

Art Museum of South Texas

1902 N. Shoreline Blvd • Corpus Christi, TX • 361/825-3500 • Fax: 361/825-3520

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Major New Exhibit to Begin January 17, 2008

“After Lewis & Clark: The Forces of Change, 1806-1871”

A major new exhibition that opens January 17 at the Art Museum of South Texas (1902 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi) chronicles the stylistic and thematic changes in art that swept the nation in the early 19th Century. The news of Meriwether Lewis’ and William Clark’s 1804-1806 exploration through what was then known as the Louisiana Purchase captivated the attention of a young nation. Following that epic journey, numerous artists joined in the exploration of new frontiers to the West and recorded the cultures, places and animals they encountered.

The spectacular exhibit ***After Lewis & Clark: The Forces of Change, 1806-1871*** profiles a turning point in American art. Historic events, technological developments and cultural changes culminated in the large landscapes that began to appear after the Civil War. The artists who encountered the unique subjects of the American West gave birth to a new age of art, and a new way of looking at portraiture, lifestyle, landscape and history in this young country. A companion book to the exhibit, written by former Gilcrease Museum Senior Curator Gary Hood, is available in the Art Museum Gift Shop.

After Lewis & Clark: The Forces of Change, 1806-1871 consists of 114 works including images of fur traders in the Rockies, the magnificent cultures of Native Americans, and the beautiful vistas found throughout the frontiers of the American continent. The exhibit is organized by the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma and is made possible by the following major sponsors: The Ralph and Frances McGill Foundation, The Trust Company of Oklahoma, and The Harold C. Stuart Foundation. Additional local support comes from the Texas Commission on the Arts, Coastal Bend Community Foundation and Behmann Brothers Foundation.

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One of the representative works in this exhibition is *Fort Laramie* by Alfred Jacob Miller. Miller visited the military outpost in 1837 – the only artist to visit the original structure. He then painted his recollections of the fort in 1851. Fort Laramie became an important stop on the Oregon Trail and is now on the national register of historic places.

Another important work being shown in the exhibition is *Indian Encampment on the Big Bend of the Missouri River* by Carl Wimar. Born in Germany, Wimar became an American citizen and was fascinated by the subject matter presented by the American West. Wimar painted this groundbreaking work in his St. Louis studio from sketches he made when he visited the region in June 1859. In addition to Wimar and Miller, the 42 artists featured in ***After Lewis & Clark*** include Karl Bodmer, Charles Bird King, George Catlin, John Mix Stanley, John James Audubon, Thomas Moran, and Albert Bierstadt.

“This exhibition gives the Art Museum of South Texas an opportunity to showcase outstanding works by some of America’s premiere artists of the 19th Century,” said Joe Schenk, Director of the Art Museum of South Texas. “The Gilcrease Museum houses one of the finest collections of the art of the American West and we are pleased to present this selection in Corpus Christi.”

The Art Museum of South Texas is the third venue for this exhibition, which debuted in Tulsa in January 2006 and traveled to Flint, Michigan in 2007. The exhibit continues through March 23, 2008 in Corpus Christi.

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The Philip Johnson-designed Art Museum of South Texas has been located on the Corpus Christi Bayfront since 1972. An expansion, designed by Ricardo Legorreta, opened in 2006, doubling the size of the museum complex. The Art Museum is affiliated with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and hosts educational programs, youth art classes and traveling exhibitions throughout the year. Program and exhibit information is available at www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org