

PRESS RELEASE

BELLA & STRAVAGANTE: ITALY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE 2016 McCORD MUSEUM ANNUAL BALL

Montreal, May 4, 2016 – The McCord Museum is pleased to announce that its 2016 Annual Ball, *Bella & Stravagante*, will take place on **Thursday, May 5, 2016** in the Arsenal contemporary art centre at 2020 William Street in Griffintown. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by a dinner dance at 8 p.m. The position of honorary co-president is shared this year by **Anne-Marie Boucher**, Lawyer and Co-Founder, BCF Business Law; **Isabelle Hudon**, Executive Chair – Quebec, Senior Vice-President, Client Solutions, Sun Life Financial Canada; **Diane Giard**, Executive Vice-President, Personal and Commercial Banking, National Bank; and **Kim Thomassin**, Managing Partner, Quebec Region, McCarthy Tétrault. Among the guests of honour will be His Excellency **Gian Lorenzo Cornado**, Ambassador of Italy to Canada, **Enrico Padula**, Consul General of Italy in Montreal, and **Kathleen Weil**, Quebec's Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion.

“The development of our activities is made possible in part through the success of our Annual Ball, a major fundraising event for our Museum. The Ball not only enables us to pursue our mission of sharing our rich collections and providing education about the history of our city, it also allows us to increase our outreach efforts. We are particularly excited about the theme this year as it offers our guests a taste of our major summer presentation *ELEGANZA: Italian Fashion From 1945 to Today*, an exhibition organised by London's Victoria and Albert Museum which celebrates the creativity of leading designers who changed the world of Italian fashion in the period following World War II,” says Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

The 2016 Annual Ball is expected to be a particularly festive and gourmet event since the theme of the evening is Italy and *la dolce vita*. Participants will be transported to an inspiring and exhilarating world designed by art director **Dick Walsh (Walsh Lab Design)**, winner of many international awards. The three-course meal, a menu created by **Mannica Utapat** and **Sébastien Forand (Forand Évènements)**, offers fresh and colourful market cuisine with typically Italian flavours that harmonize perfectly with the wines donated by the Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ).

The musical component of the evening will be provided by renowned **DJ Abeille Gélinas** and by **VJ VideoGirl**, who will offer exciting rhythms and visual animation that keep guests dancing into the wee hours. In addition, an open bar service by Domaine Pinnacle will be available after 10 p.m.

It is possible to make a donation or buy individual tickets for the 2016 Annual Ball by contacting the McCord Museum Foundation by telephone at 514 398-7100, ext. 278. Tickets can also be purchased online via [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com). For further information, please visit: www.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/fundraising-events/annual-ball/

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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 1,451,000 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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Interviews possible with Nathalie Lévesque, Executive Director, McCord Museum Foundation.

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