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WITTE MUSEUM

RELEASE DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Witte Curator Presents Texas Pottery Traditions 2 p.m., Sun., Nov. 15

SAN ANTONIO—Join Witte Museum Curator Michael Haynes, Ph.D., as she showcases pottery from the Witte Collection. **Texas Pottery Traditions** is **2 p.m., Sunday, November 15** at the Witte and is included with museum general admission.

Held in conjunction with the Witte's current exhibit, *Colors on Clay: Pottery of San Antonio*, Haynes will explore Texas pottery-making from the 1850s to the 1920s. Nineteenth century potteries primarily produced functional stoneware vessels for household and farm use. After 1915, demand for such pieces as crocks and churns dropped, and many potteries closed. A few stayed open by adapting to new customers, including tourists. Among them, Meyer Pottery in Atascosa County, began making small decorative pieces hand-painted with images from the Texas landscape. The bright colors of these pieces are similar to those seen on the tiles produced during the San José workshops in San Antonio.

Colors on Clay: Pottery of San Antonio is drawn from the outstanding private collection of Susan Toomey Frost and features a selection of brightly colored tiles locally produced by small groups of artisans working in a succession of three workshops (the San José workshops) from 1931 to 1971, led by entrepreneur Ethel Wilson Harris. A highlight of the exhibit is the original artwork of Fernando Ramos, the principal artist for the first workshop—Mexican Arts and Crafts. *Colors on Clay* is on view through March 21, 2010 and is included with museum admission.

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