

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **DAVID WALLACE MARVIN: STREET CHRONICLES 1960 – 1970** **A NEW McCORD MUSEUM EXHIBITION ON MCGILL COLLEGE AVENUE, IN JUNE 2015**

Montreal, March 19, 2015 – After exploring Montreal in the 1860s through the photographs of Alexander Henderson and the 1930s with Harry Sutcliffe, the McCord Museum is now highlighting the work of David Wallace Marvin (1930-1975), who captured the city in the 1960s and 1970s. It was a time of major transformation in Montreal in terms of society and urban planning. The tenth edition of the McCord's outdoor exhibition on McGill College Avenue, **David Wallace Marvin: Street Chronicles 1960 – 1970**, will be on display from June 12 to October 18, 2015. This BMO Financial Group presentation brings together 24 large format photographs. It is the first exhibition of this size devoted to the photographer, whose archives – 6,000 35 mm negatives and prints – were given to the McCord Museum in 1978.

“We are pleased to present this new outdoor exhibition in such a busy area. It's a unique showcase for introducing David Wallace Marvin, a great unknown Montreal photographer, whose photos reflect his deep attachment to neighbourhoods that have disappeared and their inhabitants,” says Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

Born in Kentville, Nova Scotia, David Marvin came to Montreal as a teenager. An orphan raised by his sister, he lost his hearing after a childhood illness. David Marvin's own hardships gave him a social conscience early in life and a genuine interest in cultural communities. He worked as a proofreader for a Montreal newspaper, but his true passion was photography, which he practiced tirelessly in the streets of Montreal for more than 15 years. His body of work is a remarkable chronicle of the city in its most diverse aspects, both beautiful and ugly.

David Marvin was particularly sensitive to abrupt changes that affected certain populations expelled from their neighbourhoods because of new construction and urban development in the 1960s and 1970s. He was also interested in people going about their daily lives, some of his images reflecting an unusual vision but always full of humanity. The artist took vivid, original, fascinating photos that captured the moment, played with shadow and light and showed undeniable talent.



*Man walking on Murray Street  
Griffintown, around 1970*  
Gift of Mrs. David W. Marvin  
© Musée McCord



*Mural Painters*  
Downtown, around 1960-1970  
Gift of Mrs. David W. Marvin  
© Musée McCord

David Marvin's images of Griffintown, where he lived, with its taverns, old signs, graffiti and crowded streets, contrasted sharply with his photos of Place Ville Marie and Château Champlain. Both were under construction at the time. He immortalized the demolition of buildings near Square Viger before the construction of the Ville Marie Expressway. The photos are often touching or humorous. Through them, daily life in Montreal neighbourhoods – Saint-Laurent Boulevard, the Plateau Mont-Royal, Côte-des-Neiges, downtown, Mile-End, Little Portugal or Chinatown – was reborn, evoking stories and memories. Elderly women taking in the autumn sunshine, customers in restaurant windows, neighbours chatting, people passing by snowbanks – for Marvin, gifted with a sharp eye, they were an opportunity to capture moments of life on film and restore their anecdotal charm as well as sadness.



*Commuters in the snow, near the Windsor Station*  
Downtown, about 1969  
Gift of Mrs. David W. Marvin  
© McCord Museum

### **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 at <http://bit.ly/1wVaI9i>

Possibility of interviews with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum and H el ene Samson, Curator, Notman Photographic Archives

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