



## City of Tracy Cultural Arts Division News Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GRAND GALLERIES TO OPEN 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 2011-12 SEASON WITH FOLK ART COLLECTION Graves Country – The Folk Art Collection of ol Roff

(Tracy, CA) – The City of Tracy – Cultural Arts Division opens the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2011-12 Season with *Graves Country – The Folk Art Collection of ol Roff*, presented in the Grand Galleries from September 10 through October 29, 2011. The exhibition opens as part of the Grand's Open House on Bean Festival Weekend, with public hours from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup> and from 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, September 11. A Reception and Gallery Talk is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st from 12 to 2 PM. All of these associated events are free and open to the public.

*Graves Country* presents an intriguing selection of antique and contemporary outsider and folk art from the collection of Roff and Arlene Graves. Mr. Graves owns/operates Graves Country Gallery in Lodi, CA – one of the nation's premiere art spaces specializing in the genres of folk art. Over 50 works will be featured by over 30 artists including: Reverend Howard Finster, Jimmy Sudduth, Bernice Sims, Michel Bayne, Shane Campbell, James Buddy Snipes, John Abdujammi, Levent Isik, Jason Mahlke, Peter Lenzo, Kelly Moore, Charley Kinney, Steven Chandler, and Mose & Annie Tolliver. The exhibition is sure to stir emotion and curiosity. A thoughtful survey of utilitarian, decorative and reclaimed works exploring cultural identity through topics ranging from racism and death to spirituality and labor will be on display.

Roff Graves was born in Shamrock, Texas, a former CHP Officer and retired State of California Investigator. He discovered an interest in folk art decades ago, stumbling across a \$5 painting in a Stockton antique shop. In 1978 he purchased works by Clementine Hunter despite the ridicule of others. With a love of paintings coming from the hearts of artists, Roff set out to meet them and share stories. He has periodically traveled throughout the country for over 30 years making friends with the artists he collected and connected with. In 1987 he opened an antique and folk art gallery in Lodi to promote artists and sell their works. Graves Country Gallery has been successful for over 20 years with an international following of art fans, artists and collectors. The range and quality of works within the Graves collection is a remarkable and valuable education resource in our community.

Mr. Graves notes, *"I've been collecting work that comes from the very soul of artists for over 35 years. People laughed at me for having such poor taste, but I loved it and was hooked. This art will make you laugh and cry. It is by the people, mostly untrained, and some can't read or write... but the art will speak to your heart!"*

### About the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts and the Grand Galleries

The Grand Theatre Center for the Arts is a unique interdisciplinary arts center offering professional and community-based fine arts programming through arts education, exhibitions, and performances of all kinds. The facility opened in September of 2007 and is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2011-12 Season. The Center is owned and operated by



the City of Tracy. The Arts Leadership Alliance/Grand Foundation is a private 501.C3 fundraising and community partner of the facility.

The Exhibitions Program offers combinations of professionally produced exhibitions and visual arts-based events featuring local, regional, national, and international artists, as well as arts educators and organizations in all disciplines and genres. Often events are presented in collaboration with the Arts Education and Presenting Programs to develop educational and interactive components such as demonstrations, gallery talks, receptions, residencies, and workshops. Exhibitions are displayed in the Grand Galleries across the historic storefronts on Central Avenue and throughout public spaces in the Center. As the Galleries are part of a larger interdisciplinary arts center fostering community involvement and life-long learning, products incorporating arts education and art making are encouraged.

Public hours for the Grand Galleries are Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and one hour prior to all performances on the Grand Theatre stages. Private viewings may also be arranged. Free parking is available on nearby streets and public lots at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Avenue. Patron drop-off and pick-up is available at the gallery entrance, in the loading zone on Central Avenue. Tours are available and private and group gallery talks can be arranged. The Grand Galleries are accessible to persons with disabilities and patrons are asked to call ahead to address special requests and needs at (209) 831-6ART (6278). Exhibitions are free and open to the public.

To arrange a facility tour, visit online at [www.atthegrand.org](http://www.atthegrand.org), or call Patron Services at the Leona Darr Willis Box Office at 209.831.6TKT (6858). Public hours for the Box Office are Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and one hour prior to all performances on the Grand Theatre stages.

**Note to Editor: Gallery Supervisor, William F. Wilson II is available for interviews.**  
Promotional images are available upon request. Please call (209) 831-6299 or email: [william.wilson@ci.tracy.ca.us](mailto:william.wilson@ci.tracy.ca.us)



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