

PRESS RELEASE

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The McCord Museum presents portraits of Sieur de Longueuil and his wife

Montreal, April 5, 2012—The McCord Museum is pleased to announce that effective today, it will be publicly displaying two important new acquisitions in its permanent exhibition *Montreal - Points of view*: the portraits of Charles Lemoyne de Longueuil and Claude-Élisabeth Souart d'Adoucourt. These works, which date from 1681, are now the oldest paintings in the Museum's collection.

A little history

Son of Catherine Thierry dit Primot and Charles Lemoyne, one of Montreal's wealthiest merchants and traders at the time, Charles Lemoyne de Longueuil was the eldest child in a family of 13. In 1681, he married Claude-Élisabeth Souart d'Adoucourt, niece of the Sulpician Gabriel Souart, Montreal's first parish priest. The only Canadian-born recipient of the title of baron in the colony, Charles Lemoyne inherited the seignory of Longueuil in 1684 and purchased the seignory of Beloeil in 1711. He enjoyed a long military career, becoming governor of Trois-Rivières in 1720 and governor of Montreal in 1724. He was assigned the general administration of New France in 1725-1726. History records the achievements of a skilled negotiator who interceded with the five Iroquois nations to protect French trade with the villages and missions around the Great Lakes.

About the works

The two works depicting Charles Lemoyne de Longueuil and his wife, Claude-Élisabeth Souart d'Adoucourt, appear to have been painted to commemorate their marriage, celebrated at the Château of Versailles on May 7, 1681. In her left hand, the sumptuously dressed bride holds a red carnation, symbol of love, and in the other, placed over her stomach, a pomegranate symbolizing fertility, from which she has taken a bite. Sieur de Longueuil wears the Cross of the Order of Saint Louis, which he received in 1703. This decoration was added to the painting at a later date. The provenance of these portraits has been clearly established. Their last owner, Andrew Hazeland of Victoria, B.C., took it upon himself to repatriate them to Montreal by donating the paintings to the McCord Museum. Because of the historical importance of these works, which have been altered over time, the canvases were restored by the Centre de conservation du Québec. The Museum's restoration department refurbished the frames, which also date from the late 17th century.

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



Charles Lemoyne de Longueuil,
1656-1729
Unknown artist, 1681
Oil on canvas
Gift of Andrew Hazeland, M2009.78.1



Claude-Élisabeth Souart d'Adoucourt,
Wife of Charles Lemoyne de Longueuil,
1656-1724
Unknown artist, 1681
Oil on canvas
Gift of Andrew Hazeland, M2009.78.2

cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. **McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.**

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