***Art Museum of South Texas
History***

**What is the History of the Art Museum of South Texas?**

#### The Art Museum of South Texas is the only major fine arts museum within 150 mile radius of Corpus Christi. Founded in 1945, the Art Museum of South Texas moved from South Bluff Park to the Philip Johnson designed building on the Corpus Christi bay front in 1972. In 1995, the Museum became affiliated with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Two years later, the Museum merged with the Creative Arts Center and the Center for Hispanic Arts, creating the South Texas Institute for the Arts (doing business under the name of the Art Museum of South Texas.) In 2006, a wing was designed by the famed architect Ricardo Legorreta of Mexico City and completed bringing the museum to a total of 60,000 square feet of gallery space, a restaurant, gift shop, offices, the digital class room and additional storage. Additionally, the Museum provides programs at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center on Agnes Street which it holds a lease from the City. The Art Museum of South Texas receives well over 100,000 visitors annually, with many of them being tourists from out of the area. The Museum’s focus on art education for children and adults, as well as providing access to important and inspirational works of art, makes the Art Museum of South Texas a destination for both local families and visitors to the South Texas region.

The Permanent Collection is the Museum’s most significant asset. The collection is comprised of over 1,700 works of art including painting, sculpture, drawing, glass, photography, printmaking, ceramics, fabric, and fine craft. In 1994, the Museum Board revised its collecting focus to place an emphasis on the “Art of the Americas” as well as developing a comprehensive collection of works by artists associated with the state of Texas. Museum staff aggressively seeks art created in the region. In 2001, the Collection benefited from the addition of 900 paintings, prints, drawings, and collages from the estate of recognized Texas modernist artist, the late Dorothy Hood (1918-2000). In 2016, the Museum opened a gallery devoted to Spanish Colonial art and it also features Pre-Columbian and related works by contemporary Hispanic artists. Since the Museum’s collection is also used for teaching, it does contain works from other cultures and parts of the world.

The Art Museum presents 12 to 15 art exhibitions per year. The annual exhibition calendar regularly features a wide variety of offerings including contemporary, traditional, Western, and wildlife art. The Museum typically presents art of state, regional, national, and international interest, looking for a balance of artistic media by presenting painting, sculpture, crafts, printmaking, photography, drawing and installation art. Biennially the Museum presents an exhibition of the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi art faculty. The Museum also presents exhibitions at the Antonio E. Garcia Arts and Education Center. All of the exhibitions are marketed and promoted extensively around the state, region and nation attracting many visitors to the Art Museum and Corpus Christi. The Museum also works cooperatively with the other museums and attractions in the City to cross promote and share visitors to extend their stay in our community. The exhibitions are enhanced by all kinds of programming in the visual arts including classes, workshops, artist demonstrations, films, lectures, seminars, visiting artists, tours, performances, and many other offerings.

***Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia Spanish Colonial Gallery
FAQs***

***What artwork and artifacts make up the Spanish Colonial Collection?***

The collection is made up of Spanish colonial paintings, silver and textiles; Pre-Columbian pottery, sculpture and artifacts; and contemporary works of art by Hispanic artists that draw their inspiration/influence from either Spanish Colonial or Pre-Columbian material.

**What is the Origin of the Spanish Colonial Exhibition?**

The collection is made up of purchases and/or gifts from foundations, individuals, or corporations made to the Art Museum of South Texas.

**How Long is the Spanish Colonial Exhibition on Display?**

These galleries are permanently on view.  Other works will be added in the future as well as some rotation of other objects from the permanent collection will occur.

**What criteria was considered for lighting the exhibition?**

The lighting concepts were to utilize framing projectors to specifically highlight the works of art, use only LED lighting for the protection of the art, and create a space that was both intimate and reverent.

**Who designed the exhibition Gallery?**

Gallery spaces were conceived, designed and installed by the Art Museum’s staff.

**From concept to completion, what was the Timeline for the Spanish Colonial Exhibition?**

The gallery concept was set forth over 12 years ago, but execution occurred over the past three years. The Exhibition opened to the public on Tuesday, May 24, 2016.