

# PRESS RELEASE



## 2019: Rich and varied programming on Indigenous cultures, photography and fashion at the McCord Museum

Montreal, December 26, 2018 – The McCord Museum, which celebrates the social history of the Montreal of yesterday and today, promises a new year focusing on its three major collections, with rich programming showcasing Indigenous cultures, two new photographic exhibitions and a fashion component you won't want to miss.

The year will start on a high note with a flagship event in the McCord's programming on Indigenous cultures, the highly anticipated exhibition *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience*, by multidisciplinary Canadian Cree artist Kent Monkman. Next, in March, comes *there's a reason for our connection*, by the Museum's 2018–2019 artist in residence, Hannah Claus, followed in April by *Sding K'awXangs – Haida: Supernatural Stories* (working title), an exhibition highlighting the Museum's outstanding collection of Haida objects, as well as the works of contemporary Haida artists. Marisa Portolese's show, *In the Studio with Notman*, which is in its last few weeks; Robert Walker's *Griffintown: A Montreal Neighbourhood in Transition*, in the fall; and *The Polaroid Project* next summer, making its only stop in Canada, are the photography component of the programming. Another exhibition, looking at the prolific career of renowned Montreal designer Jean-Claude Poitras, will shift the focus to fashion.

### UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

#### **Kent Monkman - *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience* [PHOTOS](#) February 8 to May 5, 2019**

February marks the highly anticipated return of internationally renowned Cree artist Kent Monkman with his latest solo show, *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Reconciliation*. When Monkman was the McCord's artist in residence in 2013, he created his monumental painting *Welcome to the Studio*—which was acquired by the Museum in 2014 thanks in part to the support of Montrealers—in tribute to the city, and now he is coming back with a hard-hitting new show that has received rave reviews across Canada. The exhibition includes many artifacts from the McCord Museum's Indigenous Cultures and Decorative Arts collections.

In his paintings, Monkman examines the impact of genocidal Canadian policies on Indigenous people since Confederation. *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience* features the artist's gender-fluid alter ego, Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, a witness to key moments in the history of the First Peoples.

Miss Chief's satirical and heartbreaking narration accompanies visitors as they wend their way through the exhibition. In nine thematic chapters, she relates the devastating effects of colonialist policies in a not-so-distant past. Yet what emerges from the darkness is Indigenous peoples' resilience, bearing the hope of a reconciled future.

On February 6, the public will have an opportunity to discover the artist behind the work. Making a rare public appearance in Montreal, organized by the McCord Museum and co-presented with McGill University, Kent Monkman will discuss *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience*, beginning with a brief background summary of his painting practice, followed by a description of his research and curation of museum objects in relation to his own artworks.

Don't miss Kent Monkman, 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, at Pollack Hall, McGill University (555 Sherbrooke Street West).

**Hannah Claus – *there's a reason for our connection* [PHOTOS](#)  
March 7 to August 11, 2019**

The works in this exhibition began with an idea that became something else as a result of time spent opening the drawers of the McCord Museum's archive to examine many and varied hand-stitched, woven and worn objects, and deciphering hand-written histories: notes, letters and ledgers. The works were developed through thinking about the connections between objects and their makers, objects and their collectors, and how the objects transition between the archive and the living world. The resulting artworks explore different ways of recording experience through sensory engagement to highlight relationships past, present and future.

This exhibition is presented as part of the McCord Museum's *Artist-in-Residence* program, which invites artists from Montreal and elsewhere to explore and interact with the Museum's collections, casting a critical and conceptual eye and relating them to their own artistic practices. Through the works they create, artists in residence revisit the social and historical facets of artefacts in the Museum's collections and address how they help construct our identity as Montrealers and as a society.

Hannah Claus is a multidisciplinary visual artist of Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) and English ancestry. She uses installations to create sensory environments that speak of memory and transformation.

***Sding K'awXangs – Haidas : Surnatural Stories (working title)* [PHOTOS](#)  
April 19 to October 27, 2019**

On their lush islands off the northwest coast of Canada, the Haida created a world of exceptional artistic expression—a world that enabled them to leave their mark on history, despite their virtual disappearance in the late 19th century. Their artistic output demonstrates great technical skill and artistic versatility: carved and painted boxes, living masks, finely woven baskets, complex songs and dances, refined tattoos and imposing totem poles all communicate ideas, conventions, histories and philosophies through abstract and naturalistic forms.

The exhibition, featuring a remarkable selection of rare historical Haida objets d'art from the Museum's collections, reveals a slice of this people's rich heritage. Most of the objects were collected in 1878 by George Mercer Dawson on his travels through the Haida Gwaii archipelago. Contemporary Haida artists are continually 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.

Works by nine contemporary Haida artists selected by guest curator Kwiaahwah Jones round out the exhibition. Several of the contemporary works will be created especially for the occasion. Jones, born in the Canadian Haida Gwaii archipelago, is a major figure in contemporary Haida art who is helping raise the visibility of this unique culture.

## **The Polaroid Project: At the Intersection of Art and Technology** [PHOTOS](#)

**June 14 to September 15, 2019**

### **Canadian exclusive premiere**

The Polaroid, both an image and a wonderful tool, remains associated in the collective imagination with innovation, efficiency and leisure. *The Polaroid Project: At the Intersection of Art and Technology* presents the original works of some 100 of the most celebrated international artists of the 20th century, including Andy Warhol, Robert Mapplethorpe and David Hockney. A more technical part of the exhibition describes the development of various Polaroid cameras and accessories, highlighting the genius of their inventor, Edwin Land (1909–91), and the immediacy of the process that has inspired creators both here and elsewhere.

A truly international phenomenon, the Polaroid has left its mark on Montreal's photographic scene. To illustrate this slice of the city's history, the McCord will add photographs by three Montreal artists and photographers known for experimenting with the Polaroid. Visitors will be able to admire the work of Louise Abbott, Benoît Aquin and Charles Gagnon.

The exhibition has been organized by the Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography, New York, in collaboration with the MIT Museum, Cambridge, and the WestLicht Museum for Photography, Vienna.

## **Exhibition on fashion designer Jean-Claude Poitras** [PHOTOS](#)

**October 25, 2019, to April 13, 2020**

The exhibition reveals the sources of inspiration and the creative work of Montreal designer Jean-Claude Poitras. It takes a look at the prolific career of the man who left his mark on prêt-à-porter in Montreal and the rest of Canada over the course of three decades, from the 1970s to the 1990s.

This joint presentation of the McCord Museum and the Musée de la civilisation will be shown at the Musée de la civilisation from June 20 to September 15, 2019, then at the McCord from October 25, 2019, to April 13, 2020.

## **Robert Walker – Griffintown: A Montreal Neighbourhood in Transition**

**November 8, 2019, to April 5, 2020**

The McCord Museum, as the custodian of an exceptional collection of documentary photography on Montreal's social history, is launching a program of photographic commissions to document the transformation of the city's various neighbourhoods while enriching its collection and stimulating interest in documentary photography in Montreal.

Montreal photographer Robert Walker will have the honour of inaugurating the program on Montreal's changing neighbourhoods. In November 2019 with *Griffintown: A Montreal Neighbourhood in Transition*, will present the results of his work. Walker, who has exhibited his work in Canada, the United States and Europe, is renowned for his street photographs structured by contrasting colours and shapes. In this project, he will document the rapid transformation and gentrification of the Griffintown district.

## **CURRENT EXHIBITION – LAST CHANCE!**

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

**Until February 10, 2019**

The McCord Museum presents photographer Marisa Portolese's *In the Studio with Notman* as part of its *Artist-in-Residence* program, which began in 2012. The exhibition consists of 16 portraits of women inspired by her research into the Notman collection. The large-format colour photographs were taken with an analog camera using natural light.

For a number of years, Portolese has been making portraits of women from a feminist perspective. As artist in residence, she has been exploring the tradition of the studio and sets, using backdrops and props when she photographs her female subjects in a confined space. Inspired by Notman's own sets, Portolese sees her photographic portraits as continuing in a pictorial tradition borrowed from art history and gives free rein to her love of painting.

## FOR CHILDREN

### ***Treasures in the Attic*** [PHOTOS](#)

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

This exhibition invites everyone over to William and Sarah's grandparents' house and discover their wonderful toys dating back to 1880. Their attic, filled with forgotten treasures, has become a repository of memories of all the families who have lived in the house—a rich and fascinating world where childhood seems frozen in time. Boxes upon boxes 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 enjoy the stories of the children who lived in the house and see how toys have changed over the years. The tour is rounded out with fun activities such as a quest and a stop-motion animation workshop.

## PERMANENT EXHIBITION

### ***Wearing Our Identity: The First Peoples Collection*** [PHOTOS](#)

This year, *Wearing our Identity: The First Peoples Collection* highlights the work of multidisciplinary artist Nadia Myre, who has also served as curator of the contemporary part of the collection since 2012. Here she brings together three of her designs and helps visitors discover the heritage of the First Peoples, evidence of their rich cultures and identities.

The exhibition 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. Visitors can return time and again throughout the year to rediscover the exhibition, as close to 85% of the items on display are replaced each season. The exhibition also includes works by contemporary Indigenous artists.

The artefacts in the exhibition have been restored thanks to the generosity of the Molson Foundation. The Museum would like to thank the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec for its financial contribution, which made the project possible.

## EDUCATION, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

The programming for 2019 will be rounded out by a range of events and activities that broaden the public's experience through the exploration of exhibition themes. Some of the series to discover:

### ***IFFA at the McCord Museum – New!***

The International Festival of Films on Art will be screening documentaries on fashion and photography at the McCord the last Thursday of every month, starting January 2019. Don't miss it!

### ***Fashion at the McCord***

The McCord presents a series of lectures on Canadian fashion. Moderated by Stéphane Le Duc, editor at *Dress to Kill* magazine and teacher at UQAM's fashion school, École supérieure de mode ESG, this series highlights both well-known designers and up-and-coming talent. Save the dates: February 13 (Montreal photographer Carl Lessard, renowned at home and abroad for the quality of his fashion photos and celebrity portraits) and April 3 (stylists who help companies and celebrities develop their image will talk about the various facets of their job), 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

### ***After Hours at the McCord***

After Hours at the McCord is back, starting March 21! The first event in the series, built around the theme of sexual identity in the context of the Kent Monkman exhibition *Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience*, will bring together lovers of culture, history, discovery and society. More information will soon be available on the Museum's website.

And you won't want to miss these other events: *City Talks*, *The McCord's Inside Stories*, the Schulich concerts, *Les Belles Soirées* and *Nuit Blanche!*

As usual, the Museum will also be offering educational and cultural activities for the whole family.

For full programming details, go to: [mccord-museum.qc.ca](http://mccord-museum.qc.ca).

### **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.

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Possibility of interviews with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

### **Source and information**

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