# 500 MAIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE ART MUSEUM OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS



500 Main St.  
Beaumont, TX 77701

**SPRING 2025**

409-832-3432  
[www.amset.org](http://www.amset.org)



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# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well, after a 38-year museum career I am announcing my retirement from the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. I have served as the museum's Executive Director since 2000. Prior to that, I worked in different capacities within the organization, twice as Interim Director, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections for 12 years, and Registrar for one year. I started working at the museum when we opened, what was then, our new facility downtown and changed our name from the Beaumont Art Museum to the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. With strong support from the Board of Trustees and committed donors, I oversaw a major expansion of the museum's classroom, effectively doubling its size and helped to grow the investment fund by 800%. I have also had the pleasure of watching the museum's collection grow from 250 to just under 2,000 objects, which includes a major collection of Mexican Folk Art that was acquired in 2017 and 2020. I also oversaw the reaccreditation of the museum through the American Alliance of Museums two times. AMSET's Board of Trustees has formed a search committee and is working diligently to find my successor.

Upon my retirement I plan to move to the Yakima, Washington area so that I will be closer to my grandchildren and other Washington family. I love Beaumont and am sorry to leave all of my friends and colleagues, but the pull to finally be near family and back out west again after 38 years is strong.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the art community of Southeast Texas.

*Lynn P. Castle*





# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF ART IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Stay tuned for more information on how we are celebrating our  
75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and details on our 39<sup>th</sup> annual Gala.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 29 - June 15:** Spring Exhibition on View: Tom Jean Webb: *A True Fairytale*

**March 29 - June 15:** Spring Exhibition on View: José Villalobos: *An In Between / Un Intermedio*

**April 20:** Museum Closed for Holiday (Easter Observed)

**May 1:** Café Arts Exhibition Opening Reception – Carlo Busceme IV - 5:30 to 7:00 P.M.

**May 3:** FREE Family Arts Day: Wild Wild West - 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**May 26:** Museum Closed for Holiday (Memorial Day Observed)

**June 5:** Attic Art Sale - 3:00 - 5:00pm

**June 5:** Treasure Auction - 6:30 - 9:00pm (Ticketed Event)

**June 17:** Book Club Meeting - *Your Brain on Art* by Ivy Ross and Susan Magsamen - 5:30 - 7pm

**June 9 - July 25:** ArtVentures Summer Camp

**June 15:** Last Day to view Spring Exhibitions

**June 28 - Sept 21:** Summer Exhibition on View - *It's All in the Details: Permanent Collection*

**July 4:** Museum Closed for Holiday (Independence Day Observed)

**July 11:** Summer Exhibition Opening Reception - 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.



# RECAP...



## Go for the Gold THE GOLDEN BRICK ROAD



*Pictured: Lynn Castle with Emcee Lee Potter*

\$10,000 first prize was awarded to Dr. Jim Jordan.

\$1,500 second prize was awarded to Colby Crenshaw.

\$1,000 third prize was awarded to Margi Chase.

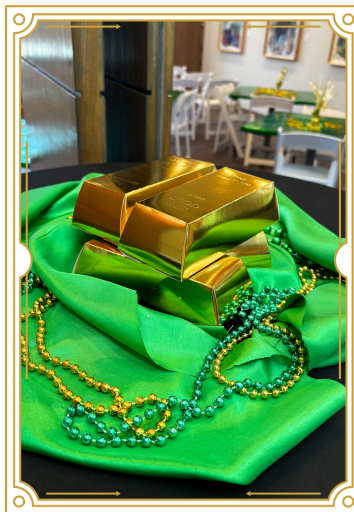
Emcee Lee Potter did an excellent job of keeping the crowd engaged and entertained as he called out numbers and gave out prizes throughout the night.

Thank you to Two Magnolias Catering who catered the beautiful Oz themed charcuterie table. Everyone enjoyed the array of appetizers and our signature drink, The Ozmopolitan. We are very appreciative to Mike Fuljenz who donated silver eagle coins and to everyone else who donated prizes, bought and sold tickets, and volunteered for this event!

AMSET's Go for the Gold: Follow the Golden Brick Road fundraiser took place on Thursday, March 6, 2025. Once again, the event was a huge success!

Net proceeds of this event totaled \$25,558 (this was within \$100 of last year's income). We raffled 16 beautiful baskets, which were filled with donations made by our generous board members, and raised \$1,342.00.

Go for the Gold is one of AMSET's most successful fundraisers. The profits from this event are utilized to offset our education programming and gallery exhibition expenses.





# RECAP...

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ART TAKEOVER: 2025 PROTÉGÉ COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

In its 39th year, the 2025 Protégé Competition and Exhibition was a continued success as it was on view in the Conn Gallery at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. The Protégé Competition and Exhibition was created specifically to encourage graduating high school seniors to begin taking the steps necessary to become active in the art world.

This year's Protégé juror was Orna Feinstein, an internationally recognized artist and a world traveler. Orna earned her B.F.A in sculpture from the University of Houston, and a diploma in printmaking from the Glassell school of Art. Feinstein's work has been included in many solo and group exhibitions around the world, including galleries, art centers, and museums.

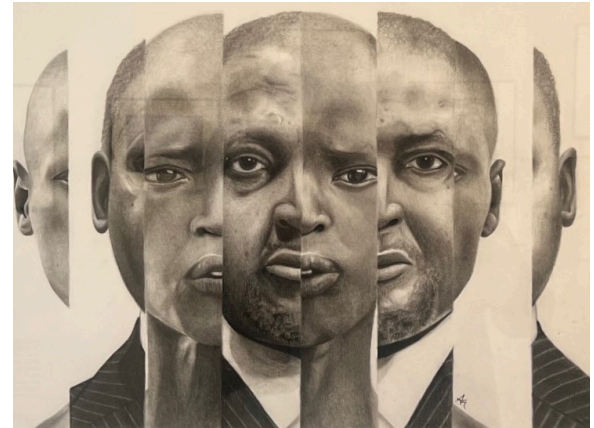
On Tuesday, March 4th, teachers, friends, and family joined the Art Museum of Southeast Texas staff for the opening reception of the 39th Annual Protégé Competition & Exhibition. If you missed the opening reception and awards ceremony, it can be found on AMSET's Facebook page.

The 2025 Protégé Competition and Exhibition was open to 12 counties around Texas. This year, AMSET had over 80 entries from 13 schools; Feinstein selected 20 works for the exhibition. In partnership with Lamar University Friends of the Arts, AMSET was able to offer the first, second and third prize winner's scholarships to committed Lamar University art majors.

Thanks to a generous bequest by Stewart M. Chisum and Bessie Fisher Chisum, AMSET offered an additional \$2,500 college scholarship to the first-place winner. Thank you to Market Basket as the presenting sponsor for supporting Protégé for 39 years and counting.

Congratulations to the winners!

1st Place - Alleigh Rios - Hamshire-Fannett HS  
2nd Place - Ayra Momin - Port Neches - Groves HS  
3rd Place - Kindal Moreau - Barbers Hill HS  
Honorable Mention - Kaylee Hargett - Hardin-Jefferson  
Honorable Mention - Allison Kruger - Port Neches-Groves HS  
Honorable Mention - Camila Perez - Nederland HS



*The Space Between*, 2025, Alleigh Rios.  
First Place Winner in AMSET Protégé 2025.



Alleigh Rios  
First Place Winner  
AMSET Protégé 2025,  
with Andy Gardner



Ayra Momin  
Second Place Winner  
AMSET Protégé 2025,  
with Andy Gardener



Kindal Moreau  
Third Place Winner  
AMSET Protégé 2025,  
with Andy Gardener



# ON VIEW...

## MAIN GALLERY EXHIBITION

**TOM JEAN WEBB: A TRUE FAIRYTALE**

**MARCH 29 - JUNE 15, 2025**

**TOM  
JEAN  
WEBB**  
*A TRUE  
FAIRYTALE*



Tom Jean Webb, *A Post in Time*, 2025, acrylic, oil and oil pastel on canvas. Image courtesy of the artist and Ivester Contemporary.



Tom Jean Webb, *Fresh of my Fresh, Mud of my Mud*, 2025, acrylic, oil, and oil pastel on canvas. Image courtesy AMSET.

AMSET is pleased to present two new exhibitions for its spring quarter titled Tom Jean Webb: *A True Fairytale* and José Villalobos: *An In Between / Un Intermedio*.

Tom Jean Webb presents a new body of mixed media work for his exhibition *A True Fairytale*. Originally from the UK, Tom was based in Austin until recently returning home to pursue his graduate studies. His artwork demonstrates his deep admiration for the expansive landscapes of the American Southwest. His paintings and sculpture focus on the relationship between the human experience and the natural world, allowing the viewer to reflect upon the personal journeys we all encounter. Webb's poetic, and sometimes playful imagery simultaneously grounds the viewer and reminds them that the mysterious, arbitrary, and sometimes absurd is part of life. *A True Fairytale* includes new, never before seen, mixed media canvases, as well as a newly commissioned seesaw sculpture. Visitors will be able to interact with the seesaw, as well as contribute to the exhibition by decorating and placing rocks within the space. The Conn Take pART Education Gallery includes a rock decorating station, as well as custom coloring pages designed by Webb for display in the Education Gallery or to be taken home.

Tom Jean Webb: *A True Fairytale* is generously funded in part by Shelia and Terry Reese, and by awards from the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, MD and Lulu L. Smith MD Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Beaumont CVB, Jefferson County and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. To find out more about how the National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

# ON VIEW...

## MAIN GALLERY EXHIBITION

JOSÉ VILLALOBOS: *AN IN BETWEEN* | *UN INTERMEDIO*

MARCH 29 - JUNE 15, 2025



José Villalobos, *Angie*, 2024, paint on wood, rope. Image courtesy of the artist and Liliana Bloch Gallery.



José Villalobos, *Assimilation (Grounded)* (left) and *Assimilation (Blending)* (right). 2023, unmounted photograph. Image courtesy of the artist and Liliana Bloch Gallery.

José Villalobos  
*An In Between* | *Un Intermedio*

For its other spring 2025 exhibition, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas is pleased to announce the opening of José Villalobos: *An In Between (Un Intermedio)*. The exhibition features the work of San Antonio-based artist José Villalobos, whose multi-media practice objects and disrupts culturally accepted stereotypes of toxic masculinity.

Villalobos grew up on the US/Mexico border in El Paso, TX, and was raised in a traditional and religiously conservative family. The root of Villalobos's work lies in the performativity of his identity. His work reconciles the identity challenges in his life, caught in between traditional Mexican customs and American mores, as well as growing up with religious ideals that conflict and condemn being gay. Through his mixed media works and performances, Villalobos confronts the derogatory terms and attitudes that he continues to withstand today. He protests the toxicity of machismo using objects, specifically within the norteno culture, that carry a history by deconstructing and altering them.

*An In Between (Un Intermedio)* includes works from Villalobos' oeuvre that focus on the themes of living in-between cultures and identities, including photographs, mirrored 2-D works, free standing sculptures, and a video room to view past performances. A performance by Villalobos, titled *Deeply Rooted, Cultured and Silence*, took place at AMSET the night of the opening reception.

José Villalobos: *An In Between (Un Intermedio)* is generously funded in part by awards from the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, MD and Lulu L. Smith MD Endowment Fund, the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Beaumont CVB, Jefferson County and the members of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. To find out more about how the National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).



# ON VIEW...

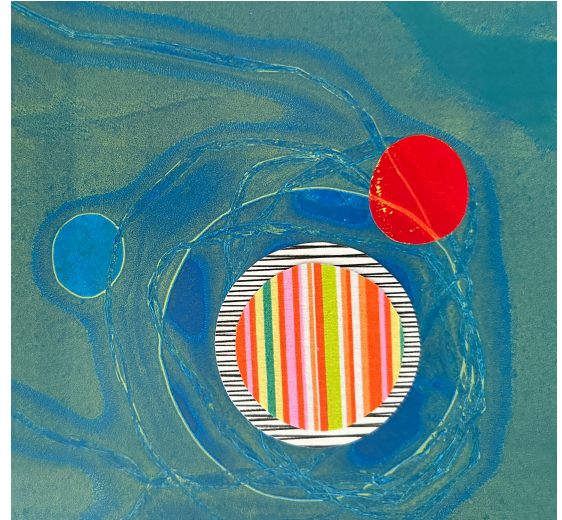
## WEST HALL EXHIBITION

### ORNA FEINSTEIN: *POLE TO POLE* THROUGH MAY 13, 2025

For its second West Hall installation of the new year, AMSET presents Orna Feinstein: *Pole to Pole*. Houston-based artist Orna Feinstein is this year's Protégé High School Art Competition and Exhibition juror. She specializes in 3D monoprints and other mixed media. This is the third time her work has been on display at AMSET.

For *Pole to Pole*, Feinstein has drawn together works from her *Dendriform Series* and *The Presence of Absence Series*. The *Dendriform Series* are monoprints with collage that were created in the Arctic Circle in 2023 while *The Presence of Absence Series* are monoprints with collage that were created in Antarctica in 2023. A small selection of four works made while in Patagonia is also included in the exhibition. Feinstein traveled to Antarctica, the Arctic Circle and Patagonia on 3 separate occasions in 2023. She made art on the ships while traveling, as well as on location. Feinstein was also able to exhibit her works while visiting, making her the first artist to make and exhibit art on both poles within six months. She is also the first artist to have an art exhibition on the border of Chile and Argentina, and in front of the Perito Moreno glacier.

Feinstein developed the idea for creating and exhibiting work on the Poles when she realized a few days before her first trip that she would be traveling somewhere without trees or other green vegetation. Focusing on creating abstract works inspired by nature, a concept she has pursued in her art-making for decades, Feinstein was able to bring a sense of nature and vegetation to these remote places through her monoprints. This sense of abstracted flora can be seen in Feinstein's use of warm, earthy tones, such as rich yellow greens, and organic line work that seems to expand and grow off the edges of the paper.



*Dendriform #4*, 8x8, Orna Feinstein. Mono print with collage and fabric. Image courtesy of the artist.



*Dendriform #28*, 10x8, 2023. Orna Feinstein. Mono print with collage and Fabric. Image courtesy of the artist.

# ON VIEW...

## CAFÉ ARTS SERIES

**BROOKE HOOD: *THE AVIARY***  
**JANUARY 30 - APRIL 27, 2025**



*Egretta Aerie*, Brooke Hood, 2024, acrylic and pigment stick on ultraboard. Image courtesy of AMSET



*Grus Roost*, Brooke Hood, 2024, acrylic and pigment stick on ultraboard. Image courtesy of AMSET

This quarter's Café Arts Series exhibition features the works of local artist Brooke Hood. Hood recently moved her family to Beaumont from San Antonio for her husband, Dr. Caleb Hood, to take up a position as a professor in Lamar University's Education Department. Her background includes a BS in Interior Design from Abilene Christian University and a love of art fostered by her parents Alan and Cheryl Stine.

Hood has become well known throughout Southeast Texas for her variety of subject matter, including beautiful female portraits, mid-century modern inspired compositions, and stylized bird and wildlife paintings. She works with a variety of materials, including acrylic on canvas and collage.

For *The Aviary*, Hood presents a body of paintings that re-imagine some of the common birds of Southeast Texas. She writes, "I've placed these birds at the border of their real and imagined habitats. The bold gestural marks, splashes, and texture hint [at] the unpredictable energy of birds. The birds and habitats are not depicted literally, but rather as shapes, sweeping curves, [and] bursts of chaotic lines." She hopes that viewers will imagine the gallery as an aviary, which holds birds through their painted forms.



# UP NEXT...

**IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS:  
SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION  
ON VIEW IN THE MAIN GALLERY JUNE 28 - SEPTEMBER 14, 2025  
OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025 FROM 6:30 TO 8:30 PM**



Mary McCleary, *Names Written in Water*, 2014, mixed media collage on paper, PC 2017.05.09, Gift of James Kralik

Each summer, the Art Museum of Southeast Texas presents an exhibition focusing on its permanent collection of artworks. Made up of over 1,700 objects, AMSET's permanent collection represents the depth and breadth of regionally focused fine art, American folk art and Mexican folk art.

This year's exhibition, *It's all in the Details*, we will include works by notable fine and folk artists, such as Mary McCleary, Al Souza, Patrick Turk, and Jacobo and Maria Angeles, with an emphasis on artworks with complex and highly detailed surfaces and compositions.

**CAFÉ ARTS SERIES PRESENTS: CARLO BUSCEME IV  
ON VIEW MAY 1 - JULY 27, 2025  
OPENING RECEPTION MAY 1, 2025 FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 PM**

Southeast Texas local Carlo Busceme will have a solo exhibition in the museum's Café Arts space early this summer. Busceme's exhibition will include graphite on paper and panel drawings, as well as acrylic on canvas and panel paintings.

When asked about his inspirations, Busceme listed the design of the McMaster-Carr website as a source of recent interest. McMaster-Carr is an industrial supply company, whose website is minimal, mostly grayscale, with simple click-through images of a wide variety of fasteners, joiners, adhesives and tape, as well as welding and soldering materials. Busceme's artworks have a similar aesthetic, without the direct references to industrial parts. Highly detailed and abstract, his drawings invite visitors to look closely at the surface, encouraging repeated viewing.

Busceme hopes that visitors will keep an open-mind when viewing his artwork so that they might see all the possibilities for how his work could be interpreted.



Carlo Busceme, *There's So Much Crying In Baseball*, 2025, graphite on panel, image courtesy of the artist



# SUMMER ARTVENTURES 2025

Sun, Sand & Strokes is the theme for AMSET's Summer ArtVentures 2025. This year's line-up of week-long, half-day workshops, from June 9 through July 24, is more exciting than ever, with wearable fashion, sculpting with scraps, printmaking, clay and much more. Summer ArtVentures is offered Monday through Friday with two workshops per day: morning classes are from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and afternoon classes are from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Children ages 5-14 choose from many class options for a high quality, intensive art education experience. All courses are taught by artists and art professionals, and the participants work closely with these respected artists in a variety of mediums.

Campers are divided into three age groups, with each course designed for age-appropriate art activities.

## YOUNG ARTVENTURERS

Children ages 5-7 will have the opportunity to sample clay, paint and mixed media through simplified projects formatted for their age group. These classes will be augmented with art-related story times and outdoor activities.

## ARTVENTURERS

Children ages 8-11 have many exciting courses to choose from including clay, woodwork, mixed media, watercolor, the art of melting. Campers will experiment with acrylic pouring, collaborative murals and much more.

## 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 21 – July 24, just for teens interested in exploring more advanced artmaking practices. This year's instructor, Madison Stelly will be teaching teens sculpture, collage, embroidery, and more while developing new skills through the daily use of clay, needle and thread, and different types of paper.

### WEEK 1 | JUNE 9-13

**MORNING AGES: 8-11**  
**AFTERNOON AGES: 8-11**

### WEEK 2 | JUNE 16-20

**MORNING AGES: 5-7**  
**AFTERNOON AGES: 8-11**

### WEEK 3 | JUNE 23-27

**MORNING AGES: 5-7**  
**AFTERNOON AGES: 5-7**

### WEEK 4 | JULY 7-11

**MORNING AGES: 8-11**  
**AFTERNOON AGES: 8-11**

### WEEK 5 | JULY 14-18

**MORNING AGES: 5-7**  
**AFTERNOON AGES: 8-11**

### WEEK 6 | TEEN WEEK | JULY 21-24

**ALL DAY CAMP**  
**AGES: 12-14**

The cost for Summer ArtVentures is \$90 for each child and/or each class. Non-members will purchase a one-year family membership that will cost \$60 in addition to classes. Scholarships are also available. You can register online at <https://amset.org/summer-artventures/>





**MAY 3, 2025 10AM - 2PM**

### **HOWDY Y'ALL!**

Join us for an art-filled day at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, 2025, for our Free Family Arts Day! This Wild Wild West-themed event will feature the creation of art inspired by our spring exhibitions, Tom Jean Webb: *A True Fairytale* and José Villalobos: *An In Between / Un Intermedio*, showcasing the landscapes and cultural identity of the American Southwest. The Texas Energy Museum will host Bubble Day simultaneously with Family Arts Day.

Enjoy two live performances by The Band J.A.G. of Beaumont, playing zydeco tunes and more at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., setting the perfect springtime mood.

Mosaic artist, J Muzacz will lead a hands-on workshop inspired by the Beaumont Mural Festival Mosaic logo, designed by Julio "Chous" Avalos and created with the help of J Muzacz and community volunteers.

Savor delicious food from the concession stand, and don't forget to enjoy our free punch and cookies. Family Arts Day is a FREE event and open to the public, so gather your family and friends and we'll see you on Saturday, May 3, 2025!



**WILD  
WILD  
WEST**



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas is thrilled to announce the latest additions to its permanent collection. These remarkable works, generously gifted by patrons and acquired through museum purchases, further AMSET's mission to preserve and celebrate artistic excellence.

Two of the newly acquired works come as generous gifts from longtime supporters Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker. Virgil Grotfeldt's *Stag Hunt* (1988) is a mixed media work on paper, meticulously preserved in an archival frame. Known for his evocative and layered compositions, Grotfeldt's *Stag Hunt* is a compelling addition to AMSET's collection.

Billy Hassell's *Rookery, High Island* (2024) is a stunning seven-plate, twelve-color lithograph, created in an edition of 36. This vibrant work captures the beauty and dynamism of High Island's bird sanctuary, a beloved Texas landmark. The acquisition was made in honor of Lynn Castle, recognizing her contributions to the museum. (continued....)



·Billy Hassell, *Rookery, High Island*, 2024, seven plate, 12 color lithograph, edition of 36. Gift of Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker in honor of Lynn Castle



·Virgil Grotfeldt, *Stag Hunt*, 1988, mixed media on paper, archival framed. Gift of Rob Clark and Jerry Thacker



# RECENT ACQUISITIONS



·Cathy Spence, *Pasture #1* (From the *Liminal Series*), 2023, digital photograph, editions of 25. Museum purchase with funds provided by the Board of Trustees, Keith Carter, and Dennis Kiel, in memory of Marilyn Parke Haberstroh



·Cathy Spence, *Bayou #1* (From the *Liminal Series*), 2022, digital photograph, Editions of 25. Museum purchase with funds provided by Keith Carter

Another significant addition comes from Charlotte and Jimmy Fontenot, who have generously donated Will Amelia Sterns' *Untitled* (Calla Lilies). This exquisite oil painting showcases Sterns' mastery of the medium, with delicate brushwork and an intimate sense of natural beauty. The donation is given in honor of Lynn Castle, further celebrating her impact on AMSET and the region's cultural landscape.

AMSET is also proud to introduce two works by photographer Cathy Spence into the collection. *Bayou #1* (From the *Liminal Series*) (2022) and *Pasture #1* (From the *Liminal Series*) (2023) are both digital photographs produced in editions of 25. These striking images explore the shifting, in-between spaces of the natural world, emphasizing the tension between presence and transience. The purchase of *Bayou #1* was made possible through the support of renowned photographer Keith Carter, while *Pasture #1* was acquired with funds from the Board of Trustees, Keith Carter, and Dennis Kiel in memory of Marilyn Parke Haberstroh.

AMSET extends heartfelt gratitude to the donors, artists, and patrons who make these acquisitions possible. These exceptional works will enrich the museum's collection and inspire visitors for generations to come.

# TWO EVENTS, ONE DAY, ENDLESS FUN!

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

The third annual Attic Art Sale will be held on June 5, 2025 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This is your opportunity to purchase incredible works of art, frames, art books, and more for amazing prices!

You will also have the opportunity to place silent bids on “Fit the Frame” Treasure Auction artwork prior to the event. The top silent bid received will be the starting bid in the live auction.



3:00 - 5:00 PM | MUSEUM FOYER  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



6:30 - 9:00 PM | CAFE & FOYER  
TICKETED EVENT

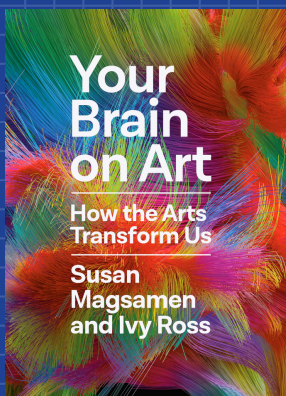
We find it most beFITting to invite you to our upcoming fundraiser *Treasure Auction: Fit the Frame!* We hope you will “FRAME” us into your busy schedule and join us unique event.

We have invited a select number of artists to utilize frames from AMSET or use their own frame to make a beautiful, one-of-a-kind piece of art. These works will be sold during a live auction and dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5th. All proceeds will beneFIT our exhibition and education programs.

The ticket for this event is \$50.00/seat and includes a delicious dinner catered by Two Magnolias and an open bar.

We encourage you to invite your artsy friends and family to attend and help us FRAME a perfectly successful evening.

## AMSET BOOK CLUB



**NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING:  
JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> 5:30 TO 7 PM**

**NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**





Host your events at **AMSET**

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL [EVENTS@AMSET.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@AMSET.ORG)

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MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM TO 2PM

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# Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET)

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