

WITTE MUSEUM

MEDIA CONTACTS

Shannon H. Standley: 210.357.1876

shannonstandley@wittemuseum.org

Jim Dalglish: 210.357.1870

jimd@wittemuseum.org

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Examine Fashion Through Art at the Witte *Fashions in Art: 1870s to 1920s*



SAN ANTONIO— Examine fashions from the turn-of-the-century through art at the Witte Museum. *Fashions in Art: 1870s to 1920s* is on view **October 11, 2008** through **February 15, 2009** in the Betty Coates Textile Gallery. The exhibit features paintings and sketches by Robert Onderdonk and his daughter, Eleanor Onderdonk in addition to historical clothing from the Witte's Fashion Collection that closely matches those depicted in the artwork.

In contrast to earlier artists, Robert and Eleanor drew or painted their subjects in an illustrative style that included details of the clothing rather than draping the subjects in yards of fabric in imitation of classical dress. The details in the works of art so clearly depict the specific cut and embellishment of the model's clothing so that specific fashion can be identified.

The comparison between fashion and artwork gives visitors a greater appreciation for the details captured by the artists in their work. Some of the fashions portrayed in the exhibit include a wedding dress, a man's suit and the interesting fashion peculiar to the 1870s and 1880s—the bustle. The bustle is a device worn by women to expand and support the back of a woman's dress. Visitors have the opportunity to view variations of the bustle as well as a skirt showing the inner construction of the unique fashion.

Fashions in Art is free with museum admission. For more information call 210.357.1900 or visit www.wittemuseum.org.

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