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**DIG THROUGH SECRETS OF OUR CULTURE IN POCKETBOOKS  
AT THE MUSEUM OF TTU**

The Museum of Texas Tech University (MoTTU) presents ***Pocketbook Anthropology: A Treasure of Handbags***, opening Sunday, October 22, and continuing through December 3, in the Special Exhibitions Gallery located at 3301 4<sup>th</sup> Street (SE corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Indiana Avenue), where ample free parking is available in the north and west parking lots.

*"One's handbag is an extension of self, persona, personality . . . ." —Leila Hadley Luce*

The world is full of objects that have value, utility, and meaning, but for a woman, one of the most essential of all her belongings—by whatever name it is called, whether handbag, bag, purse, or old-fashioned pocketbook—this quintessential object is not only one of the most indispensable, but also one of the most meaningful and best loved.

***Pocketbook Anthropology: A Treasure of Handbags*** explores the cultural meanings of and emotional attachments to purses, illustrating how this familiar object is more than just a container of necessities by **featuring 50-60 examples** that cover a myriad of styles, materials, and forms from 1880 to the present representing memories, emotions, messages, and identities.

Funky, elegant, and whimsical bags are featured alongside those made from precious metal, duct tape, cigarette packaging, and glass beads, and hands-on examples with commentary by a fashion historian are included in the exhibition, as well as anecdotes, quips, and literary quotations on text panels and labels.

Exhibition curator Barbara G.S. Hagerty—a photographer, journalist, and self-described "pocketbook anthropologist"—has examined the paradoxical qualities of this basic, yet essential, object in this exhibition and through her two books on handbags: *Purse Universe* and *Handbags: A Peek Inside a Woman's Most Trusted Accessory*.

***Pocketbook Anthropology: A Treasure of Handbags*** offers an examination of a neglected cultural material to demystify, deconstruct, illuminate, and simply enjoy what is perhaps the most deeply felt relationship with a most quotidian—yet highly symbolically charged—worldly object.

For more information or to request special assistance, contact the MoTTU Education Office at 806.742.2432, or email to [museum.education@ttu.edu](mailto:museum.education@ttu.edu). Stay up to date with MoTTU exhibitions and events at [www.museum.ttu.edu](http://www.museum.ttu.edu).

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*"There's something for everyone at the Museum."*

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MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY: Open 10 AM -5 PM Tue-Sat, open until 8:30 PM on Thu, 1-5 PM Sun. Closed Monday. **ADMISSION FREE**  
MOODY PLANETARIUM - STAR SHOWS: \$2 adults, \$1 students & 60+, 5 or less Free; LASER SHOWS: \$2 adults, \$1 students & 60+, 5 or less Free.  
LUBBOCK LAKE LANDMARK: Open 9 AM -5 PM Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 PM Sunday. Closed Monday • At N. Loop 289 & Clovis Hwy. **ADMISSION FREE.**