

WITTE MUSEUM'S WHITE SHAMAN PRESERVE

White Shaman Mural

- The White Shaman Mural, considered one of the most cosmologically complex narratives in the world, is a significant example of Pecos River Style rock art.
- The mural is in a rock shelter located on the White Shaman Preserve. The Witte Museum is the conservation steward of the mural.
- Witte Museum Curator of Archeology, Dr. Harry Shafer, and other scholars have determined the mural was likely painted thousands of years ago.
- Studies by anthropologist Dr. Carolyn Boyd and the Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center have shown the mural is a single composition created by applying the paint colors in succession, likely by a single individual.
- Recent studies of the mural, using both scientific and ethnographic methods, have determined that the polychrome mural is narrative and depicts the story of the people's cosmology and world view.
- One recurring theme seen in this mural and at other sites in region is the belief in a layered universe and the emergence of ancestral deities, depicting the origin of the people and the universe.
- The White Shaman site has no evidence of a relationship to the springs along the eastern edge of the Balcones escarpment, i.e. the Blue Hole in San Antonio, San Marcos Springs, Comal Springs or Barton Springs.

Witte Museum's White Shaman Preserve

- The White Shaman Preserve is in Texas near the confluence of the Pecos River and Rio Grande in the Lower Pecos Canyon.
- Preservation responsibility and ownership for the White Shaman Preserve was transferred to the Witte Museum from The Rock Art Foundation in 2017.
- The Witte Museum has a long history of excavation and study in the region, since the 1930s, and houses more than 20,000 artifacts from these ancient sites in its collection.
- The White Shaman Preserve represents 400 acres of a larger region with a high concentration of rock art. The region contains one of the best-preserved and longest records of Indigenous people's lifeways, from as long as 13,000 years ago.



Witte Museum Experiences & Events

- Curated tours of the preserve and mural (weekly Sept through May).
- Annual Rock Art Rendezvous
- Kittie West Nelson Ferguson People of the Pecos Gallery

The Witte Museum

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San Antonio, TX 78209
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Media Kit & Information:

www.WitteMuseum.org/Media