



News Release

For Immediate Release
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AMSET exhibitions feature African-American artwork from a local private collector and socially and politically influenced German sculpture

On view Jan. 23 through April 11, 2010
Opening reception: 6-8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 22

BEAUMONT, Texas — The Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET) is plunging into 2010 with two exciting new exhibitions that fill the galleries with visual lessons in history and culture and take viewers on an influential journey across the world. *African-American Art: Highlights from the Dr. Heryv Hiner Collection* and *Hans Molzberger: Return/Rückkehr* will be on view from Jan. 23 through April 11. The public is invited to visit with Dr. Heryv Hiner about his collection and enjoy a gallery talk by artist Hans Molzberger at an opening reception from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22.

African-American Art: Highlights from the Dr. Heryv Hiner Collection

Visitors to AMSET will get the exclusive opportunity to view the extraordinary and diverse African-American art from the private collection of local nephrologist and entrepreneur, Dr. Heryv Hiner. This exhibition continues *Southeast Texas Collects*, a series of exhibitions organized over the last 20 years that spotlight significant artwork from private collections in Southeast Texas.

African-American Art: Highlights from the Dr. Heryv Hiner Collection will feature 30 works in a variety of mediums by some of the most distinguished and influential African-American artists of the 19th through 21st centuries. Among the artists whose works were instrumental in shaping African-American art history and will be featured are: Charles Alston, Benny Andrews, Romare Bearden, John Biggers, Elizabeth Catlett, Robert Duncanson, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, Dean Mitchell, Hughie Lee-Smith, and Henry Ossawa Tanner.

Dr. Hiner, an East Texas native, relocated to Port Arthur from Houston in the late 1980s and during this time began amassing the exquisite works that grace the walls of his home and popular local restaurant, Suga's Deep South Cuisine and Jazz Bar. His collection is vastly rich with highlights of the development of African-American art beginning with Joshua Johnson, one of the earliest known African-American portrait painters in the late 18th century, and progressing to popular contemporary artists thriving in the art market today.

"Organizing an exhibition of Dr. Hiner's collection has been a highly rewarding experience not only for the generosity of this patron in loaning artwork to the museum but in sharing his passion with the community," said AMSET Curator of Exhibitions and Collections Sarah Hamilton. "Southeast Texans don't want to pass up the rare opportunity to view this incredible collection."

AMSET's *Southeast Texas Collects* series demonstrates the museum's recognition of the many benefits associated with featuring exhibitions of artwork from local private collections. Not only do museum visitors get an opportunity to experience important artwork rarely exposed in a public venue, but, in addition, the museum is able to cultivate strong relationships with collectors and thus promote collecting and donating.

This exhibition is funded in part by the Beaumont Foundation of America, Helen Caldwell Locke and Curtis Blakey Locke Charitable Foundation, C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Dorothy Anne Conn, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Beaumont.

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Hans Molzberger: Return/Rückkehr

AMSET is also pleased to present an exhibition of works by internationally-renowned and distinguished German artist Hans Molzberger. On view in the McFaddin-Ward gallery, *Return*, or *Rückkehr* as it is said in German, includes four large-scale sculpture installations, as well as a recent body of mixed media works that explore current political events. Collectively, the works in this exhibition address various historical, political, and social situations that shape our contemporary world, such as terrorism and the fall of Communism in Europe.

The exhibition also features a local connection in *Pleasure Island*, a sculpture installation consisting of a large, hand-made wooden boat filled with fused-glass birds. Upon visiting the Port Arthur, Texas location following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike in September 2008, Molzberger was inspired to create a work that explores not only the aftermath of this particular storm, but also the life and death associated with all major storms.

Molzberger, a self-taught artist, was born in 1953 in Höhr-Grenzhausen in Germany's Rhineland region where his family has lived for many generations working in industrial ceramic factories. In 1982, as a result of mounting personal crises and a fervent need to reassess his life, Molzberger started a studio in Wendland, Germany and by 1991 mounted his first museum exhibition. Working mainly with assemblages and Raku ceramic objects, the artist recently turned to printmaking. He now creates woodcuts and large-scale silkscreens that contain political subject matter. Molzberger has worked in Israel, France, the Netherlands, Poland and Russia and lectured at several major universities. He currently divides his time between Germany and Houston where he is an Artist Affiliate at Houston Baptist University. He is also director of an artist residency program in Hilmsen, Germany, that began in 1996.

Following the close of this AMSET exhibition, Molzberger's documentary art project, *Never Let it Rest!*, will be exhibited at the Houston Holocaust Museum from April 16 through October 3. This art project contains several large-scale installations that document the Nazi controlled town of Salzwedel where a concentration camp for women was erected in 1944.

This exhibition is funded in part by the Helen Caldwell Locke and Curtis Blakely Locke Charitable Foundation, C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation, Dorothy Anne Conn, Texas Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Beaumont.

Through unique collections, exhibitions, public programs and outreach in the visual arts, the mission of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas is to provide education, inspiration and creative vision throughout Southeast Texas.

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* For images from these exhibitions, please e-mail a request to mtilley@amset.org.

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: \$2.00
Wheelchair and stroller accessible