

Texas Artists Go Big in the Lone Star State

TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED TEXAS ARTISTS OPEN AT THE ART MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS May 16, 2018-- The Art Museum of South Texas in Corpus Christi will host a series of events on Thursday, May 17 and Friday, May 18, to celebrate the May 18 opening of its two newest exhibitions. Six artists from across Texas are taking part in the group painting and photography exhibition *Target Texas: What Inspires* organized by the Art Museum of South Texas. *Sense of Home: The Art of Richard Stout* organized by the Art Museum of Southeast Texas in Beaumont is a major retrospective featuring work from the 1950s through the present day, attesting to Stout's prolific career. Below is a listing of the events and times followed by descriptions of each of the two exhibitions. **Please join us to cover these events and interview seven amazing Texas artists who exemplify the rich and vibrant culture of Texas.**

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 10-11 A.M.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS with artists and AMST staff
AMST 1902 M. Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78401

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 5:30-7 P.M.

MEMBERS PREVIEW RECEPTION - Interviews with artists and staff upon request
AMST 1902 M. Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78401
Cost: AMST members *free*, TAMU-CC students *free* with valid I.D., nonmembers \$20 each.

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 11:30-1 P.M.

LUNCH AMONGST THE MASTERS AND ARTIST PANEL: Curators Conversing with Contemporary Artists - Interviews with artists from *Target Texas* and *Sense of Home* as well as staff upon request
AMST 1902 M. Shoreline Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX 78401
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE
Cost with lunch: AMST members \$15, nonmembers \$20 each. Cost of panel only: *free* with museum admission

TARGET TEXAS: WHAT INSPIRES

Organized by the Art Museum of South Texas

May 18-August 12, 2018

Rather than traveling all over the great state of Texas, AMST's Curator of Exhibitions, Deborah Fullerton, brings a selection of the best contemporary artists to AMST visitors. The *Target Texas* biennial exhibition is the best way to survey Texas contemporary painting and photography. In this fifth edition of *Target Texas*, AMST brings six artists from across the state, a place as big as many countries, to answer the question, "What inspires the contemporary artists of Texas?"

What inspires each artist depends upon a lifetime of experiences such as storytelling, family, nature, current events, and urban issues. In addition to life experiences, *Target Texas* artists have a variety of inspirations rooted in the distinctness of the region where they live including landscape, architecture, and wildlife. Compelled to create, the artists choose a medium to depict a visual message by combining their skills, techniques, personal experiences, and regional representation. The result is uniquely Texas, yet relatable to audiences globally.

No matter the medium, the artwork in the exhibition is the result of months of preparation. As the work develops, it sometime evolves in surprising ways. As you study the art in *Target Texas*, imagine what compelled the artist to create the work. Given your life experiences, what message do you interpret from the artist? Do you relate to the artist's message? Each artist made personal sacrifices in order to dedicate their life to art, what have you set aside in your life to pursue your passion? What inspires you?

Bring your interpretations and questions to the May 18 Lunch Amongst the Masters program: *Curators Conversing with Contemporary Artists*. Enjoy a catered lunch and get an inside peek at what details to pay attention to when viewing the exhibition, the artists' motivations, and the personal significance of creating art.

Target Texas: What Inspires

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South Texas

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Artists in alphabetical order

Rigoberto Gonzalez

McAllen, Texas

Sedrick Huckaby

Fort Worth, Texas

Elizabeth Payne

Yoakum, Texas

Barbra Riley

Canyon Lake, Texas

Teresa Ruiz

Corpus Christi, Texas

Sarah Williams

Houston, Texas

SENSE OF HOME: THE ART OF RICHARD STOUT
Organized by the Art Museum of Southeast Texas
May 18-September 2, 2018

Over his fifty-year career Richard Stout, a native Texan born in Beaumont and currently living in Houston, established himself as one of the leading Modernist artists in the American Southwest. He is among five mid-century artists widely identified as the best abstract expressionists in Texas. Beginning in New York, Abstract Expressionism gained popularity in the United States in the 1950s and 60s. It veered away from realistic depictions of physical subjects in order to communicate the intangible. Stout along with David Hickman, William Anzalone, James Boynton, and Dorothy Hood, established the movement in Houston. These artists expressed themselves in drastically different styles, yet each artist gained inspiration from the place where they created their artwork.

AMST Curator of Exhibitions, Deborah Fullerton, describes Stout's early work of both interiors as well as his coastal meditations, as revealing, "a sensitive and abiding interest in light as it travels through space and around objects." In the exhibition catalogue, available in the AMST Gift Shop, David E. Brauer expands on Stout's expression of light and ongoing tension between interiors and exteriors by comparing his work to paintings by 17th century Dutch masters – minus human figures, still life, or settings. The Dutch masters strove to depict a specific place at a specific time, whereas Stout's compositions allusively suggest settings in order to depict his memories of these places, regardless of time. Stout's ability to convey an emotion associated with a memory through his work is what makes him a master.

Having a specific emotion associated with a place is a relatable experience. The 39 two-dimensional works and 14 three-dimensional sculptures were created between the start of his career in the 1950s to present day. Take note of his inspirations - locations along the Texas Coast - places where his family gathered, fished, and lived. His works in this exhibition convey Stout's emotions, his state of mind when he visited these places – locations where Stout grew up, and chooses to live now. Each artwork separately, and all 53 collectively, expresses Stout's "sense of home."

For more information contact: Karol Stewart, Coordinator of Community Services, by phone at 361-825-3513 or by email at karol.stewart@tamucc.edu.

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The Art Museum of South Texas (AMST), located at 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas is open to the public Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 1 – 5 p.m. and closed on Monday.

For admission information, contact the Museum at 361-825-3500 or visit www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org, or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

The Mission of the South Texas Institute for the Arts, doing business as the **Art Museum of South Texas**, is to operate educational facilities and an art museum, which advance the awareness, knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the visual arts for residents and visitors of South Texas.