

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **WEARING OUR IDENTITY – THE FIRST PEOPLES COLLECTION: LAUNCH OF THE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE**

**Montréal, June 19, 2013** – The McCord Museum is pleased to present the catalogue for its new permanent exhibition *Wearing our Identity – The First Peoples Collection*.

Published by the McCord Museum and distributed by Éditions Gallimard, this 235-page catalogue contains 165 colour photographs taken by Museum photographer Marilyn Aitken. It allows the reader to discover 150 artefacts from the Museum's Ethnology and Archeology collection. "*This catalogue is especially important because our last publication on the collection dates back more than 20 years,*" states Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum. "*This initiative allows us to highlight these treasures in the way they deserve,*" she says.

The catalogue also features texts written by 16 Aboriginal community members, including Innu poet Joséphine Bacon, Kanien'kehaka (Mohawk) fashion designer Tammy Beauvais and Innu physician-surgeon Stanley Vollant. They examine the notion of identity, not only through dress but in all of its facets.

This catalogue was made possible through the generosity of the Peter Cundill Foundation. It is available in French and English for \$49.95 at the McCord Museum Boutique as well as many Montreal and Quebec bookstores.

### ***Wearing our Identity – The First Peoples Collection***

*Wearing our Identity – The First Peoples Collection* invites the public to discover the complex heritage of Canada's First Peoples and appreciate the richness of their cultures and identities through their dress.

First Peoples' identity is intrinsically linked to their dress. Beyond its main purpose of protection, it tells observers the age and status of the individual, gives immediate information about the nation he or she belongs to, pays homage to the person's remarkable achievements, and highlights the intimate relationship that exists between people and nature. Today's dress makes an eloquent statement about the vitality and creativity of contemporary Aboriginal culture, which strikes a balance between ancestral and current knowledge and between traditions and innovation.

The exhibition also helps visitors learn about the importance of clothing in the development, preservation and communication of the social, cultural, political and spiritual identities of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

### **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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**Source and information:**

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