

THE MCCORD AND STEWART MUSEUMS WILL REOPEN IN JUNE

Montreal, May 22, 2020 – The McCord and Stewart Museums are pleased to announce their upcoming reopening following the Quebec government’s decision to allow museums to open. The McCord Museum is preparing to reopen its doors on **Tuesday, June 23**, while the Stewart Museum will do so on **Thursday, June 25**. After several weeks of rethinking their programming and access to the buildings, museum teams are ready to deploy their reopening plan, which offers a safe, pleasant, entertaining experience to all Montrealers, whether they’re passionate about history, art or cultural outings.

“Culture is a great way to get away from it all, and we’re delighted to be able to resume activities that will allow everyone to have enriching and entertaining moments. Our team has been working hard for many weeks to ensure that everyone has a safe, enjoyable visit adapted to this new reality. It will be a great pleasure once again to welcome the public and introduce them to our exhibitions, including our new production *Chapleau, Profession: Cartoonist* and *Jean-Claude Poitras: Fashion and Inspiration*, which will be extended for the occasion, and *Nights* at Stewart Museum” said Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer.

THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE

In accordance with public health recommendations guided by the best practices developed by the museum community, the McCord and Stewart Museums are implementing numerous measures to ensure the safety of visitors and employees. These include the following:

- Tickets are best purchased online through the websites of both museums.
- A limited number of visitors will be admitted at the same time to ensure that the required distancing is maintained. Visitors will be expected to follow a predetermined direction during the visit.
- Suspension of activities and visits with groups for an indefinite period.
- Plexiglas protection will be installed at the reception desk and in the boutique.
- Hand washing will be mandatory at Museum entrances and exits. Disinfecting stations will also be available at the entrances and exits of exhibition halls.
- Masks will be strongly recommended for visitors, while all employees working with the public will be required to wear them.
- Procedures for increased cleaning of public spaces, common surfaces and electronic equipment will be implemented.

- To avoid contact with electronic devices in the exhibition halls, visitors will have access through their cell phones to microsites containing all the information and images previously accessible on touch screens.
- Employees at the ticket office and boutique as well as mediators will receive training to ensure they're familiar with the protective measures so they can better guide visitors.
- Museum office employees are invited to continue teleworking until further notice. Numerous measures have also been taken to ensure their safety during a gradual return to the premises of both museums.

These measures will be adjusted as the situation evolves and in accordance with the guide to health standards for museum institutions developed by public health authorities and the Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail, unveiled today by the Minister of Culture and Communications, Nathalie Roy.

PURELY MONTREAL PROGRAMMING AT THE McCORD MUSEUM

The McCord Museum returns with a program of three temporary exhibitions dedicated to Montreal artists, in addition to its permanent exhibition. First, its new exhibition *Chapleau, Profession: Cartoonist* will reopen on June 23. Visitors will see more than 150 cartoons, sketches and original illustrations by this multidisciplinary artist. The exhibitions *Jean-Claude Poitras: Fashion and Inspiration* and *Griffintown – Evolving Montreal* by Robert Walker are extended until August 2, 2020 and February 15, 2021 respectively.

Starting September 25, the Museum will host the exhibition *Christian Dior*, bringing together more than 50 designs from the rich Dior collection in the permanent collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, the producer of the exhibition, and the McCord Museum's Dress, Fashion and Textiles collection.

Over the past few months, the McCord Museum has offered the digital initiative *The McCord Museum from Home*, bringing together content on its website about various exhibitions and collections. This page remains active and will continue to be enhanced regularly with the addition of new content. It will be enriched with live digital cultural programming, including a series of conversations as part *City Talks* and *Fashion at the Museum*. The first live conversation will be broadcast on May 27. The Museum also continues to invite Montrealers to participate in the collaborative photography project *Framing Everyday Life: Stories of Confinement*, which documents the pandemic. The project has collected more than 2,700 photographs since its launch.

A RENDEZVOUS FOR CULTURE AND OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS AT THE STEWART MUSEUM

At the Stewart Museum, visitors will be able to see two exhibitions *Nights* and *History and Memory* as well as enjoy the Museum's courtyard, a breathtaking view of Montreal and the large green spaces of Parc Jean-Drapeau. A relaxing getaway for Montrealers who love culture, nature and discovery. For families, the participatory space, *The Story Factory*, will reopen for the construction holiday.

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; Documentary Art; Material Culture and Archives. McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.

About the Stewart Museum

The Stewart Museum, a private, non-profit history museum, was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. The institution holds a unique collection of nearly 27,000 artefacts, archival documents and rare books that show the European presence in New France and North America up to the present. The Museum's main mission: to conserve and exhibit these objects, which relate to the voyages, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily life of our ancestors. This Montreal organization is located at Parc Jean-Drapeau, in the arsenal of the British fortified depot on Île Sainte-Hélène, a 19th century military construction registered in the *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*.

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Interviews may be arranged with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Pascale Grignon, Director, Marketing, Communications and Visitor Experience.

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