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La ville suspendue *The McCord Museum Tells the Stories of Montreal*

Montreal, May 13, 2017 — As part of *La Grand Tournée* marking the city's 375th anniversary, the McCord Museum has embarked on a project to tell the stories of Montreal and its neighbourhoods. Throughout the summer, from May 13 to September 17, 2017, the exhibition-installation ***La ville suspendue*** will appear in parks, travelling from one borough to another presenting Montreal as a changing city suspended in time between its past and future. As it moves through Montreal, the exhibition will be adapted to reflect the stories of each borough, offering a new way to revisit the past. The design of the installation was inspired by the billboards that overlook the city and the clotheslines that form part of the intimate landscape of Montreal neighbourhoods. Designed and produced by the McCord Museum, ***La ville suspendue*** is a key event in the official program for the 375th anniversary of Montreal.

“This selection of subjects presents a changing city, part of the flow of history. It is, in a way, a mythical Montreal created through the adventures and imaginations of those who live here,” says Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

Each borough will host the exhibition for one weekend. Part of it, focussing on the history of Greater Montreal, will be shown in all of the boroughs. Eight powerful symbols will evoke the development of the city: **Mount Royal** (representing history, the founding of Montreal, and nature, a city park), **Saint Joseph's Oratory** (religious piety), **the Biosphere**, (the contribution of Expo 67 to the city and Quebec), **Place Ville Marie** (Montreal as a business centre in North America), **Saint-Laurent Boulevard** (the settlement of the city and successive waves of immigration), **the river bank** (its fundamental impact on Montreal), and the **Lachine Canal** (the industrialization of the city).

In addition to the history of Greater Montreal, each borough will be highlighted and brought to life through the stories of its inhabitants, embellished by fiction but nourished by the reality, feelings and imagination of local people. These stories, capturing the breath of urban life, are linked to historical facts in each borough and are illustrated by photographs. The pieces of history chosen for each neighbourhood enrich the overall experience



Haras National stables, Outremont, QC, 1889
Wm. Notman & Son
1889, 19th century
II-90712
© McCord Museum

La ville suspendue offers nearly 550 photographs, three personal stories from each borough and 400 historical elements. The text is by writer and artistic director Étienne Paquette. The structure of the exhibition-installation (more than 9 m wide, 18 m long and 5 m high), built with aluminum piping, was designed by scenographer Martin Ferland, while the visual design was imagined by graphic designer Philippe Legris.



Harry Sutcliffe
Skaters in Saint Viateur Park,
Outremont
About 1935
Gift of Peter, Paul, Robert and
Carolyn Sutcliffe,
M2011.64.2.3.269
© McCord Museum

ABOUT THE MCCORD MUSEUM

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal's history, as recounted by its people, artists and communities living in the city's past and present. The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Peoples objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives, totalling more than 1.4 million artefacts. The McCord Museum produces exciting exhibitions that engage visitors from Montreal, Canada, and beyond by offering them a contemporary look at the world. The McCord Museum also offers educational and cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. **McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.**

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Photographs available at: <http://ow.ly/TD3D30aKc5W>

Interviews can be arranged with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum, Sylvie Durand, Director, Programs, and Paula Meijerink, landscape architect

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(Presentation schedule attached)

A SUSPENDED CITY
The McCord Museum Tells the Stories of Montreal

CALENDAR

- May 13 and 14 : Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie –*Jean-Duceppe Park*
- May 20 and 21 mai : *Beaubien Park*
- May 27 and 28 : Rivière-des-Prairies–Pointe-aux-Trembles –*Marcel-Léger Park*
- June 3 and 4 : Pierrefonds-Roxboro –*du Cap-Saint-Jacques Park*
- June 10 and 11 : Lachine –*de la Marina d’escale Park*
- June 17 and 18 : Saint-Laurent –*Beaudet Park*
- June 24 and 25 : Verdun – *The Honourable Georges-O’Reilly Park*
- June 30 and July 1st : Côte-des-Neiges–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce –*Kent Park*
- July 6 and 7 : Mercier–Hochelaga-Maisonneuve – *Promenade Bellerive Park*
- July 15 and 16 : L’Île-Bizard–Sainte-Geneviève – *Eugène-Dostie Park*
- July 22 and 23 : Montréal-Nord – *Aimé-Léonard Park*
- July 28 and 29 : LaSalle – *Leroux Park*
- August 5 and 6 : Ahuntsic-Cartierville – *Ahuntsic Park*
- August 12 and 13 : Le Sud-Ouest – *Sir-Georges-Étienne-Cartier Park*
- August 19 and 20 : Anjou –*Lucie-Bruneau Park*
- August 26 and 27 : Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc Extension –*Jarry Park*
- September 2 and 3 : Saint-Léonard –*Wilfrid-Bastien Park*
- September 9 and 10 : Le Plateau-Mont-Royal – *La Fontaine Park*
- September 16 and 17 : Ville-Marie – *des Faubourgs Park*