

PRESS RELEASE

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2013 COLLOQUIUM

COLLECTING KNOWLEDGE: NEW DIALOGUES ON McCORD MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Montreal, October 31, 2013 – The McCord Museum is pleased to present the colloquium *Collecting Knowledge: New Dialogues on McCord Museum Collections*, which will be held November 7 to 9, 2013 as part of the Museum's involvement in the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) research program entitled *Montréal, plaque tournante des échanges : histoire, patrimoine, devenir*.

The colloquium will bring together a number of researchers whose work has focused on the rich collections of the McCord Museum. They will share the results of their research with their colleagues, Museum curators and personnel, and members of the public interested in Montreal and the pivotal role it has played in Canadian history.

The initiative aims to open a dialogue on new areas of research and spur discussion to increase knowledge about the Museum's collections, which represent one of the largest sources of documentation and original artefacts in Canada for historical research. The event will also present the results of recent research on illustrating some of the new ways that the McCord Museum's historical collections are being used studied.

"This colloquium is yet another example of our commitment to research and the dissemination of our collections," stated Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum. "One of our priorities is to increase knowledge about our collections and foster dialogue with the research community in order to widely promote the history of Montreal."

Diverse program

The program includes tours of the Museum's archives and exhibitions as well as many discussion forums.

Among the program highlights, on Thursday November 7, at 6 p.m., the event will open with *Voices from The Vaults: Object Biography and McCord Museum Collections*, chaired by Joanne Burgess of the Université du Québec à Montréal, and facilitated by Anne MacKay, Head, Conservation, Guislaine Lemay, Curator, Ethnology and Archaeology, and Cynthia Cooper, Curator, Costume and Textiles. The event will be followed by a cocktail reception at 7:30 p.m.

Also not to be missed is the keynote address on Friday, November 8 at 9 a.m. by Jacques Mathieu, Professor Emeritus at Université Laval and a historian who specializes in New France. His talk, entitled *Journal intime de l'objet*, will explore the ways that a museum artefact can be documented, studied, analyzed and presented to diverse audiences.

For the complete program or to register free of charge, please go to <http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/activities/colloquia/>. Please note that space is limited.

The research program *Montréal, plaque tournante des échanges : histoire, patrimoine, devenir* receives financial support through a Partnership Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) (2012-17).

About *Montréal, plaque tournante des échanges : histoire, patrimoine, devenir*

This partnership brings together university researchers and stakeholders from the culture and heritage communities, including the McCord Museum, one of its principal partners. The team examines Montreal, the largest city in Quebec and formerly the largest in Canada, as a key crossroads – for goods, people and knowledge – and as such a cultural, social and economic melting pot. The aim is to better understand the factors that shape Montreal and its network of relationships with the world as well as the impact of this status on the city itself on both a material and social level. The group's research program is comprised of two complementary streams: the advancement of knowledge through basic and applied research and the implementation of a wide array of activities, notably via digital media, which aim to transfer and disseminate the research results to decision-makers and a range of audiences.

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 1,440,000 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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The Museum is grateful for the support of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and the Conseil des arts de Montréal as well as its media partner, *Journal 24 heures*.