

CURRENT EXHIBITION

JOSÉ ARPA
A SPANISH PAINTER IN TEXAS

On View March 11 - May 28, 2017	Opening Reception Friday, March 17 6 - 8 p.m.	Featured Speaker Michael Grauer
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José Arpa y Perea (1858-1952) opened a studio in San Antonio around 1901 and became an important part of the San Antonio school. Born in Carmona, the son of a cobbler, Arpa began studying part-time at the *Academia des Bellas Artes* (Academy of Fine Arts) in Seville, Spain, in 1876. He became a full-time student by 1878 and from 1882 to 1886 painted in Rome. Returning to Spain in 1886, Arpa sent paintings as part of the Spanish contingent for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, where Impressionism was all the rage. He traveled to San Antonio, Texas, in 1899, and exhibited in the San Antonio International Fair in 1900. Arpa met Robert and Julian Onderdonk and divided his time between Mexico, Spain, and San Antonio until 1923, when he founded a painting school in San Antonio. Arpa continued to exhibit frequently at museums and galleries throughout Texas as well as New York and Spain. He won the "Texas Prize" at the Texas Wildflower Exhibition in 1927, and exhibited in the remaining two "Davis Competitions" in 1928 and 1929. Arpa permanently returned to Spain in 1931. This exhibition will be the first major Arpa exhibition since 1998, and is organized by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. A full color catalog published by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum will be available for sale in the AMSET gift shop. Michael Grauer, Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs, Art and Western Heritage at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, will deliver a gallery talk at the opening reception.

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by the Edaren Foundation, Sheila and Jerry Reese, Humanities Texas (the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities), The Honorable Marcia Crone and Seth Crone, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation.

CAFÉ ARTS

ALISON GASPARD
WHAT WILL THEY BECOME

Opening Reception: 2 - 4 p.m., Sunday, April 2, 2017
On view March 30 - May 21, 2017
Featured Speaker: Artist Sherry Owens

Alison Gaspard lives and works in Houston, Texas, where she is an artist and arts educator. Gaspard graduated with a Bachelor in Fine Arts (BFA) from Lamar University in 2014. Currently, Gaspard works as an art educator for the Houston Independent School District, and is the founder of the Fine Arts Program on her campus (fall 2016). Before moving to Houston, Gaspard was an employee at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas (AMSET), in Beaumont. She credits the development of her style and technique to various sources, including: professors at Lamar University, experiences while studying abroad in Florence, Italy, the staff at AMSET, and, most of all, the inspiration she derives from her students. As an educator, Gaspard is moved by the innocence of the young and their desire to learn.

In her Café Arts exhibition, *What Will They Become*, Gaspard visualizes youthful, solitary figures encircled by ambiguous values that have prominence, begin to fade into and simultaneously arise from these indistinct values. These values represent the unknown environmental factors that will affect and alter the figure's development from youthful innocence to adulthood. The vagueness of the settings leads one to doubt the security of their future. This body of work illustrates the power and influence of the environment while it is shaping and molding the enigmatic futures of younger generations.

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Sherry Owens

On view June 10 - September 10, 2017
Opening Reception: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Friday, June 16, 2017
Featured Speaker: Artist Sherry Owens

Native Texan and Dallas artist Sherry Owens is renowned for her sculpture made of crepe myrtle tree pieces, simultaneously evoking both the natural and other worldly elements of the tree in her sculptures and installations. Owens often states that she is a recycle artist and fills her studio with branches that would otherwise be discarded. The meticulous quality of her work, which emphasizes the luscious capabilities of line and form as her pieces of crepe myrtle intersect and build, weaving together and activating space, call to mind the artist's early formative years as a weaver. Founded in nature, Owens' art stems away from the natural world giving second life to her found media and pushing our preconceived understanding of the boundaries of wood and form. Although Owens' has exhibited with AMSET in the past in group shows, this will be her first solo exhibition with the museum. Owens received her BFA from Southern Methodist University in 1972, and is a former president of the Texas Sculpture Association. The artist will be present at the opening and will give an artist talk in the gallery with her work.

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UPCOMING EXHIBITION

RECENT ACQUISITIONS
SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

On view June 10 - September 10, 2017
Opening Reception: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Friday, June 16, 2017

This exhibition will feature recent acquisitions from AMSET's growing permanent collection. As stated in our mission statement, we strive to provide education, inspiration and creative vision throughout Southeast Texas through our unique collections, exhibitions and public programs. Over the years, AMSET's permanent collection has grown from 200 to over 1,200 objects, focusing our collections on contemporary and historic Texas artists, as well as regional folk art. It is through generous donations of our museum patrons, collectors and artists that we are able to continuously strengthen and build our permanent collection. Each year, we present an exhibition of works solely from the permanent collection, giving Southeast Texas audiences the opportunity to see the works that are now part of their museum. This exhibition will include recent acquisitions, featuring artists such as Helen Altman, Michael Baise, Linnis Blance, Lester Davis, James Drake, Orna Feinstein, Vernon Fisher, Roy Fridge, Billy Hessel, Clarion Holloway, Michael Kenanough, Mark Messersmith, Richard Neidhardt, Joan Steinman, Frank X. Tolbert, among others.

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EVENTS

GO FOR THE GOLD 2017 OLYMPIC AMSETTA

The annual *Go for the Gold* fundraiser will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 30th. Everyone is invited to join AMSET for the much anticipated *Go for the Gold* "Olympic AMSETTA" event. One lucky ticket holder will watch their \$100 entry turn into \$10,000 in gold! This year's event is served with an Olympic twist; come ready to win in athletic wear in honor of your favorite Olympian hero. One ticket admits entry for one into the exciting, reverse drawing and two "athlete" entries into the *Go for the Gold* party with cocktails and dinner catered by Two Magnolias along with the excuse entertainment of Rocky Chase and Carlo Busceme III.

The winners of *Go for the Gold* will be determined through a reverse drawing. The holders of the final, three tickets drawn, win gold. Third place receives **\$1,000 in gold**, second place: **\$1,500 in gold**, and one lucky winner will become the "Olympic AMSETTA" Champion, taking home **\$10,000 in gold!**

Let the games begin and come out to support AMSET's exhibitions and programs at *Go for the Gold*, where everyone is a winner.

Gold coins will be on display for the evening, provided by Universal Coin and Bullion. Only 450 tickets will be sold to maximize participants' chance of winning; advance purchase is recommended. To purchase tickets, visit www.amset.org or call (409) 832-3432.

EVENTS

Mardi Party

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

AMSET wishes to thank everyone who came out and helped with Mardi party and supported it by attending. It was huge success! We made approximately \$15,600 (net). Camille Ohmstede did a fabulous job as our party chair. Camille designed the decorations along with Tracey Gilliam and Stephanie Daleo who helped make all the centerpiece flower arrangements!

Thanks to Jessica Garth Whitney who organized an AMAZING event this year! Thank you to Inez Alvidres, Blooms by Claybar Floral, Katharine Carmichael of Katharine & Company, Lana Portner, Kat Holtzclaw, and Mark Oehmstein, Elaine Henderson who all donated wonderful items to the auctions. Special thanks to Kit Nesmith, Albert Nelson and Gerald Farha who helped promote the event.

Also, thank you to those who donated wine tree auction item. We had 30 bottles!! Allen Lea, Sandra Clark, Albert, Karen Fuljenz, Seth Crone, Tracy and Michele Byrd, Amy & Paul Chargois, Charles Locke, Martha Gideon, Mary Jowers, Colleen Burns, Mitch & Michele Smith, Nell McCullum, Kathe Hendricks, Caitlin Duerler, Mike & Lori Lockwood, Marcia & John Stevens, Bobbie Applegate, Jessica Garth Whitney and Rocky Chase.

Special call to our Advisory Board members Carlo Busceme III, Mitch Smith, (bar experts) Marcia Stevens, Lisa Richardson, Christopher Planty and Clayton Peco who helped decorate trees outside with twinkly lights, set up the bars and roll flatware in napkins! Mark your calendars for the Friday before FAT Tuesday 2018; this party is a keeper!

EDUCATION

ART VENTURES

Join AMSET for Summer ArtVentures 2017. This year's line-up of week-long, half-day workshops, from June 12 through July 21, is more exciting than ever, with clay, claydram, painted wearables, two-dimensional mixed media, painting, clay and much more, all taught by professional artists.

ArtVentures is offered Monday through Friday with two workshops per day: morning classes are from 9 a.m. to noon; afternoons are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. One all day workshop from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. is offered for TeenVentures week. Children ages 5-14 choose from many class options for a high quality, intensive art education experience. All courses are taught by professional artists, and the participants work closely with these respected artists in a variety of mediums.

YOUNG ARTVENTURES - AGES 5-7

Young ArtVenturers will have the opportunity to sample clay, paint, pastels and mixed media through simplified projects formatted for age group. Classes will be augmented with story times (using art-related stories) and outdoor activities.

ARTVENTURES - AGES 8-11

ArtVenturers will have exciting courses to choose from including ceramics, painted wearables, mixed media, and even claymation.

TEENVENTURES - AGES 12-14

A special week, July 5-July 7, just for those interested in exploring public art through urban landscape. Teen campers will be introduced to works from artists Banksy, Blek Le Rat, and C215. This week will emphasize the positive influence of street art on urban design while teens create a collaborative piece of public art.

The cost for Summer ArtVentures is \$75 for members, \$135 for non-members for the child's first class, \$75 for each additional child and \$70 for each additional class. The non-member fee includes a one-year family membership. Scholarships are also available.

EDUCATION

MARKET BASKET PRESENTS: PROTÉGÉ 2017

COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

Teachers, friends and family joined the AMSET staff on Tuesday evening, February 21st for the Opening Reception of the 31st Annual Protégé Competition & Exhibition. Nineteen exhibitors were selected from among the 81 entries submitted by 13 high schools. Scholarships donated by Lamar's Friends of the Arts were awarded to the first, second and third place winners. First through third place winners, honorable mentions, and the teacher of the first place winner received gift cards for art supplies.

- 1ST PLACE BAYLEE BATTISE, SABINE PASS HIGH SCHOOL
- 2ND PLACE MADISON CARAWAY, BRIDGE CITY HIGH SCHOOL
- 3RD PLACE UMER A AHMED, PORT NECHES - GROVES HIGH SCHOOL

High School Name: Sabine Pass High School
Teacher: Terri Thompson
Student Name: Baylee Battise
Title of Work: "Both Sides of the World"

Honorable Mentions

- Conner Alexander, Port Neches - Groves High School
- Kinsey Bigham, Port Neches - Groves High School
- Kayleigh Lute, Bridge City High School
- Jake Plekenbrock, Port Neches - Groves High School
- Kealey Yoakum, Warren High School

This program is sponsored by Market Basket who has been the sponsor since the inception. The exhibition will tour various schools in the area until May 2017. Call (409)832-3432 for tour details.

EDUCATION

AMSET's FREE Family Arts Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 20, 2017

Spring Family Arts Day, *Blooming Bluebonnets* & *Buzzing Bees!* Come celebrate blue with the serene artwork of the impressionist painter, José Arpa. We will paint impressionist-style blue bonnets, create impressionist landscapes and decorate spring flower pots, along with a myriad of other fresh, spring-related art activities.

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We greatly appreciate your support for our programs and exhibitions. This Donor list reflects contributions made to AMSET for the year preceding March 1, 2017

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11—May 28, 2017 José Arpa: *A Spanish Painter in Texas* (Main Galleries)

Friday, March 17, 2017 José Arpa Opening Reception

Thursday, March 30, 2017 *Go for the Gold* "Olympic AMSETTA" Fundraiser

March 30—May 21, 2017 *Alison Gaspard: What Will They Become* (Café Arts)

Saturday, May 20, 2017 Spring Family Arts Day

May 25—August 13, 2017 *DJ Kava* (Café Arts)

June 10—September 10, 2017 *Sherry Owens* (Main Galleries)

June 10—September 10, 2017 *Recent Acquisitions: Selections from the Permanent Collection* (Main Galleries)

June 12—July 21, 2017 Summer Art Ventures

Saturday, August 12, 2017 Summer Family Arts Day

Friday, September 8, 2017 Gala 2017