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**First Permanent Fine Art Exhibition Featuring   
Spanish Colonial and Pre-Columbian Art Now Open   
at the Art Museum of South Texas  
Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia Spanish Colonial Gallery**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** THE ART MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS (AMST) OPENED ITS FIRST PERMANENT EXHIBITION, ***Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia Spanish Colonial Gallery*** on May 22nd, 2016 showcasing many Spanish Colonial, pre-Columbian, and contemporary works inspired and influenced by artisans and artists of that time. With a generous contribution for the J.A. "Tony" Canales Family, AMST now has this valuable cultural resource which features works of art spanning the Pre-Columbian and the Spanish Colonial period in Central America, Mexico, and the Southwestern United States (which was known as New Spain), and Peru (which encompassed all of South America except for Brazil. The pieces within the exhibition reflect how the Spanish Colonial period was a time of conquest, change, and influence.

Originally designed to exhibit temporary and travelling exhibitions, AMST is dedicated to advancing the awareness, knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the visual arts for the residents and visitors of South Texas by actively collecting, conserving, exhibiting, researching, and interpreting outstanding works of visual art with particular interest in Art of the Americas and the region. Over time, as Corpus Christi’s economy and population has grown, the need to install a permanent art exhibition showcasing the art and cultural history of the region and the Americas has become a priority to the Corpus Christi community.

The Spanish Colonial Period made a significant impact on the world today; how the Spanish have dominated other foreign and Native American influences throughout Central and South America in language, architecture, religion, and in the arts. This time period created new identities and expressions of artists that would be unlike any others. The collection is made up of Spanish colonial paintings, silver and textiles; pottery, sculpture and artifacts are some of the forms of how artists expressed themselves leading up to and during the Spanish Colonial Period. Works from these artists illustrate the unique blends of iconography, materials, and methods influenced by European and indigenous roots. The dominant Spanish religion of Catholicism is evident through paintings and silver pieces displayed at the museum. The Pre-Columbian artifacts such as bowls and pitchers, not only had every day use, but symbolized the culture and beliefs just as much as masks and figures created had. Contemporary works of art by Hispanic artists that draw their inspiration/influence from either Spanish Colonial or Pre-Columbian material.

The ***D. Clotilde P. Garcia Spanish Colonial Gallery*** and design was contributed by the J.A. “Tony” Canales family and Barbara Canales. The Art Museum of South Texas is showing some of the best and never before seen works from the Spanish Colonial Period. This gallery displays what it was like during the period and shows the importance of its history to the Corpus Christi community.  
  
AMST Director Joe Schenk recently spoke with Barbara Canales about the exhibition’s importance to the South Texas community.

**This exhibition is sponsored in part by H-E-B; Frost Banking, Investments and Insurance; and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi College of Liberal Arts; Corpus Christi Gasket & Fastener Inc.**

For more information about the exhibitions, events, sponsorship opportunities at the Art Museum of South Texas, or to set up interviews with the collectors, visual artists, AMST program guests, or AMST staff contact Karol Stewart at 361-825-3513.

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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 – 5 pm, Sunday 1 – 5 pm and closed on Monday. For admission information details contact the Museum at 361-825-3500 or visit* [*www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org*](http://www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org)*.*

***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.*

***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.