

PRESS RELEASE

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Alexander Henderson - Living Landscapes on McGill College Avenue **The eagerly awaited McCord Museum outdoor exhibition**

Montreal, June 15, 2012- For a seventh consecutive year, the McCord Museum presents its outdoor exhibition on McGill College Avenue, from **June 15 to October 14, 2012**. *Living Landscapes*, by photographer Alexander Henderson, will enable passers-by to admire 25 large-format 19th century photographs of some of Canada's most stunning landscapes.

An exquisite photographic journey

Presented on McGill College Avenue between De Maisonneuve and President-Kennedy, this open-air exhibition provides a fascinating glimpse of the Montreal of years past. Pedestrians will enjoy scenes of winter in Mount Royal Park in 1877, witness ice cutting efforts on the St. Lawrence River during the same period, and be treated to a bird's eye view of one of the city's most beautiful gardens at the Montreal Seminar. A number of other shots capturing nature at its most breathtaking are also part of the exhibition.

Added to these historical Montreal landscapes are striking images of Quebec and Canada, such as the ice cone at the base of the Montmorency Falls near Quebec City (1876), giant trees in Vancouver's Stanley Park (1892), and the bucolic shores of Lac Memphrémagog in Georgeville (1870). And because shots at that time were often produced as albumen prints, not only will viewers appreciate Henderson's picturesque style, they will in many cases see the texture of the original paper in these reproductions. *"The images in our outdoor exhibition are a testament to the depth of the Notman Photographic Archives at the McCord Museum, which notably comprise the largest collection of Alexander Henderson photos,"* affirmed Hélène Samson, Curator, Notman Photographic Archives. *"Henderson was the first landscape photographer in Canada, and we are very proud to be able to share his photographs with people who frequent the same places today that he shot so many years ago."* Complementing the exhibition on McGill College Avenue, an additional panel has been installed at the McCord Museum entrance on Sherbrooke Street West.

A special relationship between the Wm. Notman & Son Studio and Canadian Pacific

The McCord Museum possesses one of the largest collections of Canadian photography, named after famous Montreal photographer William Notman. The Wm. Notman & Son Studio and Canadian Pacific have a special relationship that dates from the late nineteenth century. William Notman struck a twenty-five year arrangement with CPR General Manager William Van Horne in 1884: CPR would provide free transportation to any point on the railway line Notman wished to photograph while he, in exchange, made the prints available for CPR's promotional advertising. The McCord Museum possesses more than 450,000



Alexander Henderson
Giant trees, Stanley Park, Vancouver, British Columbia, 1892
McCord Museum, MP-1974.4.14



Alexander Henderson
Ice maze, Place d'Armes, Montreal, Quebec, about 1887
Gift of Omer Lavallée
McCord Museum, MP-1980.47.5



Alexander Henderson
Ice cone, Montmorency Falls, Quebec, 1876
McCord Museum, MP-0000.299.1

photographs taken by the Notman Studio during its 78 years of existence, including several of Notman's very own darkroom CPR carriage.

This exhibition has been made possible with the support of Canadian Pacific, Astral, Ivanhoe Cambridge, Arrondissement de Ville-Marie, Rio Tinto Alcan, BMO Financial Group, Place Ville Marie, Place Montréal Trust and Eaton Center.

About photographer Alexander Henderson

Alexander Henderson (1831-1913), a Scot by birth, photographed the New World with the eye of an artist. Although he was particularly drawn to the bustle of Montreal and applied his talent to illustrating the scenic aspects of the city, his love of nature often took him far from his studio in Philips Square. He explored Quebec's waterways in the tradition of the region's Native peoples and pioneers, and he was among the first to travel the country's new railway from coast to coast. In 1892, he was named manager of the Canadian Pacific photography department and helped capture the Canadian West on film. His prints show breathtaking cross-Canadian scenery, from cities to the country, as seen from the windows of railway cars, the most important means of transportation in the late 19th 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 cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. ***McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.***

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Photographs available on request. Possibility of interviews with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum, and H  l  ne Samson, Curator, Notman Photographic Archives

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The McCord Museum thanks the Minist  re de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition f  minine du Qu  bec and the Conseil des arts de Montr  al for their support.