

# PRESS RELEASE

INDIGENOUS CULTURES



100 Years Young

## OPEN YOURSELF TO DIALOGUE AND AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE MCCORD MUSEUM'S NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION *INDIGENOUS VOICES OF TODAY: KNOWLEDGE, TRAUMA, RESILIENCE*.

**Montreal, September 23, 2021** - The McCord Museum is launching a new permanent exhibition, *Indigenous Voices of Today: Knowledge, Trauma, Resilience*, presented by CBC / Radio-Canada starting September 25, 2021. As part of the Museum's 100th anniversary programming, it seeks to recount history in a critical, inclusive way while amplifying the voices of Indigenous and marginalized communities. This exhibition, produced by Huron-Wendat curator Elisabeth Kaine, features approximately 100 objects and testimonies from people of the 11 Indigenous nations in Quebec. The public is invited to come and encounter Indigenous peoples and their points of view along a three-part journey presenting their knowledge, traumas and incredible resilience.

“As part of an effort to initiate dialogue to foster understanding, this new permanent exhibition gives voice to Indigenous peoples, and through it we hope to create a meaningful encounter between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. In keeping with the Museum's decolonization practices, it was important for us to call upon professionals from different Indigenous nations to give them a space to express themselves and make their expertise known,» said Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer.



During the exhibition, visitors will discover almost 100 objects accompanied by numerous testimonies, allowing them to learn about the lives of members of Indigenous nations, with whom they share the same territory on a daily basis. All of the objects were meticulously selected by Innu Jean St-Onge from the Maison de la transmission de la culture innue Shaputuan in Uashat. Following an approach inspired by Indigenous methods of understanding the world through observation, he let the objects speak to him. Eighty textual and video testimonies are presented throughout the exhibition, collected by curator Élisabeth Kaine during a wide consultation from 2010 and 2018 involving more than 800 people of Quebec's 11 Indigenous nations. The videos were produced by Boîte Rouge VIF and the UNESCO Chair in the Transmission of First Peoples' Culture to Foster Well-Being and Empowerment at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

«It was an outstanding experience to have had the privilege of meeting so many First Nations people during these consultations between 2010 and 2018. With mutual trust, they shared their points of view on various subjects of concern, which helped to identify the three main themes of the exhibition. They opened up, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to listen to them and hope visitors will be able to do the same during their journey,» said Elisabeth Kaine, curator of the exhibition.

## THREE THEMATIC ZONES

Visitors will discover an exhibition made up of three distinct but complementary zones. The first one, *Us a Long Time Ago*, highlights the often-overlooked wealth of knowledge of Indigenous peoples. In addition to the historical facts, there are numerous references to the knowledge, technical and intellectual abilities that enabled them to live, adapt and flourish in extremely varied environments. Topics such as nomadism, the importance of hunting and fishing, spirituality and the place of the child are highlighted through some 60 objects from the McCord Museum's Indigenous Cultures collection.

The second zone, *Our Shattered Universe*, explores the traumas experienced by Indigenous peoples. Caused by colonization and dispossession, these wounds are uncovered in an atmosphere that gives voice to suffering, grief and reflection. The zone deals with weighty issues, such as the loss of children and language, poverty, inequality with non-Indigenous people and the Indian Act.



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The last zone, *Taking Our Rightful Place*, focuses on the resilience of Indigenous communities. It looks at the healing process in its various forms, physical, psychological, spiritual and others, and the need to speak about it. On the theme of resilience and encounter, visitors are invited to become aware of actions they can take to participate in the dialogue that precedes reconciliation. The work *Trade Ornament* by contemporary artist Ludovic Boney opens the final zone. Inspired by the silver medallions and brooches proudly worn by Huron-Wendat chiefs as symbols of alliance and prestige, the work was created by giving new life to recycled materials recovered from the artist's previous projects. In this way, he refers to the creative practice of his ancestors, who created beautiful adornments from European objects obtained through barter.

## ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE EXHIBITION

### **Natu-natshishkueu: The Adventure of Encounter**

Presented by Hydro-Québec, this participatory activity invites families to discover the exhibition. Each child will receive a free backpack, while supplies last, containing a booklet that will guide their experience of the encounter. This free activity is recommended for children aged 6 to 11 and accompanying adults. Available starting in October.

### **Let's Talk!**

This new series, presented in collaboration with *Les têtes bien faites*, invites the public every last Sunday of the month to take part in a citizens discussion workshop to exchange ideas and reflect on a theme related to a current exhibition. A guest will be asked to attend the event to enrich the conversation with their personal or professional experience. This free 60-minute activity, in French, for participants aged 13 and over, is available upon presentation of a vaccination passport and proof of identity. Reservations are required on our website, and spaces are limited. Offered in conjunction with the exhibition *Indigenous Voices of Today*:

- September 26, 2021, 1 p.m. Joséphine Bacon on healing (sold out)
- October 31, 2021, 1 p.m. Traditions and knowledge

### **Indigenous Cinema at the McCord**

In collaboration with the NFB, two documentary films will be screened at the Museum, accompanied by question-and-answer sessions with members of the production teams. These free activities are available upon presentation of a vaccination passport and proof of identity. Seating is limited, and reservations are required on our website.

- October 20, 2021, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
*Le chemin de la guérison (Our People Will be Healed)*, Canada, 2017, 97 min., Alanis Obomsawin. In French.  
*Des lieux de rassemblement et d'apprentissage (Places to Gather and Learn) from the series Urban.Indigenous.Proud*, Canada, 2018, 10 min., Darlene Naponse. In French.
- February 9, 2022, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
*Inuk en colère (Angry Inuk)*, Canada, 2016, 85 min., Alethea Arnaquq-Baril. In French.  
*Innu-Aimun - La langue Innue (Innu-Aimun - The Innu Language)*, Canada, 2009, 4 min., Carl Grégoire and Spencer St-Onge - Productions des Beaux-Jours. In Innu with French subtitles.

### **New chapter: Meet Indigenous authors**

In collaboration with Éditions Hannenorak, the McCord Museum invites the public to become immersed in Indigenous literature during a series of encounters with Indigenous authors, hosted by Samuel Rainville, coordinator of the centre étudiant des Premiers peuples de l'UDEM and a member of the Pessamit (Innu) community. These free 60-minute activities, in French, are available upon presentation of a vaccination passport and proof of identity. Seating is limited, and reservations are required on our website.

- November 10, 2021, 6 p.m. Meeting with Jocelyn Sioui to discuss *Mononk Jules* as part of the First Nations Book Fair.
- March 30, 2022, 6 p.m. Meeting with Andrée Levesque Sioui to discuss *Chant(s)*

### **CBC/Radio-Canada: Telling Our Twisted Histories**

As presenting partner of this new permanent exhibit, CBC/Radio-Canada is hosting an additional exhibition space to complement the McCord Museum offering. It showcases the content of the award-winning podcast *Telling Our Twisted Histories / Laissez-nous raconter: l'histoire crochie*, a series that reclaims Indigenous history by exploring words whose meanings have been twisted by centuries of colonization. The space was created in association with Terre Innue, MassivArt and two First Peoples artists. Available starting in late October.

All of the information about activities and reservations can be found on our website.

## **MUSEUM HOURS AND FEES**

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. | Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adults: \$19 | Seniors: \$17 | Students (13 to 30 years old): \$14 | 12 years old and under: free | Indigenous people: free | Wednesday evenings: free (\$9.50 for major temporary exhibitions)

The McCord Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of BMO Financial Group for the free Wednesday evenings and the Fondation J. A. DeSève for free admission for children 12 years old and under.

## **COVID-19: NEW MEASURES FOR A SAFE VISIT**

The Museum follows strict hygiene measures to ensure that visitors have a safe comfortable experience without compromising their health. To ensure a place at the Museum, you must make a reservation by purchasing tickets online. A vaccination passport is not currently required to visit the Museum's exhibitions. However, it must be presented with proof of identity by visitors 13 years of age and older to participate in cultural activities in the theatre. To learn more about the measures in place, please visit the Museum's website.

## **THE INDIGENOUS CULTURES COLLECTION AND THE PROCESS OF INDIGENIZATION**

The McCord Museum's Indigenous Cultures collection is made up of more than 16,500 objects recounting nearly 12,000 years of history, eloquent examples primarily of material culture from the First Nations, Inuit and Métis of Canada. For several years, the institution has been engaged in a process of indigenization aimed at increasing the relevance and accessibility of this collection to Indigenous communities and ensuring that its scope reflects their contemporary concerns and perspectives.

## **ABOUT THE MCCORD MUSEUM**

The McCord Museum celebrates life in Montreal, its people and communities, past and present. Reaching beyond the city to the wider world, the Museum creates and presents engaging exhibitions and educational and cultural activities with a critical and inclusive take on social history. It is renowned for its collections of Archives, Documentary Art, Dress, Fashion and Textiles, Indigenous Cultures, Material Culture, and Photography, comprising 200,000 objects and artworks, 2,150,000 photographs, 3,500 rare books and 340 linear metres of textual archives. Founded on October 13, 1921, the Museum is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary with special programming until Autumn 2022. McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.

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### **Interviews may be arranged with:**

- Elisabeth Kaine, curator of the exhibition and Co-Holder of the UNESCO Chair at the Université à Chicoutimi, titled "The Transmission of First Peoples' Culture to Foster Well-Being and Empowerment"
- Jonathan Lainey, Curator, Indigenous Cultures at the McCord Museum

PRESS KIT AND PHOTOGRAPHS:

Contacts :

**Musée McCord**

Ludovic Iop

Officer, Public Relations

514 402-0515

ludovic.iop@mccord-stewart.ca

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