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## 2018-2019 Fall-Winter Season at the McCord Museum

**Spotlight on contemporary Aboriginal art with *Nadia Myre, Kent Monkman, Hannah Claus and an exhibition of treasures of Haida art***

**Plus a family program with so much to discover!**

**Montreal, August 21, 2018** – The McCord Museum’s 2018-2019 season will celebrate the plurality of identities and the cultural diversity that enrich and shape our city, our culture, and our society. Starting in October, Quebec artist **Nadia Myre**, a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg nation, will inspire visitors who come to see the *Wearing Our Identity – The First Peoples Collection* permanent exhibition. In November, Montreal duo **Mere Phantoms** will present the interactive exhibition *Shadows without Borders*. The first premier for 2019 that will start in February is the highly anticipated *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience* by **Kent Monkman**, a multidisciplinary Canadian artist of Cree descent. March will feature the start of the exhibition by Hannah Claus, the Museum’s Artist-in-Residence for the 2018-2019 season. In April, visitors can take in an exhibition on Haida art with the magnificent collection of objects from the Museum and works by contemporary artists.

“The Museum is a space for connection and dialogue between communities and a platform that encourages reflection,” said Guislaine Lemay, Curator, Indigenous Cultures at the Museum. “Art plays an essential role in this dialogue, as it is through art that Indigenous artists can have their voices heard, tell their own stories, and initiate and add to important conversations.”

### **Last chance!**

You still have time to discover or revisit our three major exhibitions on fashion, photography, and the city of Montreal! A North American exclusive, **Balenciaga, Master of Haute Couture** will close on October 14. Given the enthusiastic response to the exhibition, the Museum will extend its opening hours as an exception until 9:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays during the last two weeks of the exhibition, or October 4, 5, 11 and 12.

**Shalom Montreal – Stories and Contributions of the Jewish Community** takes an in-depth look at the rich contribution of Montreal’s Jewish community and its impact on the city’s evolution, from the 20th century to today. For **Marisa Portolese – In the Studio with Notman**, artist-in-residence Marisa Portolese reinterprets the photographic oeuvre of William Notman. These two exhibitions will run until November 11, 2018 and February 10, 2019, respectively.

McGill College Avenue continues to showcase Montreal from another era through the kiosks, façades and storefronts that brought the city to life long ago. The **Montreal Storefronts** exhibition is presented by BMO in collaboration with Astral and will run until October 14.

### **New: More activities for the whole family!**

The Museum has a full activity program in store to help visitors continue their experience beyond the exhibitions. A number of new activities are on tap this season to enhance the Museum’s family programming!

\* For the description and complete schedule of our cultural activities, please consult the appendix to this press release. Visit the Museum’s website ([mccord-museum.qc.ca](http://mccord-museum.qc.ca)) and consult the events calendar for more information.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

(See links at the end of the press release for photographs)

### **MERE PHANTOMS – SHADOWS WITHOUT BORDERS**

**November 21, 2018 to January 6, 2019**

The interactive installation *Shadows without Borders* asks visitors to discover and reflect on exile, what binds our identity, and the strength of our connection to that irreplaceable place called “home.” As they travel through this moving world with flashlights, visitors will discover and bring to life fragments of the lives of **refugees living in camps in Greece and Turkey**. Playing with shadow and light, they can highlight an object, a moment or a place, or cast them in darkness. First through a series of shadow installations, the work will evolve throughout its run as visitors add their creations to express their own concept of home. During the exhibition, refugees who have just arrived in Canada will be invited to add their artistic touch **to enhance this constantly changing collective installation**.



© Leila Shifteh, Mere Phantoms

Mere Phantoms is a partnership between artists Maya Ersan and Jaimie Robson. Since 2009, the Montreal duo has created fantastic worlds through two classic art forms: the theatre of shadows and the art of decoupage. The artists use as few tools as possible—such as knives, rulers and paper—so that light is the medium that makes their creations come alive. The result fascinates and captivates and makes spectators the moderators of their own experience.



© Leila Shifteh, Mere Phantoms

*Shadows without Borders* received a New Chapter Grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

## HOLIDAY PROGRAM

### **BIG NEWS COMING!**

The Museum will soon announce a major partnership that will give Montrealers a gift of great historical and sentimental value. Through this partnership, we will revive a magnificent Montreal Christmas tradition that everyone will love! The announcement will be made in November.

### **TREASURES IN THE ATTIC**

**December 16, 2018 to March 17, 2019**

This exhibition invites everyone to pop over to see the grandparents of twins William and Sara, as the attic of their house has a collection of toys from 1880 to today. Filled with forgotten treasures, this attic has become a repository of memories of all the families who have lived in the house. Piles of boxes hold a rich and fascinating world where childhood is frozen in time and that have become the final resting place for GI Joe, Barbie, Mr. Potato Head, rocking horses, toboggans, stuffed animals, board games, old dolls, toy soldiers, furniture, books and photographs. *Treasures in the Attic* takes visitors on a trip through time and lets them relive the stories of the children who lived in the house and experience the evolution and appearance of different types of toys throughout different eras. The tour is rounded out with fun activities such as a paper chase and a stop-motion workshop.



© Leila Shifteh, Mere Phantoms

### **FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

Weekends in November and December and during the holiday period are great times for the entire family to come have fun at the Museum. We have a rich program of special activities that are both playful and educational for children, parents, grandparents and the entire extended family!

\* For the description and complete schedule of our cultural activities, please consult the appendix to this press release.



Model fire engine, circa 1890.  
Gift from M. R. H. Gaunt, M969.  
22.14.1-4  
© McCord Museum

## COMING IN 2019

### **KENT MONKMAN**

#### ***Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience***

**February 8 to May 5, 2019**

Through his art pieces, artist Kent Monkman creates a critical portrait of colonialism and its devastating effect on Indigenous populations. *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience* features the artist's spiritual alter ego, Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, who is a silent witness to key moments in the history of Indigenous peoples.

Kent Monkman is a Canadian artist of Cree descent. His work deals with the themes of colonization, sexuality, loss and resilience in the historical context of contemporary Indigenous communities. A multidisciplinary artist, he creates using various media, such as paintings, video, performance art and installations.

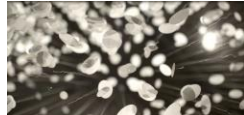


Kent Monkman,  
*Reincarceration*, 2013,  
acrylic on canvas, Glenbow  
Museum Collection

### **HANNAH CLAUS**

**March 7 to August 11, 2019**

The McCord Museum is welcoming Hannah Claus for its Artist-in-Residence program. This multidisciplinary visual artist of English and Kanien'kehà:ka (Mohawk) descent uses art installations to create a world of senses that address memory and transformation.



© Hannah Claus, *L'envoïée*, 2013

### **HAIDA ART EXHIBITION**

**April 19 to October 27, 2019**

On their lush island off the coast of Canada's Northwest, the Haida have created an exceptional world of artistic expression—a world that has let them leave a mark on history despite their near-disappearance at the end of the 19th century. Their artistic productions attest to their tremendous skill and artistic versatility through carved and painted chests, living masks, finely woven baskets, complex songs and dances, refined tattoo designs, and imposing totem poles. The exhibition consists of a remarkable selection of historical Haida art objects from the Museum's collections that reveal many dimensions of this people's rich heritage. Most objects were collected in 1878 by George Mercer Dawson during his travels to the Haida Gwaii archipelago.

Contemporary Haida artists are constantly exploring the ancient language of their art; it is the foundation on which new endeavours are built and the grammar with which future histories are written. For this exhibition, works of contemporary Haida artists will serve as a complement to this corpus of objects. The McCord Museum has a rare collection of Haida objects.



Unknown artist, Haida mask,  
1800-1850, collected by George  
Mercer Dawson in 1878.  
ME892.32.2  
© McCord Museum

## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

### **BALENCIAGA, MASTER OF HAUTE COUTURE**

**Until October 14, 2018**

Venerated by both his contemporaries and subsequent generations of fashion designers, Cristóbal Balenciaga represents the culmination of 1950's and 1960's couture.

The exhibition takes an almost analytical look at the creative genius of the Spanish couturier, from the design of clothing pieces to the incredible expertise required to put them together. This master's legacy inspired his disciples, such as Courrèges and Ungaro, who trained and worked at Balenciaga's Parisian studio, as well as the designers who have followed in his footsteps from the end of the 20th century to now. This major fashion exhibition was organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London and is presented by Holt Renfrew Ogilvy.



Visual from the exhibition  
© McCord Museum, 2018

**SHALOM MONTREAL – STORIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**  
**Until November 11, 2018**

This exhibition highlights the contribution of Jewish communities to Montreal's development and growth in the 20th century and their achievements in architecture, heritage protection, science and health, human rights, business, and arts and culture that have been and continue to be significant for all Montrealers. Through testimonials, videos and photographs, visitors can discover the fascinating stories behind this community's major contributions to the city.

**MARISA PORTOLESE – IN THE STUDIO WITH NOTMAN**  
**Until February 10, 2019**

As part of its Artist-in-Residence program inaugurated in 2012, the McCord Museum presents the *In the Studio with Notman* exhibition by photographer Marisa Portolese, a collection of 16 portraits of women inspired by her research in the Museum's Notman collection. These large-format colour photographs were shot with natural light using an analogue camera.

For a number of years, Marisa Portolese has been taking **portraits of women in her community from a feminist perspective**. During her residency at the Museum, she wanted to explore the studio tradition and its small spaces, backdrops and accessories to highlight female subjects. By drawing on the decors of Notman as well as her love of painting, she has created photographic portraits in a pictorial tradition that also borrow from art history.

**PERMANENT EXHIBITION**

**WEARING OUR IDENTITY – THE FIRST PEOPLES COLLECTION**

This year, *Wearing Our Identity – The First Peoples Collection* will showcase the work of multidisciplinary artist Nadia Myre. As commissioner of the exhibition's contemporary works since 2012, she will now add her own artistic contribution to the current exhibition, which asks visitors to go on a discovery of the legacy of the First Peoples, a legacy that has borne witness to the richness of their cultures and identities.

It will also help 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. Each season is an invitation to discover or rediscover this exhibition, as nearly 85% of the objects are regularly updated. Contemporary art works also complement all of the Native art from our collection and that are shown in the exhibition. The restoration of exhibition artefacts was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Molson Foundation. The Museum also wants to thank the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec for its financial contribution to this project.

**About the McCord Museum**

The McCord Museum is the museum of all Montrealers, a social history museum that celebrates life in Montreal, both past and present—its history, its people, and its communities. Open to the city and the world, the Museum presents exciting exhibitions, educational programming and cultural activities that offer a contemporary perspective on history, engaging visitors from Montreal, Canada and beyond. It is home to over 1.5 million artefacts, comprising one of the largest historical collections in North America, organized into the following departments: Dress, Fashion and Textiles, Photography, Indigenous Cultures, Paintings, Prints and Drawings, Decorative Arts, and Textual Archives. **McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.**

Interviews possible with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum and with Guislaine Lemay, Curator, Indigenous Cultures and Interim Curator, Decorative Arts.



Visual from the © McCord Museum exhibition, 2018  
photo © David Sims / Trunk Archive



Visual from the exhibition © McCord Museum, 2018  
Photo © Marisa Portolese



Visual from the exhibition © McCord Museum, 2018

## Photographs

### *Upcoming Exhibitions*

[Mere Phantoms – Shadows without Borders](#)

[Treasures in the Attic](#)

[Kent Monkman – Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience](#)

[Hannah Claus](#)

[Haida Art Exhibition](#)

### *Current exhibitions*

[Balenciaga, Master of Haute Couture](#)

[Shalom Montreal – Stories and Contributions of the Jewish Community](#)

[Marisa Portolese – In the Studio with Notman](#)

[Wearing Our Identity – The First Peoples Collection](#)

For more information about the exhibitions:

<http://www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/press-room/>

### **Source and information:**

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