

# REPRESENTING RACISM

## SMU Art Gallery and the Black Santa Coffee Pot

The Cultural Studies Program presents in its Speaker's Series, a guest lecture by Halifax curator, writer and activist Robin Metcalfe. The illustrated presentation will be held in the Faculty Lounge, Seton Room 404 on Wednesday February 9, 2011, from 2-4pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



*Turquoise Stirrup Spout Effigy Bottle in the Form of Santa Claus 2002*



*Black Santa Coffee Pot 2002*



*Planter with Sacred Heart Santa Claus 2002* (photos: Richard Milette)

In the fall of 2007, students of African descent objected to an object displayed in an exhibition at Saint Mary's University Art Gallery. *Black Santa Coffee Pot* was one of 37 ceramic works by gay Acadian ceramist Leopold Foulem that quoted from historic ceramic traditions from many cultures and periods. The gallery declined to remove or censor the work, but posted a range of documents and hosted a public discussion about the concerns it raised. Director/Curator Robin Metcalfe will talk about the controversy and some of the issues involved when artists quote from a history of racist representations.