

PRESS RELEASE

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CARTOONING CALAMITIES!....at the McCord Museum

Montreal, Monday, June 18, 2012 – With the Mayan calendar predicting doom, gloom, and the imminent end of humanity, the McCord Museum presents the very timely *Cartooning Calamities!*, an exhibition running from June 20, 2012, to January 26, 2013. Covering almost 150 years of current events, the exhibition explores all things catastrophic as seen through the eyes of 16 Quebec editorial cartoonists, including Chapleau, Aislin, Garnotte, Beaudet, Pascal and Godin. Taking a humorous look at a preoccupation that never ceases to spur conversation, the exhibition allows us to reflect on the issues of the day from a perspective that only an editorial cartoon provides.

The exhibition is divided into five separate themes: political calamities; major upheavals affecting humanity; death before the end of the world; calamities that never were; and the end of the blue planet.

Its stark contrasts blending humour and drama, the exhibition is sure to elicit a wide range of emotions. From tragic to rib-tickling, the 175 original works on display, which include nine brand new cartoons drawn exclusively for the exhibition, will spur debate at once ardent and entertaining on the many catastrophes that have marked history, leaving no doubt that the editorial cartoon has moved far beyond the pages of the daily newspaper to become a universal art form.

“With more than 25,000 works, including the oldest known editorial cartoons in North America, the McCord Museum collection is the second largest in Canada, and we could not be prouder to share this remarkable collection with our visitors,” states Suzanne Sauvage, President and CEO of the McCord Museum. “In addition to showcasing the enormous talent of our editorial cartoonists, the exhibition reflects the McCord Museum mission of providing a current take on today's issues.” Ms. Sauvage also notes that because the themes displayed are international and universal, they are sure to strike a chord with Montrealers and visitors alike.



The question is: 'the end of which world?' ... 'the end of whose world?'
Exclusive cartoon drawn by Pascal for the McCord Museum, 2012
M2012.26.156



The end of the world already occurred on May 2, 2011!
Exclusive cartoon drawn by Godin for the McCord Museum, 2012
M2012.61.2.1

A witness to current events, the editorial cartoon has established itself as a highly effective journalistic practice and a staunch defender of the freedom of expression. A social beacon of sorts, it is heavy with meaning and rich in opinion. Through its singular view of the world, it provokes debate, enlightens, touches, amuses, raises awareness, educates, gives pause, and above all, entertains!

To further enhance the visitor experience, *Cartooning Calamities!* is punctuated with additional content, such as video clips, cartoon enlargements, busts of well-known personalities, and touchscreens featuring more than 175 virtual cartoons.



*Not the end of the world yet
Exclusive cartoon drawn by S. Chapleau
for the McCord Museum, 2012
M2012.52.1*

About the McCord Museum

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal's history: its people, artisans and communities, and the city's past and present. The Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Nations 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 and farther afield by offering them a contemporary look at the world. It also offers educational and cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. ***McCord Museum: our people, our stories.***

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Source: McCord Museum

For more information or to order high-resolution photos of the cartoons, please contact:

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