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The Wolfsonian Highlights Southern Artistry in Major Survey of Newcomb Pottery

*Most comprehensive Newcomb Pottery presentation
in nearly three decades comes to Miami Beach in June 2015*

MIAMI BEACH (February 17, 2015) — This summer, The Wolfsonian–Florida International University proudly presents *Women, Art, and Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise*, the largest exhibition of Newcomb arts and crafts in over twenty-five years. Featuring more than 130 objects ranging from iconic Newcomb ceramics to metalwork, textiles, and other historical artifacts, *Women, Art, and Social Change* sheds light on how the trailblazing female designers of New Orleans’ H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College forged a distinctively Southern aesthetic and paved the way for women artists of later generations.

Women, Art, and Social Change will be on view at The Wolfsonian–FIU from June 12 through August 30, 2015. The exhibition is organized by the Newcomb Art Gallery and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Representing nearly fifty years of achievement in decorative arts, *Women, Art, and Social Change* covers the lifespan of Newcomb Pottery, one of the most important early twentieth-century American decorative arts enterprises, active from 1895 to 1940. Created by Newcomb College, Tulane University’s former women’s college, the influential Arts & Crafts program integrated commerce with an educational and social experiment that aimed to teach Southern women financial independence through the sale of their wares—each a one-of-a-kind work of art. Newcomb ceramics were crafted exclusively by female designers, whose critically acclaimed artistry drew inspiration from Southern flora and fauna and was internationally renowned for its quality and graceful forms.

“*Women, Art, and Social Change* is an exciting and natural complement to The Wolfsonian’s core interest of exploring the human experience and telling the story of social changes that have transformed our world. This is the perfect opportunity to focus on the impact of female artists in post-Civil War America, at a time when women’s equality was a burgeoning cause,” stated curatorial and exhibitions assistant Whitney

Richardson, who is organizing The Wolfsonian's presentation of the exhibition. "While the artists at Newcomb Pottery aligned themselves with the tenets of the British Arts and Crafts movement—richly represented in our collection—their wares were distinct expressions of the American South. The women of Newcomb Pottery set about to create a profitable business for female artisans, and wound up creating the most significant American pottery of the twentieth century; we're thrilled to share this story with our visitors."

In addition to pottery, the exhibition showcases jewelry, photography, bookbinding, and textiles for a comprehensive summary that offers new insights into the extraordinary women of Newcomb—from their philosophy and sense of community, to the elegant craftsmanship that secured Newcomb Pottery's place on the vanguard of American art and industry.

The Wolfsonian will mark the opening of *Women, Art, and Social Change* with a preview reception on June 11, as well as additional programming such as a free Family Day, a Takeover Tour led by a guest tour guide, film screenings, and an art-making workshop.

Women, Art, and Social Change: The Newcomb Pottery Enterprise debuted at Tulane University's Newcomb Art Gallery before launching on a national tour that included the Georgia Museum of Art, Stark Museum of Art, and Gardiner Museum.

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About The Wolfsonian—Florida International University

The Wolfsonian is a museum, library, and research center that uses objects to illustrate the persuasive power of art and design, to explore what it means to be modern, and to tell the story of social, historical, and technological changes that have transformed our world. The collections comprise approximately 150,000 objects from the period of 1885 to 1945—the height of the Industrial Revolution to the end of the Second World War—in a variety of media including furniture; industrial-design objects; works in glass, ceramics, and metal; rare books; periodicals; ephemera; works on paper; paintings; textiles; and medals.

The Wolfsonian, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is located at 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors, students, and children age 6–12; and free for Wolfsonian members, State University System of Florida staff and students with ID, and children under six. The museum is open Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday from 10am–6pm; Thursday and Friday from 10am–9pm; Sunday from noon–6pm; and is closed on Wednesday. Contact us at 305.531.1001 or visit us online at wolfsonian.org for further information.

The Wolfsonian receives generous and ongoing support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.

About SITES

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for over 60 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at sites.si.edu.